

Acton Community Garden beckons



LOVING CARE: Members of the Acton Community Garden weeded and watered the rapidly growing garden last Wednesday night. - Frances Learment photo

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS OF HALTON HILLS HYDRO INC.

**Halton Hills Hydro Inc. has applied to raise its electricity distribution rates.
Learn more. Have your say.**

Halton Hills Hydro Inc. has applied to the Ontario Energy Board for a temporary increase of approximately \$2.04 per month for a typical residential customer for 24 months, beginning on November 1, 2014. Other customers, including businesses, may be affected as well.

The requested rate increase is to recover costs from damage caused by an ice storm in late December, 2013.

THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD IS HOLDING A PUBLIC HEARING

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) will hold a public hearing to consider Halton Hills Hydro's request. We will question the company on its case for a rate increase. We will also hear arguments from individuals and from groups that represent Halton Hills Hydro's customers. At the end of this hearing, the OEB will decide what, if any, increase will be allowed.

The OEB is an independent and impartial public agency. We make decisions that serve the public interest. Our goal is to promote a financially viable and efficient energy sector that provides you with reliable energy services at a reasonable cost.

BE INFORMED AND HAVE YOUR SAY

You have the right to information regarding this application and to be involved in the process. You can:

- review Halton Hills Hydro's application on the OEB's website now;
- file a letter with your comments, which will be considered during the hearing;
- become an active participant (called an intervenor). Apply by **July 13, 2014** or the hearing will go ahead without you and you will not receive any further notice of the proceeding;
- at the end of the process, review the OEB's decision and its reasons on our website.

The OEB intends to consider cost awards in this proceeding that are in accordance with the *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*.

LEARN MORE

These proposed charges relate to Halton Hills Hydro's distribution services. They make up part of the Delivery line -- one of the "five line items" on your bill. Our file number for this case is EB-2014-0211. To learn more about how to participate in this hearing, including how to file a letter with your comments or how to become an intervenor, go to: www.ontarioenergyboard.ca/participate. From that OEB web page you can also enter the file number to see all the documents related to this case. You can also phone our Consumer Relations Centre at 1-877-632-2727 with any questions.

WRITTEN HEARING

The Board intends to hold a written hearing in this case. If you think an oral hearing is needed, you can write to the OEB to explain why.

PRIVACY

If you write a letter of comment, your name and the content of your letter or the documents you file with the OEB will be put on the public record and the OEB website. However, your personal telephone number, home address and email address will be removed. If you are a business, all your information will remain public. If you apply to become an intervenor, all information will be public.

This rate hearing will be held under section 78 of the Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998, S.O. 1998 c.15 (Schedule B).



"Help yourself to a strawberry." Sometimes, this job has great, juicy perks, like the strawberries offered by Allison Jones, the chief green thumb at Acton's Community Garden during last Wednesday's weekly weed and meeting on Main Street North.

The bright berries are just part of the bountiful plantings in the garden, and Jones begins a tour -- first offering bug spray -- at the children's garden which features painted stepping stones made and painted by kids during a Community Dinner last August at St. Alban's Anglican Church.

The children's garden, all planted by children, includes pumpkin seed mounds, zinnias, sunflowers, red scarlet runner beans -- which are favourite of squirrels -- cucumbers and tomatoes. All of the seedlings were grown by the students of

Acton's three elementary schools and at the library.

The garden beds include two perennial herb gardens, and a variety of tomatoes including Roma, Beefsteak and Cherry. Along with the runner beans, they planted green bush beans, peppers, winter spinach, lettuce, Swiss chard and rhubarb.

"The last bed has a row of onions, three rows of peas and then there's onions and more rhubarb," Jones said, adding the herbs are always ready for harvesting, the strawberries are coming in, some of the cucumbers, and maybe the lettuce, should be ready at the end of the month.

Part of the harvest will be distributed during the weekly food delivery program at St. Alban's Church, and the Community Garden will again be responsible for providing a salad from the garden at a Community Dinner this summer.

Like all growers, Community Garden members carefully watch the weather forecasts to ensure there is enough water for the plants. Jones said they tried to plant as many drought-resistant plants as possible.

Jones said within the next few weeks they hope to install wheelchair accessible pathways in the garden to lead to raised, accessible garden boxes.

Looking at the growing harvest, Jones said the most significant thing about the while Community Garden is the broad community participation. "The (school) kids started the seeds -- the kids were given grow kits and they grew the seeds of the plants that are now being cared for by volunteers."

Jones said they are always looking for new members with good attitudes who are invited to the Community Garden each Wednesday at 7 p.m.



BERRY OFFERING: Acton Community Garden green thumb, Allison Jones, proudly showed off some of the ripening strawberries growing in the Acton Community Garden. - Frances Learment photo

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What's Your Beef?



Put it in a letter to the Editor!
It's better than just chewing your cud!

Deadline is Tuesday at noon.