

## Background

### Horizon Utilities Relationship with the YMCA Children's Discovery Centre

Horizon Utilities has a history of partnering with organizations and institutions in the communities it serves to provide education and explore ways of conserving energy and helping to create a culture of energy conservation in Ontario.

Through its support of the YMCA Children's Discovery Centre and by providing **Generation Conservation**, a curriculum-based educational program for Grade 5 students, Horizon Utilities Corporation is stepping out of the traditional role of a local utility company and is living up to its tag line, **Looking beyond ...** Through these efforts, the company is looking to the future and taking steps to create a new generation of citizens who understand the consequences of the wasteful use of energy and are committed to finding ways to conserve energy to improve the environment.

This latest donation of the "powerWISE® Home" is a further instalment in the ongoing relationship forged between Horizon Utilities Corporation and the YMCA Children's Discovery Centre.

In June 2006, Horizon Utilities Corporation unveiled a major upgrade of the interactive hydro gallery at the Children's Discovery Centre of Niagara. The updated gallery included a large doll house where children turn on lights and watch a gauge indicating how much power is used when lights are left on. An interactive unit known as "Hazard Hamlet" is a hands-on model built by Modeltech International which shows children the importance of electrical safety. A large wall map displays the different types of electrical generating stations and how electricity is distributed in Ontario. There is also an interactive light bulb display that teaches children how much less energy compact fluorescent lights consume than traditional incandescent bulbs.

When these new displays were opened to the public in the summer of 2006 by Horizon Utilities Corporation President and CEO Max Cananzi, the Children's Discovery Centre of Niagara representatives were presented with a cheque for \$35,000 to fund the ongoing delivery of energy conservation education programs.

### Horizon Utilities Educational Initiatives

Support for the YMCA Children's Discovery Centre is one of many related initiatives Horizon Utilities funds to educate Niagara area children about energy conservation and electrical safety.

Horizon Utilities recently announced that under its **kidzpower™** brand, the company is sponsoring **Generation Conservation**, an innovative and hands-on new curriculum-based energy conservation program that will be offered for Grade 5 students attending schools in Hamilton and St. Catharines. Rolled out in partnership with the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board, Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board, Niagara Catholic District School Board, and District School Board of Niagara, along with support of the public libraries in Hamilton and St. Catharines, this unique program aims to do for energy conservation what was done for blue box recycling: mobilize youth to become a generation of conservers.

Built on the principle that science literacy is the foundation of conservation, **Generation Conservation** consists of ten interactive classroom modules that make learning about energy fun and engaging. Lesson content has been designed to align closely with the new Ontario Grade 5 Science and Technology Curriculum and provides students with tangible, real life examples of how to reduce their energy consumption.

Under *Generation Conservation*, Horizon Utilities is providing teachers' guides and workshops, student workbooks, and classroom materials, free of charge to 195 schools, 400 teachers and 7,500 students and their families.

In addition, in 2007, 13,321 elementary school children benefited from having the opportunity to watch a presentation on electrical safety in their schools.

In 2006, Horizon Utilities provided 11,350 school children with energy conservation and electrical safety presentations and distributed over 1,900 'Smartpak' backpacks containing energy conservation materials to students in Grades 5 and 6.

The Horizon Utilities website ***kidzpower***<sup>™</sup> section offers stories, interactive games, and puzzles on the themes of power conservation and safety, which are suitable for children of all ages. Visit <http://www.horizonutilities.com/HHSC/html/kidz/kidz.jsp>

### **Horizon Utilities Corporation**

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 Hamilton and St. Catharines. The company is owned by Hamilton Utilities Corporation and St. Catharines Hydro Inc. and operates out of facilities in Hamilton, St. Catharines, and Stoney Creek.

Horizon's employees are committed to delivering a safe and reliable supply of electricity, providing unparalleled customer value and helping to create a culture of energy conservation in Ontario.

Horizon Utilities Corporation is proud to be a founding member of powerWISE<sup>®</sup>, a brand created to promote energy conservation and reduce the demand for electricity in Ontario. powerWISE<sup>®</sup> is a joint initiative of the Ontario government and six of Ontario's largest electricity distribution companies. For more information, visit: [www.horizonutilities.com](http://www.horizonutilities.com) and [www.powerwise.ca](http://www.powerwise.ca).

### **YMCA Children's Discovery Centre**

The YMCA Children's Discovery Centre is a hands-on, interactive children's museum. First formed by a group of local volunteers, the Centre is a place for children and their families to have an exciting and entertaining educational experience through interactivity and play. Located in the historic 140-year old Buchanan House and the beautiful gardens in the surrounding five acres, the Centre has been making learning fun for Niagara-area families for the past five years.

The YMCA Children's Discovery Centre provides tools for children to use their imaginations, discover new possibilities and encourages them to take pride in themselves, while learning about the world around them. The Centre offers year-round activities and programs for children of all ages. It is also an invaluable tool for schools in the region with exhibits and programs based on school curriculum, along with being a day camp hub in the summer months.

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Effective September 1, 2007, the Children's Discovery Centre of Niagara transferred the operational responsibilities of the Centre to the YMCA of Niagara. The YMCA operates the Centre which is supported by admission fees, exhibit sponsorships, donations and government grants and the tireless work of many volunteers. The YMCA of Niagara is a charitable organization, open to all, providing leadership and opportunities for people and their communities to grow in spirit, mind and body.

For more information, visit [www.ymcaofniagara.org](http://www.ymcaofniagara.org)

## **Modeltech International**

Modeltech International began building models for aviation, naval and architectural projects in the 1980s. By introducing a new line of general knowledge models and exhibits that integrated 3-D animation and simulation, Modeltech International moved towards a new focus to their business.

For the past 10 years, Modeltech International has developed an expertise on 'safety education through simulation.' Working with electrical utilities educators, Modeltech International devised the 'Hazard Hamlet' to teach children about electrical safety. In 1995, Modeltech International introduced the 'Hazard House' to teach children about fire safety in the home.

With both models winning endorsements from safety educators across North America, Modeltech International expanded their line of simulation products designed to include interactive models that teach about power generation systems, gas and electrical safety and energy conservation. Modeltech International models and theatres are in use across North America, some as permanent displays in museums and educational facilities, others are used as portable tools by fire departments, utility companies and many community groups to educate young and old about safety and conservation issues.

The powerWISE® Home model is designed to dramatize the learning process thus allowing an educator to focus on key topics in energy conservation. Using over 30 illustrations, smoke and electrical arcing simulation, as well as flip doors and removable 3-D model pieces, the powerWISE® Home model covers seven important energy conservation themes in the home: insulation, heating and cooling, windows, appliances, lighting, water heating and energy, and water conservation outside the house.

For more information about Modeltech International, visit: [www.modeltech.com](http://www.modeltech.com)

## **Creative DVD**

Creative DVD specializes in the production of innovative, high quality DVDs. Based in St. Catharines, Creative DVD works with a wide range of clients from the commercial, consumer and education sectors. Local projects include facilities at the St. Catharines Lock Three Museum, Howell's Pumpkin Farm, Brock University, and Niagara College.

"Power for Tomorrow", produced for Horizon Utilities to accompany the "powerWISE® Home" display, is a colourful and fun animated DVD aimed at elementary school children. The video includes no less than forty animated talking appliances explaining, from their perspective, how best to preserve energy.

For more information about Creative DVD, contact Richard Dudley: [creative-dvd@sympatico.ca](mailto:creative-dvd@sympatico.ca).

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