

April 24, 2009

**Warmer weekend weather in the north means faster, higher water  
OPP and OPG advise caution on northern rivers and lakes**

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) and Ontario Power Generation (OPG) are reminding people to use extreme care around northern Ontario waterways, particularly on rivers and lakes that are near hydroelectric stations and dams.

Weather forecasts call for warm temperatures and rain across the north this weekend. This, combined with the annual freshet or run off, could make waterways run faster than usual.

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.

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.

-30-

**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