

May 15, 2009

## Unofficial start of summer means added focus on water safety ***Get caught near a power dam and you can be charged and fined \$2,000***

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) and Ontario Power Generation (OPG) are reminding people to use care around lakes and rivers this Victoria Day.

Victoria Day is traditionally the “unofficial” start of summer, which means increased use of Ontario’s lakes and rivers. While all waterways should be treated with respect, boaters should use extra care on lakes and rivers that have OPG dams and stations.

Hydroelectric facilities are often remotely controlled to generate electricity as needed. This causes frequent and rapid changes in the water flow and levels often creating strong undertows, turbulence and sudden, powerful surges of water moving downstream in what was once calm looking surface water.

All waterways where an OPG dam or hydroelectric station is located have well-positioned warning signs, buoys, fences, booms and barriers. People ignoring these signs can face charges and fines of up to \$2,000.

OPG offers the public a number of educational materials on water safety around dams and hydroelectric stations including a brochure, a DVD for adults and an educational interactive computer game for children. The OPP and OPG also have a television ad that warns people to stay clear, and stay safe near hydroelectric dams and stations. You can view the ad, or request free educational materials by visiting [www.opg.com](http://www.opg.com)

Ontario Power Generation (OPG) is celebrating its 10th year of serving the province. Building on a proud history, OPG provides the people and industry of Ontario with clean, safe and reliable electricity - just as it's always done.

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### **OPG MEDIA CONTACT**

Media Desk -- 1-877-592-4008 or 416-592-4008

**OPP MEDIA CONTACT**

Sgt Dave Moffatt

Marine Programs

Ontario Provincial Police

Off: 705 329-6125

Cell: 705 644-1097