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What's New?

New Electricity Rates—effective May 1, 2009

The Ontario Energy Board has recently announced new electricity rates. On May 1st, residential consumers who buy their electricity from their utility on the regulated price plan (RPP) will be paying 5.7 cents per kilowatt hour for consumption up to the threshold of 600 kWh per month (summer season—May 1 to October 31) and 6.6 cents per kilowatt hour for consumption above that threshold. The RPP prices will be reviewed and may change November 1st at which time the threshold returns to 1,000 kWh (winter season—November 1—April 30).

The electricity price increase coupled with the threshold change will raise the monthly bill of a consumer that uses 1,000 kWh per month by about \$4.63 on the "Electricity Line" of the bill.

In addition, other rate changes will come into effect on May 1st as well.

Orillia Power applied to and received approval from the OEB for a slight increase in the distribution and transmission service (Delivery) rates and wholesale market service (Regulatory) rates. These approved increases amount to \$1.69 for a consumer that uses 1,000 kWh a month.

The RPP, Delivery and Regu-

latory rate changes will result in a bottom line increase of \$6.32 or a 6.1% overall increase on the total customer bill based on an average of 1,000 kWh of usage a month.

For more information on rates, check our website at www.orilliapower.ca.

You can also find more information on rates and charges on the Ontario Energy Board website at www.oeb.gov.on.ca or contact the consumer relations centre at 1-877-632-2727.

The Ontario Energy Board regulates the province's electricity and gas sectors in the public interest.

The Great Refrigerator Roundup Continues

Did you know that the old inefficient second fridge that you keep in your garage or basement is wasting between \$120

and \$150 per year in electricity? The Ontario Power Authority will pick it up for FREE and dispose of it in an environmentally friendly manner.

Full size fridges, freezers, window air conditioners qualify for the program. Certain conditions apply.

For further information, call 1-877-797-9473 or check out the website at www.everykilowattcounts.ca



Know your options when it comes to energy retailers!

It is important that you know your rights and responsibilities when reviewing your options for electricity supply—whether you want to buy from your local utility or from a retailer.

There are some important facts that you should know.

- Retailer agents must identify themselves and show

proper identification. Never let an unidentified person into your home.

- Despite what an agent may tell you, you do not need to give out any personal billing information. By providing this confidential information, you may find yourself inadvertently committing to a sales contract.

- Retailers have an obligation to tell you what price you will pay for electricity under their contract as well as the price you would pay through Orillia Power.
- Orillia Power is not associated with and does not compete with any energy retailers.

**Safety, don't
leave home with-
out it!**

Energy Saving Tips



Why shut out summer? Keep your home comfortable without air conditioning on all but the hottest days by minimizing heat penetration into your home.

- ◆ Shelter sun-exposed windows with awnings and shrubbery. Keep blinds and drapes closed on sunny days.
- ◆ Use floor and ceiling fans to create gentle breezes to keep you and your family comfortable.
- ◆ Get rid of that old beer fridge in the basement—an inefficient refrigerator with an ill-fitting door can cost hundreds of dollars per year to operate.
- ◆ String up a clothesline—you'll save money and your clothes will smell summertime fresh.

- ◆ When you are running your air conditioner, make sure you close all windows, doors, chimney dampers. Don't run the ceiling fan in the bathroom if the air conditioner is running. Unused rooms should be closed off to cut cooling costs. Don't use your hard-earned money to cool the outdoors.
- ◆ Use solar powered outdoor lights to light up your backyard garden
- ◆ If you have a swimming pool, install a timer for the pump. Consider solar panels to heat your pool and make sure you have a solar blanket to put on the pool at night to reduce heat loss.

Following these simple energy saving tips can help to keep more money in your wallet!

Stay Safe by Staying Clear of our Generating Stations & Dams

Waterways surrounding dams and hydroelectric stations can be dangerous to unsuspecting boaters and swimmers..

Orillia Power owns and operates 3 hydroelectric generating stations. They are used for generating electricity and we take pride in operating our facilities safely and in a manner that respects the environment and the rights of others.

Hydroelectric stations operate all year round, 24 hours per day. That's why Orillia Power Generation posts warning signs and creates barriers to keep the public away for their safety.

Your safety is important to us. Heed warning signs, booms, buoys—they are there for your protection!

Our safety message.....

Electrical Shock & Fire Hazard Safety Tips for Students & Parents

Students leaving home to further their education or just moving out on their own may be experiencing the first time they will live away from the family home and the security of a safe environment. Students living on campus benefit from safety provisions required under provincial law, but those living in rental facilities may find that they don't always comply with provincial safety legislation standards.

For safety sake, check your new accommodation for these potential electrical hazards and have the landlord make repairs where necessary.

- Loose or damaged plugs and switches
- Outlets and switches with missing cover plates
- Outlets and switches that are warm to the touch, should be turned off immediately and replaced immediately
- Dim or flickering lights
- Exposed electrical wiring
- Fuses that blow or circuit breakers that frequently trip
- Renovated kitchens and bathrooms require GFCI (ground fault circuit interrupter) outlets

For safety sake, take these steps to protect yourself and your loved ones

- Ensure all electrical products purchased and used bear the mark of a recognized certification agency
- Purchase power bars with heavy gauge cord
- Never use extension cords that are frayed or damaged.
- Do not overload outlets or circuits—this can cause overheating that can lead to a fire

The price of electrical safety is a small investment for peace of mind.

Remember—electricity always takes the easiest path to the ground and we don't want that path to be you!

