

Ontario Hydro hikes price

Because you were the oldest
 We always envied you.
 The first to drive,
 The first to date,
 The first to finish school.
 But now the table's turned,
 We no longer envy you
 Because you are turning forty,
 We don't want to be there too!



Happy 40th Pat!
 December 31st, 1989.

Ontario Hydro's customers can expect the price of electricity to increase an average of 5.9 per cent starting Jan. 1, 1990, said Chairman and President Robert Franklin.

"Customers' use of electricity continues to grow at an unprecedented rate, and the increase is needed to cover the cost of new generating and transmission facilities being brought into service next year," Franklin said.

"The new rate is also needed to meet environmental and regulatory requirements, carry out energy efficiency programs, and pay the fee to the provincial government for its guarantee of Hydro's debt," he said.

"This increase, which is in line with the current inflation rate, will help moderate price increases in the next few years as more new facilities are brought into service to meet Ontario's growing demand for electricity," said Franklin.

The increase in the price of electricity delivered to the province's 317 municipal utilities (including two distributing companies) will range from 4.7 to 9.1 per cent. Utilities take the rates charged by Ontario Hydro and incorporate their local costs to determine the final rate charged to their customers.

Electricity bills to Ontario householders served by the municipal utilities now average

\$61 per month. Customers currently paying this amount will pay approximately \$3 to \$4 more per month as a result of the Ontario Hydro increase. Almost 2.3 million residential customers are served by the municipal utilities.

Locally, ??? of the local municipal utility, said the increase for area residents is expected to be 5.9 per cent.

Rates for industrial customers served directly by Ontario Hydro will increase 2.4 to 6.9 per cent. Customers in rural areas of the province will see an average increase of 5.3 per cent.

Actual price increases vary from customer to customer depending on electricity consumption patterns, transmission delivery costs and charges for specific facilities needed to serve different customer groups.

"The average increase is higher than the rate we proposed earlier this year and higher than the rate recommended by the Ontario Energy Board (OEB), but

it's lower than some recommendations made to the Board including the 7.5 per cent suggested by the Municipal Electric Association," said Franklin. The MEA represents the municipal utilities.

Since the OEB review, additional costs have been identified for 1990. More revenue is required to restore and maintain generating station performance and to meet increased regulatory and environmental requirements. As well, an increase in funds is required to cover Hydro's pension plan costs.

Only once before, in the 15 years that the Ontario Energy Board has been reviewing electricity rates, has Hydro's final increase been higher than the original proposal and higher than the Board's recommendation.

Franklin said revenue of \$6.75 billion will be needed next year. This is \$536 million more than the forecast revenue for 1989. Increased electricity sales are expected to contribute \$160 million of the required increase, leaving the remainder to be recovered through the rate increase.

PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

and your 1990 Municipal and School Taxes

Regional Assessment Offices located throughout Ontario are responsible for assessing all real property for the purposes of municipal and school taxation.

Assessment Rolls are prepared and delivered to municipalities which use them to set mill rates and calculate property tax bills. The amount of property tax you will pay on your home or business in 1990 is determined by multiplying the assessed value of your property by the mill rate.

If you want to learn more about your property assessment, the Regional Assessment Office invites you to attend its Open House Session.

Open House Sessions

Open Houses are held in every municipality at convenient times and locations to provide you with the opportunity to discuss your assessment with the staff of the Regional Office.

An assessor will be pleased to explain the basis of your property assessment and is authorized to amend any inaccurate information prior to the delivery of the Assessment Roll to your municipality.

If you have any questions, but are unable to attend the Open House, please contact your Regional Assessment Office at the address or telephone number shown below.

Notice of Property Valuation

Property owners and tenants will receive a Notice of Property Valuation if information relating to their property assessment was changed during the past year, if the assessment was appealed last year, or if there has been a general reassessment in the municipality. If you receive a Notice of Property Valuation, it may reflect changes you have requested in your school support designation, in the amount of your assessed value, or other recorded information on last year's Notice.

Appeal procedure

If, after attending your local Open House, you are still dissatisfied with your assessment, you have the right to appeal it to the Assessment Review Board. This Board is responsible for determining whether the assessment under appeal is fair and equitable with the assessments of similar properties in the vicinity. The Assessment Review Board is more informal and relaxed than a regular court of law.

Appeal Deadline

The final date for appealing your assessment is February 16, 1990.

If you wish to appeal your assessment, you can use the form provided on the back of your Notice of Property Valuation, write a letter, or use a Notice of Appeal form. You need to include your property address, roll number, and the reason for the appeal. Your appeal must be filed on or before February 16, 1990.

To assist you, Notice of Appeal forms and the address of the Regional Registrar of the Assessment Review Board are available at Open Houses, your Regional Assessment Office, or your municipal office.

Ontario's French Language Services Act came into effect on November 19, 1989. The Act requires that all Ontario Government offices serving designated areas provide services in both English and French. The Ministry of Revenue has previously and will continue to offer services in both languages. If you wish to have your assessment explained in French, please contact your local Regional Assessment Office for further details.

La Loi sur les services en français de l'Ontario est entrée en vigueur le 19 novembre 1989. Cette loi exige que des services en français et en anglais soient offerts dans tous les bureaux du gouvernement de l'Ontario qui desservent les régions désignées. Le ministère du Revenu continuera, comme à son habitude, d'offrir des services dans les deux langues. Si vous désirez des explications en français concernant votre évaluation, veuillez communiquer avec votre bureau régional d'évaluation pour plus de détails.

Schedule of Open Houses

Marathon Town	Wed. Jan. 17, 2 p.m. to 8 p.m.	Marathon Municipal Office, Gilbert Street, Marathon
Schreiber Township	Tue. Jan. 16, 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.	Art Room, Recreation Centre, 100 Langworthy Street, Schreiber
Terrace Bay Township	Tue. Jan. 16, 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.	Terrace Bay Township Municipal Office, Terrace Bay
Lake Superior Locality Education	Wed. Jan. 17, 2 p.m. to 8 p.m.	Marathon Municipal Office, Gilbert Street, Marathon



Ministry of Revenue
 Ontario

Kenora, Rainy River, Thunder Bay
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 115 Johnson Avenue
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Season's Greetings and the Best in the New Year.

To all my customers.

P.S. Thanks for being so patient!

Roger Moskwa

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Many thanks

Cathy Riley
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