

Connecting with our communities

Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) President and CEO Laurie Swami visited Manitowadge on May 1, 2019, to meet with local leaders and community members. Ms. Swami toured schools, infrastructure projects and local areas of interest, including the Township of Manitowadge office, the Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School, the École publique Franco-Manitou, Manroc Developments Inc., the Golden Age Centre, the Manitowadge Public Library, the Manitowadge Community Centre, and the Manitowadge Municipal Airport.

Building the future: École publique Franco-Manitou robotics program

NWMO President and CEO Laurie Swami recently had the opportunity to see students in the robotics program at the École publique Franco-Manitou in action.

The students showed off their creativity in building and programming robots. Their robotics kits – which are part of the classroom thanks in part to the NWMO’s support – help improve their creative problem-solving and teamwork skills.

“I was impressed with the students’ desire to learn and enjoyed the robotics demonstration. I hope technology can inspire young people to pursue careers in technical fields, including the nuclear industry. Science and technology is important to our project,” Ms. Swami noted.

In 2018, the NWMO made a contribution of almost \$4,000 to the school to purchase its LEGO robotics kits.

“STEM [science, technology, engineering, and mathematics] curriculum has become one of the most important integration techniques in our classrooms. Robotics is fun! Students can explore an open platform and experience their learning hands-on,” noted Éric Robert, Principal at the École publique Franco-Manitou.

Mr. Robert continued, “For teachers, it allows us to individualize student learning by nurturing their interests. Robotics teaches teamwork, develops better

problem-solving skills and can create a sense of community within the classroom. STEM lessons are extremely important for students as they prepare to enter the 21st century workforce.”

In 2018, 40 initiatives were supported through the Early Investments in Education and Skills program, and of these, 20 had STEM and robotics content.



Laurie Swami, NWMO President and CEO, visits a classroom at the École publique Franco-Manitou, where an NWMO investment has helped support the purchase of LEGO robotics kits.

Supporting Indigenous education in Manitowadge



Left: John MacEachern (left), Mayor of Manitowadge, and Laurie Swami (right), President and CEO of the NWMO, visit a classroom at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School, where an NWMO investment has helped support the purchase of traditional drums.

Right: Pictured here are Norman Sandberg, NWMO Relationship Manager for the area; Debra Ray, Manitowadge Cancer Assistance Group; Mayor John MacEachern; and Laurie Swami, NWMO President and CEO, holding a new banner purchased with the help of the NWMO’s donation, which also helped purchase food for the annual five-kilometre Share the Care Walk event.

The NWMO announces support for Manitowadge Cancer Assistance Group



» Community open houses

The NWMO recently held a series of community open houses in Hornepayne and Manitowadge. The open houses offered updates on ongoing work in the area, including site evaluation work, environmental monitoring and potential borehole drilling.

“Community open houses are also a great opportunity to gather local knowledge, which will help guide us in the next phase of our work in the area,” said Norman Sandberg, NWMO Relationship Manager for the area. “We would like to thank everyone who came and all those involved in organizing the community open houses, which were a huge success.”