



## What's new in the electricity market?

On June 15, 2004, the government introduced Bill 100, the Electricity Restructuring Act, 2004 which proposes amendments to the current OEB Act, 1998. Subject to passage of this legislation, implementation of the new structure is targeted for early 2005.

If passed, this legislation proposes:

- a new Ontario Power Authority (OPA) that would ensure an adequate, long-term supply of electricity;
- a new conservation bureau led by the province's first Chief Energy Conservation Officer;
- provisions that the Ministry of Energy set targets for conservation, renewable energy, and overall supply mix of electricity in the province;
- a re-definition of the role played by the Independent Electricity Market Operator (IMO). Some of the IMO's current responsibilities would be moved to the Ontario Energy Board and the proposed new Ontario Power Authority;
- Incentives for more private sector investment in new generation, including waterpower to help meet the growing demand; and
- regulated prices in parts of the electricity sector that would be adjusted and approved periodically by the Ontario Energy Board to ensure price stability for consumers.

## UPDATE ON "SMART METER" PROGRAM

Orillia Power Corporation is still committed to provide the option of "Prepaid Metering" to our customers as a proactive incentive for energy conservation.

The provincial government's Demand Management and Smart Metering initiatives have been outlined recently, but not in detail, and it is prudent that we delay implementation until we ensure that our program meets the provinces objectives. The Ontario Energy Board, in concert with the government, is currently working with industry groups to define the details and we hope to be in a position to move forward early next year.

Orillia Power will be very proactive in helping our customers contribute to meeting provincial energy conservation goals

## The Fall Cleanup & Getting Ready for Winter!

It's getting that time of year again when Old Man Winter is just around the corner and waiting to sneak into your home. Here are some energy saving tips you can do to help reduce your energy costs.



- Have your furnace serviced to maintain optimum performance. Change your furnace filter at least once a month – the furnace and fan won't have to work as hard with a clean filter.
- Insulate hot water pipes and your hot water tank.
- Test doors and windows for air leaks. Weather stripping & caulking around windows, doors, dryer vents and insulated plates for outlets are inexpensive and easy to apply.
- Block drafts under entry doors with flexible vinyl door sweeps or thresholds with built-in weather stripping.
- Clean baseboard heaters and air vents of dirt. Make sure nothing is blocking the heat path.
- Use kitchen and bathroom fans wisely; **in just one hour, these fans can pull out a houseful of warmed air.**
- Lower your thermostat at night or when no one is at home (4-5 degrees Celsius). Consider a programmable thermostat.

## Did you know ...?

**You can pay your electricity bill through our pre-authorized payment plan?** This means your bill is automatically deducted from your chequing account each month on the due date.

Have you ever forgotten to pay your bill or maybe misplaced it? With the pre-authorized payment plan, your electricity bill is sent to you each month in advance and the date of your payment is posted to your bank account. This shows you ahead of time how much will be deducted from your bank account saving you the time of writing cheques, saving money on postage and no late payment charges! It makes sense!

Contact one of our customer service representatives to sign up today!

**Note: if you are on our pre-authorized payment plan or use Internet or telephone banking and move to another address in Orillia, please notify your bank of your new account number.**

## A safety message.....

### “PLUG IN SAFELY”

#### GROUND FAULT CIRCUIT INTERRUPTERS (GFCI's)

- A ground fault circuit interrupter provides protection by interrupting the flow of electrical current when it senses an electrical ground fault.
- GFCI's must be used for all new/replacement outlets in bathrooms, kitchens (within 1 meter from the sink) and all exterior outlets.
- GFCI's should be tested monthly to ensure they are working correctly to provide the proper protection.

#### ELECTRICAL CORDS/PLUGS

- The third prong on electrical plugs has been included to ensure that the electrical product will be grounded to avoid electrical shock. ***The grounding pin on a plug is a safety safeguard – if removed current will have no path to ground and can cause shock or even electrocution!***
- If your home is equipped with two-prong outlets, you should have them converted to three-prong outlets with proper grounding to ensure your safety.

#### OVERLOADING CIRCUITS

- Too many electrical cords plugged into one outlet can create increased demand on electricity and current to the outlet which can create heat and present a fire hazard.
- Using electrical extension cords as permanent wiring is not a safe practice – add additional outlets for your safety.

Source: Elecsafe 2004 Electrical Safety Campaign

Elecsafe is a not-for-profit Electrical Safety Partnership that has been formed to provide Ontarians with access to important information about electricity that can keep them safe where they live, work & play.

Check out their wealth of information on their website; [www.elecsafe.info](http://www.elecsafe.info)

### Some bright ideas for lighting your home more efficiently ....



- Compact fluorescent bulbs (CFL's) use only a quarter of the energy of standard incandescent bulbs. A 15-watt CFL produces the same high-quality light as a typical 60-watt regular bulb and saves 45-watts for every hour you leave the light on. One compact fluorescent bulb can save you approximately \$10 in electricity costs each year.
- CFL's are now available in a broad range of shapes, sizes, light tones and wattages. They will fit almost any fixture from ceiling units to standing lamps. If you switch to CFL's a good place to start is in an area where lights are used most – ie. kitchen, family room, outdoors.
- CFL's that carry the ENERGY STAR symbol have met strict product specifications for long life, energy savings, colour and brightness.
- “Task Lighting” – lower overall energy demand by concentrating bright light where you need it, rather than evenly lighting the entire room.
- Keep light fixtures clean – a cleaner bulb is a brighter bulb!
- Contrary to popular belief, less energy is consumed when lights are turned on and off as needed, than if a light is left on all the time.

### PRIVACY POLICY

New federal privacy legislation requires businesses, both large and small to put systems in place to make sure the required customer information is protected, secure and kept confidential.

**Orillia Power is dedicated to respecting and protecting the privacy of personal information entrusted to us by our customers.**

**Is there a topic you would like to see in our newsletter?** Please let us know. You can reach us at 326-2495, ext. 224 , fax at 326-0800 or e-mail us at [info@orilliapower.ca](mailto:info@orilliapower.ca)

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