

# Distributors' Programs Assisting Low -

Ontario's electricity distributors have developed numerous programs that are assisting low-income families from across the province by providing tools that will help save money on electricity bills and promote conservation at the same time. Some of those programs are highlighted below.

## Light up a Life - Guelph Hydro

At Guelph Hydro Electric Systems they've partnered with the Salvation Army of Guelph to help the organization with its 'Light up a Life' initiative. In May, Guelph Hydro donated over 437 compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs to match the 437 CFLs already donated by individual Guelphites at area Canadian Tire stores in March 2006.



Volunteers of the Trillium Rotary Club collected the compact fluorescents and the Salvation Army is distributing the bulbs to several Neighbourhood Groups in Guelph. All 874 bulbs being distributed will help families in need to conserve electricity and reduce their hydro costs.

"We appreciate the support of Guelph Hydro Electric Systems for our Light Up a Life initiative," said Beverleigh Broughton, Community and Family Services Director of the Guelph Salvation Army. "Corporate involvement in our programs helps to bring these opportunities to more families, crating a better community for us all."

## Veridian Teams up with Local Food Banks

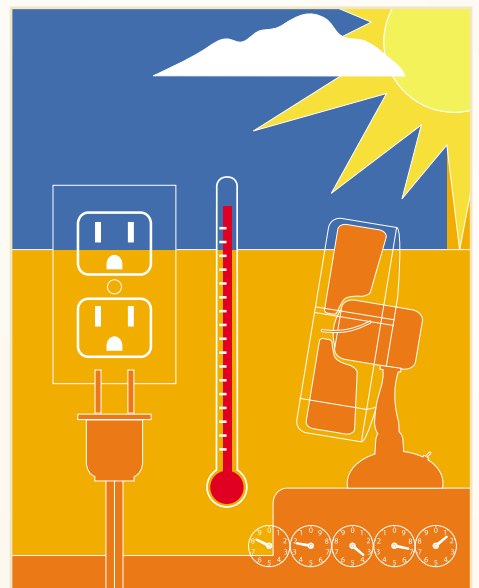
Veridian and ten community Food Banks completed a successful energy conservation initiative in June that focused on the needs of Food Bank clients. For several weeks the Food Banks provided a powerWISE Starter Kit to each of almost 2,100 client households. The kits contained electricity conservation literature and four energy saving compact fluorescent light bulbs, and were distributed by food Banks in Ajax, Pickering, Uxbridge, Port Perry, Port Hope, Bowmanville, Newcastle and Gravenhurst.

"With the help of our Food Bank partners we've reached a significant number of needy households through this initiative," said Michael Angemeer, President and CEO of Veridian. "The savings associated with the four energy saving bulbs alone can amount to about \$50 per household per year. Even greater savings can be achieved by following some of the simple low cost tips provided in the kits."

More than 8,200 energy saving light bulbs were distributed through this initiative, providing annual energy savings of about 850,000 kWhs, or enough electricity to meet the needs of about 94 typical households.

## Brantford Power's Conserving Homes Program

Brantford Power's 'Conserving Homes' program provides energy efficiency measures and education



to help low-income participants reduce their electricity consumption. The intent is to provide assistance to the most vulnerable of electricity customers who are hit hardest by rising energy costs.

The 'Conserving Homes initiative is based on a low-income conservation template developed by the Low Income Energy Network (LIEN). The utility developed and implemented the program through a partnership with Share the Warmth, a charity providing emergency energy assistance services to customers living at or near the poverty line. The Ministry of Energy also contributed \$30,000 to program development and design.

The program has three components: a home

# are Income Families

energy assessment; installation of energy saving measures; and, education during and after the home assessment and installation of energy saving measures.

Brantford Power was awarded the EDA's 'Innovation Award for Customer Service' for the Conserving Homes Pilot Program. Approximately 100 Brantford homes were identified through local in-take charities and agencies to participate in the pilot in 2005.



## Bill 117 will Help Low-Income Ontarians with Electricity Costs

The Ontario Home Electricity Relief program will provide \$100 million in assistance to low-income Ontarians to help with rising electricity costs. Under the program, single people will receive one-time payments of up to \$60, while families will receive up to \$120.

To qualify for the relief, eligible participants will have to file their 2005 tax returns on or before December 31, 2006. The Ministry of Finance estimates that almost 1.5 million families will be eligible for the payment.

Additionally, the government is doubling the provincial Emergency Fund to \$4.2 million to help social assistance recipients and other low-income households pay for utility arrears, security deposits and re-connection costs.

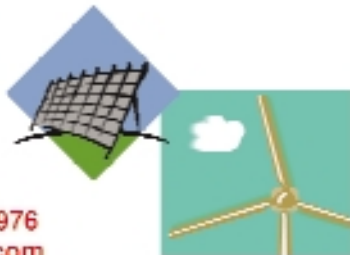
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