

September 3, 2009

Stay Safe This Labour Day Weekend

As the Labour Day weekend approaches, Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) and Ontario Power Generation (OPG) are reminding people to use care near lakes and rivers, and especially near hydro facilities.

“Our message is stay clear, stay safe. Frequent and rapid changes in the water flow create dangerous turbulence and strong undercurrents, which are not always apparent from the calm looking surface waters,” says John Murphy, OPG's Executive Vice-President Hydro.

OPP Sergeant Dave Moffatt adds, “For their own safety, boaters need to stay clear of hydro dams and stations.” In addition Moffatt urges boaters to wear an approved lifejacket or personal flotation device (PFD): “A life jacket doesn't do you any good stored under the seat or even placed next to you. You have to wear it.”

All waterways where an OPG dam or hydroelectric station is located have warning signs, buoys, fences, booms and barriers. For your own safety – obey all warnings. People trespassing on OPG property could 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, DVD and activity booklet for kids. You can request free educational materials by visiting:

<http://www.opg.com/safety/nsafe/watersafe.asp>

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For more information contact:

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