



# Connections

July 2010

**Peterborough Utilities Services Inc.**

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[www.peterboroughutilities.ca](http://www.peterboroughutilities.ca)

## The Power Pledge community challenge

Hey, Peterborough – want to show the rest of Ontario what we're made of? Here's your chance. It's the Power Pledge community challenge. The winner will be the Ontario municipality that reduces its overall energy consumption by the greatest percentage on August 11, 2010. Last year, we reduced our consumption by 4.5% to place third out of 84 communities.

**Win points for your ward and prizes for yourself**

In addition to the Ontario-wide challenge, there will be a ward challenge within the City of Peterborough. Customers who sign up for conservation programs including *peaksaver*, The Great Refrigerator Roundup, ERIP and the Power Savings Blitz will receive points for their ward.

Weekly prizes will be drawn for anyone who participates in any of these programs as well as a \$500 Grand Prize of energy-efficient products for a participant in the winning ward.

For more information, visit [www.powerpledge.ca](http://www.powerpledge.ca) or [www.peterboroughutilities.ca/Electric/Energy\\_Conservation](http://www.peterboroughutilities.ca/Electric/Energy_Conservation).

**We all win with these great programs**

Does your home or business have central air conditioning? The *peaksaver* program benefits the entire community by reducing demand on the system during periods of high electricity usage. Customers that volunteer for the program will get a free programmable thermostat installed (where applicable) as well as a \$25 rebate. Call us at 748-6900 to find out more or visit [www.peterboroughutilities.ca](http://www.peterboroughutilities.ca).



In **The Great Refrigerator Roundup**, the OPA will pick up your old fridge or freezer for free from your home (now includes apartment buildings and condos). Book online at [www.everykilowattcounts.ca](http://www.everykilowattcounts.ca) or call 1-877-797-9473.



**Conservation programs for business**

**Power Savings Blitz, peaksaver and Electricity Retrofit Incentive Program (ERIP)** offer incentives to make businesses' existing systems more energy efficient and to help shift energy usage to off-peak hours. Call Peterborough Green-Up at 745-3238 or visit [www.greenup.on.ca](http://www.greenup.on.ca) for more information about these programs.



## Tips for a water-smart yard

- **Don't over-water your lawn.** Your lawn only needs 2.5 cm (1 in.) of water a week, including rainfall, to stay healthy. When you water, water deeply. Frequent light sprinkling leads to shallow roots, weak grass and the ideal conditions for weeds to grow.
- **Let your grass "sleep."** Your lawn may go into dormancy and turn brown to protect itself from heat and drought. Let your lawn rest at this time – no watering, no mowing and no foot traffic. Your lawn will re-awaken when it rains.
- **Don't let rainwater go to waste.** Disconnect your downspout from the sewer system and direct it into your garden, lawn or rainbarrel instead.
- **Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveway, pathway, sidewalk, deck or patio.** You'll save up to 300 litres of water every time – and it's good exercise!



## Win a netbook (and save trees) with e-billing

Since its implementation last summer, e-billing has been very successful. It's the ecological way to go because it saves on postage, envelopes and trees. In fact, six trees are saved each year just on the paper we used to use for our bills. If all of our customers were on e-billing, we could save 151 trees each year!

We've been listening to our customers and we're continuing to improve our e-billing system to meet your needs. All customers have access to the Customer Self Serve Web Portal, where you can look at your account transactions, consumption history, and sign up for pre-authorized, equal billing and of course e-billing. So, do it today and let's save some trees.

Need more convincing? Customers who sign up for e-billing between April 1, 2010 and Dec. 31, 2010 will be entered into a draw for a free netbook. Visit our website for more information.



**Are you an Ontario teen, age 14 years or older?**

Fight phantom power and you could win sweet prizes, like a Toronto concert of your choice.

Visit [www.facebook.com/unplugyourstuff](http://www.facebook.com/unplugyourstuff) for more information.



**Use water wisely!**

Lawn watering restrictions are in effect. Check [www.peterboroughutilities.ca](http://www.peterboroughutilities.ca) for more information.

- **Choose the right sprinkler.** For a small lawn, use a stationary sprinkler. For large lawns, pulsing sprinklers provide the best coverage. Oscillating (fan) sprinklers often miss patches of grass and lose water to evaporation. And remember, you don't need to water your driveway and sidewalk!
- **Don't use a sprinkler for garden plants.** Plants need water on their root zones, not on their leaves, which is where most water from a sprinkler lands. Instead, handwater or use a soaker hose.
- **If you wash your car in the driveway, use a bucket of water.** Or if you use a hose, turn off the nozzle while you soap up the car. When choosing a carwash, find one that recycles its water.
- **Cover your pool when it's not in use.** Without a cover, more than half the water can evaporate over a year.

Source: [www.ene.gov.on.ca/publications/CWF3.pdf](http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/publications/CWF3.pdf)

## What's new at the zoo?



For more information, call our Customer Service Department 748-6900

This year at the Riverview Park & Zoo we're celebrating our 75th anniversary. We will be hosting a number of celebratory events throughout the year, including our first annual fundraising gala in August.

All funds raised from our 75th anniversary celebrations will help Riverview Park & Zoo to build an animal care building that will house animals that are in need of special attention due to ill health or quarantine. Constructing this facility is also a condition for our continued accreditation with the Canadian Association of Zoos and Aquariums and will benefit our entire animal collection. The estimated cost for the animal care building is \$500,000, a large portion of which we hope to raise through fundraising.

### Fundraising Gala • Sat., Aug. 14, 2010

Be the first to experience Riverview Park & Zoo at twilight, lit up with twinkle lights and lanterns, while enjoying local food, music and entertainment. Highlights of the evening will include the auctioning of our first Zoo Art collection of original artwork and limited edition prints created by our very own animals. Also enjoy the official opening of a newly designed and planted butterfly garden. Look on our website or future issues of *Connections* newsletter for more information about how to get tickets.

### Frisbee Golf

If you love a good walk, playing a great game and spending healthy outdoor time with family and friends, then Frisbee Golf (aka Disc Golf) is for you! Come out and give it a try – it's free and signs at the Park explain the rules. We will be selling commemorative discs this summer, with proceeds going to the new animal care building. Join us for the day on Saturday, Sept. 25 when members of the Peterborough Disc Golf Club will be available to teach you the tips and tricks you need to enjoy the sport.



### Summer Concerts

Join us from 3:00 – 5:00 pm on Sunday summer evenings for free open-air concerts at the Gazebo. Bring a lawn chair and listen to local musicians play in our beautiful park. Here's the line-up so far for 2010:



- July 11 Peterborough Concert Band
- July 25 Cruisin' (50's Rock & Roll)
- August 8 Wylie (Blues)
- August 22 TBA
- September 5 Andrew Shedden Band (Rock & Roll/Blues/Folk)



Find out more about events at Riverview Park & Zoo at [www.peterboroughutilities.ca/Park\\_and\\_Zoo](http://www.peterboroughutilities.ca/Park_and_Zoo).



A new display has opened recently at Riverview Park & Zoo. "Arctic Biodiversity" provides information on the threat to animal species in Canada's north. It's part of a cooperative project with the Canadian Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Polar Bears International, Parks Canada, and Canadian Wildlife Federation. The display is open Wednesday to Sunday, 10 am – 4 pm until August 29.

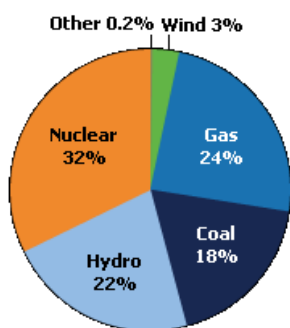


### Are you concerned about lead in your drinking water?

Call us for free water testing at 748-6900.

### Existing Installed Generation Installed Generation by Fuel Type

Ontario's existing installed generation capacity includes nuclear, coal, oil, gas, hydroelectric, wood and waste-fuelled generation, which results in a total installed capacity of approximately 35,781 MW.



Source: [www.ieso.ca/Imoweb/media/md\\_supply.asp](http://www.ieso.ca/Imoweb/media/md_supply.asp)

### Smart Meter Update

Have you noticed that your meter reader hasn't been around lately? That's because since we completed the installation of Smart Meters last summer, many meter readings have been done electronically.

Our system has performed as expected and last March 1, we switched over to electronic reads. We haven't changed your bill or when we send it out; just the meter reading.

The new electronic system results in no access problems, estimated reads or inaccurate reads, more accurate monthly billing – and no meter reader coming to visit you.

Time-of-use billing is scheduled to be implemented in the Spring of 2011.

### HST comes into effect July 1

On July 1, the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) will come into effect. Items on your invoice that are currently GST applicable, will now be charged HST. This will mean an 8% increase in the electric and water heater rental portion of your invoice.

Consumption and any fixed charges that bridge the July 1 implementation date will have a pro-rated HST charge based on the number of days before and after the rate change.

For further information regarding the HST, please go to [www.rev.gov.on.ca/en](http://www.rev.gov.on.ca/en).

### Call before you dig

Most people know that it's a good idea to call us before they dig. However, many people think that their new garden, fence or irrigation system is nowhere near underground utility services – and many times, they're wrong.

Not only is it free to call us before you dig, it's the law.

So the next time you're digging on your property give us a call so we can show you where the underground electric, water and sewer services are. (This service cannot currently be requested via our website.) To locate other utility services on your property, such as cable and gas, contact your provider.



For "locates" call 748-6900