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Winter Newsletter - Keeping You Informed

"When I was young I was scared of the dark. Now when I see my electricity bill, I am scared of the lights." -Porter Gallion- Nov. 28, 2016

Electricity costs are a challenge at any time, but are an even greater hardship during a Canadian winter. Industrial Wind Turbines are part of the system in creating the burden of high energy prices.

This newsletter will provide some of the information that may interest and affect you regarding changes to electricity pricing.

Nov. 1, 2016 – scheduled rate increase was TOU (time-of-use) did not happen
Jan. 1, 2017 – 3% PST removed from electricity bill
Jan. 1, 2017 – Cap and Trade tax comes into effect

We'll start where we left off in December's newsletter… with the Premier's apology and acknowledgement that there was an electricity crisis in the province of Ontario.

Featured Stories In This Issue

The Electricity Crisis:
The Green Energy Act and the Burden on Consumers

Wynne apologizes for the electricity crisis

Kathleen Wynne issued what appeared to be an apology and assumed the blame (sort of) for the crisis that exists within Ontario's electricity pricing, saying her government had "made a mistake" by allowing electricity prices to soar.
However, she still managed to dredge up the previous government's record of stewardship with Ontario Hydro and the province's electricity infrastructure, placing the Liberals had to do something to fix the mess they were left with.

Read More http://www.theobserver.ca/2016/11/23/timing-of-wynnes-apology-suspect

Macleans Feedback

Macleans article on Wynne's mistake on the same news item
An eight-per-cent rebate on electricity bills comes into effect Jan. 1, but Wynne said she will find more ways to lower rates

Read More: http://www.macleans.ca/news/it-was-my-mistake-wynne-says-of-high-electricity-bills/

How costly Ontario hydro bills cause households to take drastic measures

Click to see National Post Video and three personal stories of hardship

Parker Gallant: Industrial wind turbines have so driven up electricity prices that Ontario now suffers the highest residential rates in Canada and the fastest growing rates in North America.

Click to read more:

"It's about time somebody recognized the crisis going on, not just here in rural Ontario but across Ontario where people are struggling with these extremely high utility bills," Wynne said.

http://globalnews.ca/news/2926111/premier-kathleen-wynne-calls-ontario-hydro-rates-an-urgent-issue-for-her-government/

More Related Reading:

How Ontario set out to build a better power grid, and ended up with one of the most expensive electricity systems in North America
http://www.nextgreg.ca/blog/ontario-built-a-better-power-grid-ontarios-pricey-electrical-system/

Amid furor over massive subsidies to wind and solar energy producers, the loudest outcry has come from the 1.1 million customers of the province's biggest power distribution company, Hydro One Networks Inc.

Ontario last year sold 30 per cent of Hydro One on the stock market, and vows to sell another third, which will leave just 40 per cent of the utility in public hands. Customers and opposition parties are outraged and demand Ontario halt the sale.
http://business.financialpost.com/news/get-these-damn-rates-down-sky-high-hydro-one-bills-enraging-consumers-across-province?__lsa=ced0-6d0f

Soaring hydro bills were the No. 1 complaint at the budget consultations held at the Art Gallery of Hamilton…. and elsewhere in Ontario.
http://www.thespec.com/news-story/6566668-hydro-bills-1-issue-at-hamilton-budget-talk/

Rising power bills — not just lack of good jobs and high food prices — are forcing hundreds of thousands of Ontarians to turn to food banks
http://www.ifpress.com/2016/11/27/new-report-says-soaring-power-bills-help-force-hundreds-of-thousands-in-ontario-to-food-banks

What EXACTLY are you paying for on your Electricity bill?

It's more than the electricity you use. All the support and conservation programs, subsidies, consumer credits and fees are hidden in TOU, Delivery or Regulatory Charges.

ONTARIO ELECTRICITY SUPPORT PROGRAM (OESP) - It helps Ontarians to lower their electricity costs, but the rest of us have to pick up the tab. The OESP is an Ontario Energy Board (OEB) program that lowers electricity bills for low-income households. The OESP provides a monthly credit to eligible customers based on household income and household size. The OESP credits are applied directly to eligible customers' bills.

https://ontarioelectricitysupport.ca/FAQ

Did you know…You're paying a tax on your bill to even know about hr water rental fee?
Industrial Wind Turbines are granted special electricity rate status ?
https://parkergallanternerpsperspectivesblog.wordpress.com/

Your energy bill: explanation of charges… or charges inside of charges
http://www.ontarioconsumersnet.ca/OEB/Consumers/Electricity/Your+Electricity+Bill

Residential Delivery Rates

http://www.hydrone.com/MyHome/MyAccount/UnderstandMyBill/Pages/ResidentialDeliveryRates.aspx

Parker Gallant's Perspective on Prices
https://parkergallanternerpsperspectivesblog.wordpress.com/2017/01/05/how-did-we-get-here-a-review-of-ministerial-remarks-on-electricity-prices-in-ontario/

This website is the province's Government's electricity support program, but has much more info:

In 2003, the rate for electricity was a 4.3 cents/kWh flat rate regardless of the time of day. The peak hour electricity rates have increased by 274.4% over the past 12 years (an average compounded yearly increase of 11.62% since 2003), mid-peak hours by 153.7% (avg. yearly increase 9.08%), and off-peak rates by 86.0% (avg. yearly increase of 5.31%). During those 12 years, (based upon the Bank of Canada Inflation Calculator), the cost of goods in general, (ie. inflation), rose by a total of 22.5%, or an average yearly increase of only 1.71%

http://www.ontarioelectricitysupport.ca/Ontario-Electricity-Hydro.pdf#1

Historical energy prices – a great way to compare what's happened
http://www.ontarioenergyboard.ca/OEB/Consumers/Electricity/Electricity+Prices/Historical+Electricity+Prices

Premier Wynne is 'helping' you again, announcing homeowners can obtain "home energy audits and retrofits". The committed dollar amount was $100 million over three years from the "Green Investment Fund" (GIF). The $325 million GIF was announced in the "2015 Fall Economic Statement".
https://parkergallanternerpsperspectivesblog.wordpress.com/2016/11/03/look-out-ontario-premier-wynne-is-helping-you-again/

Home assistance… FREE upgrades… someone will have to pay
http://www.hydrone.com/MyHome/SaveEnergy/HAP/Pages/Default.aspx

Regulatory charges: "understanding" my bill
http://www.hydrone.com/MyHome/MyAccount/UnderstandMyBill/Pages/RegulatoryCharges.aspx

http://www.hydrone.com/MyHome/MyAccount/UnderstandMyBill/Pages/SeasonalDeliveryRates.aspx

Understanding the Global Adjustment Charge: All Ontario electricity customers pay for Global Adjustment established by the IESO, whether it is in a separate line item or embedded within time-of-use (TOU) prices. This article offers the best explanation.
http://globalnews.ca/news/2839995/what-is-the-global-adjustment-fee-the-mysterious-cost-ontario-hydro-customers-must-pay/

How it affects hydro customers…
http://globalnews.ca/news/2870835/ontario-mayor-calling-provincial-government-out-on-cost-of-hydro/

Here is the official explanation…
http://www.ieso.ca/Documents/Understanding_GA_Jan_2016.pdf

Wholesale price of electricity: it's not just how much you use
http://www.ieso.ca/Pages/Ontario%27s-Power-System/Electricity-Pricing-in-Ontario/default.aspx

Delivery Rates: breakdown of the distribution costs
http://www.hydrone.com/MyHome/MyAccount/UnderstandMyBill/Pages/DeliveryRates.aspx

If you have a question about your billing, this is the Consumer communication centre for Hydro One
http://www.hydrone.com/ourcompany/pages/contacts.aspx

OTHER WAYS THAT WIND POWER COSTS YOU MONEY

The Observer

Letter to the Editor written by Ellis Comello

http://www.theobserver.ca/2017/01/05/climate-plan-is-just-smoke-and-mirrors

It has been well documented that wind turbines generate power that is out of sync with Ontario's power demands. Wind Concerns Ontario and more than 116 municipalities as well as other stakeholders and interest groups have repeatedly called for the cancellation of wind turbine contracts
http://www.windconcernsontario.ca/what-i-cannot-meet-power-demand-now-report-on-ontarios-power-mix/

When wind power is generated during off-peak, low demand hours, the IESO is forced to spill hydro, steam off reactor or curtail power from the wind turbines, in order to manage the grid. When such generators operate at lower capacity levels during peak demand times, other suppliers such as gas plants are called on for what is needed to meet demand.
http://www.windconcernsontario.ca/the-real-cost-of-wind-power/

Parker Gallant wrote: The waste of power in Ontario is a scandal.... The Ontario government is selling off surplus power at bargain rates .... and yet, has contracted for more power produced out-of-phase with demand. Time to reverse course.
https://parkergallanternerpsperspectivesblog.wordpress.com/2016/11/14/the-waste-of-power-in-ontario-is-a-scandal/

Here is a list of the principal changes that have affected our electricity bills during the past decade. Many will continue to push our bills even higher over the ten years. They are in no particular order, but they all cost you money! (picture will not show in the link)
http://www.windconcernsontario.ca/tell-me-again-why-are-my-electricity-bills-so-high/

Curtailed wind, high contracted prices, and expected hydro power to make way for and steamed off nuclear generation at Bruce Power (unknown and unreported) the cost perkWh all adds up

https://parkergallanternerpsperspectivesblog.wordpress.com/2016/12/06/how-much-is-wind-power-really-costing-ontario/

How does the electricity trade agreement between Hydro-Québec and the Independent Electricity System Operator of Ontario (IESO) save us $70M?
In simple math terms we were billed $2,057.7 million for the 18.33 TWh and sold it for $294 million — meaning it cost ratepayers $1,763.7 million or about $360.00 per
ratepayer , and we still have two months left in the year to account for. Importing two (2) more TWh will simply add to our surplus generation meaning we will either have to export it at a big loss or; curtail wind, spill hydro or steam off Bruce Nuclear.
https://parkergallanternerpsperspectivesblog.wordpress.com/2016/12/17/question-for-minister-thibeault-how-does-buying-power-we-dont-need-save-us-70-million/

Cap and Trade, the next energy price increase January 1, 2017

Ontario's own figures — they plan to rake in $2 billion more from the public this year alone through cap and trade — suggest the real cost for Ontario's five million households will be about $400 annually to start, not $166.

http://www.torontosun.com/2017/01/03/the-real-costs-of-cap-and-trade#.WQMsYvObGc.twitter

Ontario auditor general Bonnie Lysyk said the government expects to make $8 billion from cap-and-trade from 2017 to 2020, in return for only a small reduction in industrial greenhouse gas emissions linked to climate change. Most of the $8 billion will be paid by Ontario consumers in the form of higher prices for goods and services, because most are created and transported using fossil fuel energy.
http://www.torontosun.com/2016/12/25/cap-and-trade-this-word-end-well-ontariolt-WQGb3aMZ0xo.twitter

Cap and Trade: major exemptions in the first four years, with some of Ontario's largest companies — such as Essar Steel Algoma Inc., in Sault Ste. Marie, Vale Canada's nickel refinery in Sudbury, Petro-Canada Lubricants in Mississauga and Imperial Oil's chemical plant in Sarnia — given free allocations. The RBS raised will provide subsidies to make homes and industries more energy efficient with solar electric systems, insulation, heat pumps and new windows, plus an existing $277-million program that provides generous rebates for electric vehicles. (website is a long load)
http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2016/12/31/electricity-prices-ontari_n_13916024.html?ncid=engmodushpmg00000004

A look ahead: Carbon tax takes from the poor, gives to the rich. The tax will raise the prices of gasoline by 11 cents-a-litre, electricity by almost 10%, and natural gas by over 15%. Because it will raise the price of fuel required to grow and transport our food, grocery bills will rise too. Annually, it will cost $1628 per person, or $4112 for the average family of four, according to the Canadian Taxpayers Federation.
http://www.torontosun.com/2016/11/22/trudeau-carbon-tax-takes-from-the-poor-gives-to-the-rich#.WE2_SdAYYIM.twitter

Green Energy is spreading: As if to spread the misery across the country, the federal government of Justin Trudeau announced this week it will phase out coal-fired electricity plants by 2030
http://www.theobserver.ca/2016/11/22/red-light-green-energy

Ontario's Electricity Dilemma: A document produced by the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers

This is a large document, but has very interesting information.

https://c.pncdn.com/sites/www.ospe.on.ca/resources/energy/OSC_advocacy2015_Presentation_Elec_Dilem.pdf

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