

## What's New?

### LOWER LOCAL DISTRIBUTION RATES

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) has announced new regulated price plan rates for the two-tier prices on the "Electricity" line of the bill from 5.0 and 5.8 cents per kilowatt hour to 5.8 (16% increase) and 6.7 (15% increase) cents per kilowatt hour. Residential customers pay the lower price for the first 600 kWh a month during the summer season of May to October and for the first 1,000 kWh during the winter season of November until April. The threshold for non-residential customers is 750 kWh throughout the year. While the OEB has raised the commodity rates for all utilities in the province, Orillia Power has been able to reduce rates for other charges on your bill to help offset this increase.

While most utility customers in the province are seeing substantial increases in overall power rates, Orillia Power residential customers will benefit from reduced distribution and transmission rates in a 4.4% decrease on the delivery portion of the bill. This is the first opportunity for Orillia Power to get government approval to apply legacy generation benefits preserved at the time of market opening. In Orillia, residential customers with an average monthly consumption of 1,000 kilowatt hours will experience an overall increase of 4.1%, which is the amongst the lowest in the province. For many Ontario consumers, the impact on their total bill ranges anywhere from a 10% to 19% increase.

Consumers who buy their electricity from a retailer will pay the commodity prices as set out in their contract.

### ONTARIO PRICE CREDIT

The regulated price Ontario consumers paid for electricity between April 1, 2004 and March 31, 2005 was higher than the price paid to generators to supply electricity. A portion of the difference was refunded to customers on their December 2005 electricity bill.

If you bought electricity from another distributor or retailer during the period April 1, 2004 to March 31, 2005, you must contact that supplier to obtain your refund.

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



Matthias Generating Station on the South Branch of Muskoka River near Bracebridge.

This generating station is the smallest and newest of Orillia Power's facilities. As a result of the ever increasing demand for additional supplies of electricity in the late 1940's, this plant was commissioned in 1950. It has the capacity to produce 3,000 kilowatts of environmentally friendly electricity.

### Did you know.....

Orillia Power is a member of the Ontario One Call locating service? Are you putting in fence posts, planting a tree, excavating for a pool, deck or new addition? Before you dig, think about what services might be buried in the ground, because ... **what you can't see, can hurt you!** In addition to electrical services, there could be gas pipelines, telephone, cable, water and sewer connections.

**What can you do?** You can either call toll free at 1-800-400-2255 or make an on-line request at [www.on1call.com](http://www.on1call.com)

This is no charge for this locating service and it is available 24/7. Calling Ontario One Call is the first step in planning a safe project wherever excavation work is planned.

## A safety message ...

General safety tips for working with or near electricity:

- ❖ Inspect tools, power cords, and electrical fittings for damage or wear prior to use. Repair or replace damaged equipment immediately.
- ❖ Always tape cords to walls. Nails and staples can damage cords causing fire and shock hazards.
- ❖ Always use the correct fuse size. Replacing a fuse with a larger size can cause excessive currents in the wiring and possibly start a fire.
- ❖ Be aware that unusually warm or hot outlets may be a sign that unsafe wiring conditions exists. Unplug any cords and do not use until a qualified electrician has checked the wiring.
- ❖ Place halogen lights away from combustible materials such as cloths or curtains. Halogen lamps can become very hot and may be a fire hazard.
- ❖ Risk of electrical shock is greater in areas that are wet or damp. Install Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters as they will interrupt the electrical circuit before a current sufficient enough to cause death or serious injury occurs.
- ❖ Know where the breakers and boxes are located in case of an emergency.
- ❖ Label all circuit breakers and fuse boxes clearly. Each switch should be positively labelled as to which outlet or appliance it is for.
- ❖ Do not block access to circuit breakers or fuse boxes.
- ❖ Do not touch a person or electrical apparatus in the event of an electrical accident. Always disconnect the current first.

**ELECTRICITY IS A 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!**

### ANNUAL TREE TRIMMING PROGRAM

*Once again Orillia Power is working on its city-wide annual tree trimming program in order to maintain a safe clearance between the overhead electrical power lines and tree branches. Orillia Power performs this maintenance not just to maintain a reliable distribution system, but for the safety of the general public and all powerline workers.*



- Heating and cooling your home accounts for about 60% of your energy costs – install ceiling fans and use them to supplement or even as an alternative to air conditioning.
- Are you heating water unnecessarily? Showers save hot water – a bath uses approximately 75 litres of hot water – a 5 minute shower will use about one half that.
- Your refrigerator is always on but you can put the energy costs on ice – defrost regularly, set the temperature for only as cold as you need, don't overfill, clean the dust bunnies from the coils behind, keep them out of direct sunlight, allow hot foods to cool before putting them in the refrigerator.
- The stove is another big energy guzzler – keep the lid on the pot, boil water in an electric kettle, not the stove, turn off the oven just before finishing, don't use a bigger pot than you need and match it to the right size element.
- Clean your clothes without cleaning out your bank account – wash in cold water. This saves a lot of energy. Run full loads without overloading the machine!
- Turn off lights whenever you leave a room – use compact fluorescent light bulbs – they use 75% less energy and last years longer!

For more energy saving tips – visit [www.energy.gov.on.ca](http://www.energy.gov.on.ca) or call 1-888-668-4636

### POWER INTERRUPTIONS

Power interruptions are not 100% controllable. Ice, wind, snowstorms, lightning strikes, fallen trees, and car accidents are the most common reasons for power outages. Orillia Power provides service 24/7 and every effort is made to restore power as quickly as possible with the least amount of inconvenience to our customers.

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

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