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DON'T TAKE A HOLIDAY FROM WATER SAFETY
Ice near OPG dams is unsafe all winter.

The Christmas holidays are the first chance for many to try out snowmobiles and cross country skis, but Ontario Power Generation (OPG) warns people that ice near its hydro dams is never safe for recreational activities.

The water near dams is always flowing, which means ice near forms as solidly as it does on still water. As well, winter has not fully taken hold and some areas of the province may experience above freezing temperatures and rain over the holiday period. This will mean increased water flows on Ontario waterways.

"We understand that people are anxious to get outside and enjoy winter activities, but they should always use caution when they're near water and especially near our dams, and people should obey all warning signs" said OPG Executive Vice President, John Murphy.

Hydroelectric facilities are often remotely controlled to generate electricity as needed. This causes frequent and rapid changes in the water flow. This can create sudden changes in water levels, 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.

OPG offers the public a number of educational materials on water safety around dams and hydroelectric stations including a brochure and water safety DVD. OPG also has 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.

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For more information contact:
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