

## What's New?

### Ontario Energy Board Announces Decrease in Electricity Prices

The Ontario Energy Board has set new electricity commodity prices for consumers in the province on the Regulated Price Plan (RPP).

- Starting November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006, prices for Regulated Price Plan (RPP) consumers who buy their electricity commodity from their local utility will decrease from 5.8 cents to 5.5 cents per kilowatt hour for electricity use up to a certain threshold per month and from 6.7 cents to 6.4 cents per kilowatt hour for consumption above that threshold. On average, this represents a 5.7% reduction in electricity commodity prices.
- Residential consumers using 1,000 kWh a month will see a decrease of around \$6.60 on the electricity line of their bills. This is the result of a decrease in RPP prices and an increase in the threshold level during the winter months.
- For residential consumers, the monthly threshold for the lower price is set at 1,000 kWh per month for the winter season of November to April and 600 kWh per month during the summer season, from May to October.
- For non-residential consumers, the threshold remains at 750 kWh per month for the entire year.
- Consumers currently buying their electricity from a retailer (or who recently signed a new contract) and are paying their contract price will continue to do so and are not affected by this decrease.
- The Regulated Price Plan (RPP) affects residential and small business consumers who use under 250,000 kWh per year and who buy their electricity commodity from a utility.
- The Ontario Energy Board set these new prices based on a forecast of the expected cost to supply RPP consumers from November 1, 2006 to October 31, 2007.

### A little piece of history....



Minden Generating Station located at Workman's Falls on the Gull River at Minden.

Work began in September of 1934 to construct Orillia's second hydro electric power plant. Men were employed who qualified under the Unemployment Relief Work Act – this being in the depth of the great depression.

On August 21, 1935, the first current reached Orillia from this plant. At full load water flows, this plant has the capacity to produce 4,000 kilowatts of environmentally friendly electricity.

### Did you know.....

*that over the years, Orillia Power has been involved in many community and charitable events such as:*

- continued support of Soldiers' Memorial Hospital
- support of Habitat for Humanity initiative
- support of Places for People project
- donations of funds to Salvation Army
- annual secondary school awards program and scholarships for Georgian College and Lakehead University
- other charities – Canadian Cancer Society, Heart & Stroke, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Block Parents, Easter Seals, United Way, local food bank to name a few.

## A safety message ...

### LOOK UP FOR OVERHEAD POWER LINES - LOOK OUT AT WORK

One of the leading causes of serious injuries and at the worst, fatalities on the job is electrocution. High voltage powerlines and transformers can be lethal. Be conscious of your surroundings and take precautions especially when using ladders, booms, cranes, dump trucks, backhoes and cherry pickers.

**Three most common mistakes we make at work: dump trucks, farm & construction machinery and ladders.**

**DUMP TRUCKS** – are at risk when unloading given the height of the bucket if in close proximity to powerlines – metal can become a direct conductor of electricity and can carry current across the vehicle. **Look up and ensure you stay at least 3 metres away from overhead powerlines when unloading dump trucks.**

**FARM & CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY** – many powerlines in areas where farm and construction machinery are used have no protective insulation – making metal objects a direct conductor of electricity – and at times results in arcs of electricity when metal objects come too close to the powerline. **Look up and ensure you stay at least 3 metres away from overhead powerlines when working with farm and construction machinery.**

**LADDERS** – Aluminum ladders, or ladders with aluminum parts will act as conductors of electricity if they contact overhead powerlines. One out of every three occupational electrocutions are associated with ladders contacting overhead powerlines. **Look up and always be aware of overhead powerlines. Ladders should be carried horizontally when moving from point A to point B.**

For more information on powerline safety, check out the following website: [www.powerlinesafety.info](http://www.powerlinesafety.info)

**ELECTRICITY IS PART OF OUR EVERYDAY LIFE AND MUST BE TREATED WITH RESPECT.**

**REMEMBER THAT ELECTRICITY ALWAYS TAKES THE EASIEST PATH TO THE GROUND – WE DON'T WANT THAT PATH TO BE YOU!**

**BEFORE YOU START, BE SAFETY SMART!**



## Energy Saving Tips

*Orillia Power is committed to helping customers to become more energy efficient.*

### Power Saver Planner To Do List

#### The Hot Water Savers

- Install energy efficient shower head
- Insulate hot water pipes
- Install faucet aerators
- Replace washers on leaky taps

#### Plugging the Holes

- Weatherstrip and caulk around windows
- Shrink wrap windows
- Caulk baseboards, foundations, holes
- Check attic hatch
- Weatherstrip doors,
- Foam gaskets for switches and outlets

#### Getting Heat Smarts

- Programmable thermostat
- Replace or clean furnace filter regularly
- Check insulation levels in attic and basement

#### The Light Brigade

- Compact fluorescent bulbs for \_\_\_\_\_
- Halogen bulbs for \_\_\_\_\_
- Fluorescent tubes for \_\_\_\_\_
- Dimmer switches for \_\_\_\_\_
- Light timers for \_\_\_\_\_
- Outdoor timers for \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Please be kind to our meter readers....**

Reading meters during the winter months can be especially risky. Slips and falls are among the most frequent mishaps. Blocked and cluttered meter areas, snow, ice, fences and shrubs can make life difficult for our meter readers. Ensuring clear and safe access to your hydro meter is very much appreciated by those individuals providing this service. They work in all kinds of weather to make sure the job gets done on time. Our meter readers wear a "URB" uniform and carry an identification badge

## ENERGIZING OUR COMMUNITY

This newsletter is a publication of  
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