

Horizon Presents Niagara Region Winery with *Hernder Estate Wines in St. Catharines Recognized for*

Located in the heart of Niagara peninsula wine country, award winning Hernder Estate Wines is being recognized not only for the quality of their wines, but for their commitment to energy conservation. In August 2007, Horizon Utilities presented the first-ever *peaksaver™* Star award to the popular winery acknowledging them as the first commercial business from St. Catharines' to sign up for the program.

The *peaksaver™* program has been popular with residential customers, and is now being offered to commercial customers, with Hernder Estate Wines being the first. Twenty-nine commercial customers have since signed on to the program. There were 29 commercial participants in the pilot program that took place in 2006-2007. Hernder was the first commercial participant in the OPA *peaksaver™* program.

"At Hernder Estate Wines, we pride ourselves on running an innovative, efficient and environmentally-conscious operation, so we were very interested to hear about *peaksaver™*," said Angel Fusarelli from Hernder Estates Wines. "When we learned how this small action, on our part, combined with the efforts of others, can make such a great contribution to energy conservation and improving the environment, we were sold on the idea."

Hernder Estate Wines benefits from having single point wireless control of four *peaksaver™* thermostats over the internet, saving them money on their heating and cooling costs by setting and maintaining the appropriate temperature schedules required for each facet of their business. As *peaksaver™* participants Hernder is

showing leadership by reducing their electricity demand, which improves reliability of electricity supply and lowers electricity costs by reducing the requirements of imported power when the prices are typically the highest.

"For Hernder Estate Winery its a win-win situation, they can use the wireless internet capability to control multiple *peaksaver™* thermostats saving money on heating and air conditioning, plus reduce their peak demand during a *peaksaver* event which normally occurs when electricity prices are at their highest," explains Brian Smith, Manager of Conservation and Demand Management, Horizon Utilities.

The *peaksaver™* thermostat is free of charge to home and business owners and there



◀ Angel Fusarelli of the Hernder family and Horizon's Vice President of Customer Service, Eileen Campbell, stand by the Hernder Estate Wines new *peaksaver* thermostat, replacing their old thermostat which dates back to the 1970s (photo courtesy of Horizon Utilities Corp.).



Fred Hernder of Hernder Estate Wines pictured in the room where barrels of wine are aged (photo courtesy of Horizon Utilities Corp.). ▶

First-Ever peaksaver™ Star Award

Conservation Commitment



are no installation or maintenance fees.

One of the added benefits of a *peaksaver™* unit is the ability for customers to control the temperature of their home or business remotely, by adjusting their thermostat over the Internet. For commercial customers, this on-demand service adds another layer of efficiency to controlling the energy consumption of their businesses, which can lead to savings.

"As with any business, air conditioning and heating costs form a large part of our overhead costs," says Hernder's Angel Fusarelli. "At Hernder Estate Wines we see the ability to monitor the temperature of our operation remotely as a huge benefit and a 'cool' way of controlling costs."

The winery has a unique multi-faceted business with banquet facilities, a retail shop, wine making lab, beverage production and storage, which can be environmentally controlled and maintained using the internet capability of the *peaksaver™* thermostats.

"*peaksaver™* customers won't even notice a change in temperature," but there will be a huge impact when tens of thousands of *peaksaver™* units throughout the province are activated all at once," says Eileen Campbell, Vice President, Customer Services, Horizon Utilities. "Just in St. Catharines and Hamilton alone, we already have more than 1,600 [residential] customers signed up for the program and are hoping to double the amount by the end of the year. That would mean that when the electricity system is stretched to the maximum, St. Catharines

and Hamilton would be able to do their part and contribute by taking two megawatts of demand off the grid."

The *peaksaver™* program is being offered to Horizon customers, in partnership with the Ontario Power Authority, as one of this summer's three powerWISE® initiatives. ■

Horizon Utilities Corporation is the third largest municipally owned electricity distribution company in Ontario and provides electricity and related utility services to over 231,000 residential and commercial customers in the cities of Hamilton and St. Catharines.

Proud to be part of a brilliant idea!

Congratulations to the Ontario Power Authority and the more than 60 local distribution companies for undertaking the largest coordinated electricity conservation and demand management program ever in Ontario.

Thank you for allowing us to be part of this initiative!

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