

HISTORICAL EVENTS IN CANADA

1873



Canada's first electric light, an arc lamp in front of the Davis House Hotel in Winnipeg, Man., is switched on. It will take another nine years for electric street lamps to be introduced to the city.

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1876



Alexander Graham Bell makes the first long-distance phone call from Brantford, Ont., to Paris, Ont., a distance of 13 kilometres.

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1881



Canada's first hydropower electrical generating station is built at Chaudière Falls on the Ottawa River by the Ottawa Electric Light Company (now Hydro Ottawa). Hydropower becomes Canada's first energy source for commercial electricity.

HISTORICAL EVENTS IN CANADA

1896



British Columbia enters the hydroelectric industry with its first plant opening in Nelson, B.C., in 1896. Lubbe Powerhouse, in Goldstream, B.C., is another early hydroelectric plant that opens a year later. This small station has four turbines and serves Victoria and the district until it ceases operations in 1957.

HISTORICAL EVENTS IN CANADA

1921



The largest hydroelectric station in the world at the time is built at Niagara Falls. Renamed the Sir Adam Beck I Generating Station in 1950 in honour of the father of public power in Ontario, the station provides clean power to millions of Ontarians.

HISTORICAL EVENTS IN CANADA

1951



Canada's first thermal-electric power plant with a 100-megawatt capacity is built in Toronto, Ont. Originally a coal-fired plant, it's later converted to natural gas in 1971, eventually extending its capacity to 1,200 megawatts before being decommissioned in 1983.

HISTORICAL EVENTS IN CANADA

1962



Canada's first nuclear power reactor, the Nuclear Power Demonstration, is commissioned in Rolphton, Ont.

This 20-megawatt prototype leads to the Canada Deuterium Uranium (CANDU) system that generates electric power. It ceases operation in 1987 and is now partly decommissioned.

HISTORICAL EVENTS IN CANADA

1984



North America's first and only commercial tidal power plant becomes functional in the Bay of Fundy and Annapolis River, N.S. This renewable energy source relies on the ocean's tides to spin turbines. The plant is eventually shut down in 2019 due to marine life concerns and equipment failure.

HISTORICAL EVENTS IN CANADA

1993



The first commercial wind plant in Canada, the Cowley Ridge Wind Farm, is built near Pincher Creek, Alta. The province's vast and windy landscape is an ideal environment for this renewable and cost-effective form of energy.

HISTORICAL EVENTS IN CANADA

2014



Ontario closes Thunder Bay Generating Station, its last coal-fired power plant, concluding a decade-long phaseout of coal in the province. Coal-fired electricity is replaced with a mix of nuclear, natural gas, and renewable energy. Canada has set a goal to phase out unabated coal generation nationally by 2030, meaning that any future power generation in facilities using coal would need to balance it with some form of carbon capture and storage technology.