



MEDIA RELEASE

Hernder Estate Wines Recognized for Commitment to Energy Conservation

(St. Catharines, ON) August 16, 2007 – Hernder Estate Wines was recognized today for its commitment to energy conservation with the first-ever **peaksaver**[™] Star award presented by Horizon Utilities' Vice-President, Customer Services, Eileen Campbell, to Angel Fusarelli of Hernder Estate Wines at the award-winning winery.

St. Catharines Mayor, Brian McMullan, lauded the pioneering role that Hernder Estates Wines has taken by signing up for **peaksaver**. "Once again, Hernder Estates Wine is demonstrating their commitment to being a leader in the St. Catharines business community."

The **peaksaver**[™] program enables homeowners and businesses to simply and effectively:

- conserve electricity,
- help reduce Ontario's peak electricity demand thereby avoiding the need for costly new generating stations, and
- help reduce smog and air pollution as a result of coal-fired and gas-fired generating stations being used less often.

When people sign up for the program, Horizon Utilities sends out a licensed professional to install a free **peaksaver** programmable thermostat for their heating and central air conditioning system. **peaksaver** kicks into action during periods when the demand for electricity in the province is reaching critical levels. During these critical peak periods, Horizon Utilities will send out a signal to all its **peaksaver** units to cycle air conditioning units off and on for very short periods of time to reduce the amount of electricity being used.

"**peaksaver** customers won't even notice a change in temperature," noted Campbell, "but there will be a huge impact when tens of thousands of peaksaver units throughout the province are activated all at once. Just in St. Catharines and Hamilton alone, we already have more than 1,600 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 thermostat is free of charge to home and business owners who are Horizon Utilities customers. There are no installation or maintenance fees.

"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. We are honoured to be recognized today as one of the first commercial operations in St. Catharines to sign up for **peaksaver** and hope that other businesses in the area follow our lead in contributing to reducing energy demand in the province."

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 business, which can lead to savings.

"As with any business, air conditioning and heating costs form a large part of our overhead costs," pointed out 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."

Residential customers also enjoy the convenience of being able to adjust the temperature in their home remotely, while at the office or cottage, for example.

Interested customers of Horizon Utilities can sign up for **peaksaver** by visiting www.horizonutilities.com or by phoning 1-866-323-0206.

The **peaksaver** program is being offered to customers by Horizon Utilities, in partnership with the Ontario Power Authority, as one of this summer's three powerWISE® initiatives designed to encourage energy conservation and reduce the strain on the province's power grid during peak times of energy use. The other two programs are Summer Savings and The Great Refrigerator Roundup. Details on these programs can be found at www.horizonutilities.com.

- 30 -

About Hernder Estate Wines:

Hernder Estate Wines is one of St. Catharines leading wineries, producing a wide selection of traditional VQA wines and fruit wines and are well-known for their aromatic white wines, especially their Rieslings and Gewurtztraminers. Hernder Estates has daily tastings of their award-winning VQA wine and tours of its facilities and vineyards. A gem of the Niagara wine region, Hernder Estates also hosts weddings and other elegant events on its picturesque and romantic grounds.

For more information, visit www.hernder.com

About Horizon Utilities Corporation:

Horizon Utilities Corporation is the third largest municipally owned electricity distribution company in Ontario and delivers electricity and related services to over 231,000 residential and commercial customers in Hamilton and St. Catharines. The company is committed to providing best value to its customers through the delivery of a safe and reliable supply of electricity cost effectiveness. Horizon Utilities Corporation is owned by Hamilton Utilities Corporation and St. Catharines Hydro Inc. and operates out of facilities in Hamilton, Stoney Creek and St. Catharines. For more information, visit www.horizonutilities.com.

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