

Oct. 9, 2014

Stay Clear, Stay Safe This Thanksgiving Weekend

Toronto – As we approach the Thanksgiving long weekend, Ontario Power Generation is reminding people to be careful near waterways, and particularly on rivers and lakes near hydroelectric stations and dams.

“Warning signs surrounding our hydroelectric facilities and dams are there for your safety,” says Mike Martelli, OPG’s Senior Vice President Hydro Thermal Operations. “The calm areas near hydroelectric facilities may first appear inviting for recreation. However much of the danger exists below the surface. Please stay clear, stay safe.”

Most hydroelectric facilities are remotely controlled by operators located many kilometres away. Dams can be opened or stations can be started up throughout the day. This causes frequent and rapid changes in water levels and flow. These changing conditions create strong undertows, turbulence and sudden, powerful gushes of water moving downstream in what was once calm-looking surface water.

Please obey the warning signs, and respect fences, booms and barriers. They are there for your safety.

Learn more about safety around dams and hydroelectric stations by visiting www.stayclearstaysafe.ca .

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