

Electrical Safety Authority Promoting Electrical Safety

Electrical Safety Authority Presents Inaugural *Ontario Electrical Safety Awards*

MISSISSAUGA, ON, Sept. 21 – The inaugural *Ontario Electrical Safety Awards* were awarded last evening to two individuals and two organizations for their outstanding contributions in promoting electrical safety and building a safety culture in Ontario.

The awards were established by the Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) to acknowledge the significant contributions made by many people and organizations to reduce electrical fatalities, injuries and loss. Ontario's Minister of Consumer Services, John Gerretson joined John Wiersma, Chair of the Board, Electrical Safety Authority, and David Collie, President and CEO, Electrical Safety Authority in handing out the awards at the ESA Annual General Meeting.

The 2010 winners are:

- **Power Line Safety -- Orillia Power Corporation** which since the early 1980s has been a leader in developing and delivering education and awareness programs to their community regarding electrical and power line safety. Among other efforts, Orillia Power Corporation contributed to the creation of North America's first 'Portable Children's Safety Village" which has been used to teach more than 6,000 elementary students yearly about safety. They also host an annual education program for local contractors and trades people alerting them of electrical hazards.
- **Product Safety – Brian Savaria of Eaton Electrical Group** in Burlington, Ontario for his long-term efforts against counterfeit products that pose electrical safety risks. He has worked extensively with the RCMP in Quebec, Electro-Federation Canada and the Electrical Safety Authority to identify counterfeit products and assist with criminal investigations. He was instrumental in ensuring the involvement of the electricity industry in the Canadian Anti-Counterfeiting Network. Product safety is a key area of concern. In 2009, ESA issued 87 recalls and 26 safety alerts resulting in more than 1 million products being recalled across Canada with over 450,000 of those originating from Ontario alone.
- **Worker Safety – Dave Graham, who during his term as President of the Greater Toronto Electrical Contractors Association**, initiated the creation of the Working Live Task Force to raise awareness of the risks of working with live electricity. The Task Force includes representatives from throughout the industry and its efforts have included the "Just Don't Ask" public awareness campaign, the development of the work live authorization form, and the eventual creation of the Electrical Safety Coalition. Graham has been a leader and tireless champion of the cause.
- **Consumer and Home Electrical Safety – to a coalition of electrical equipment manufacturers – Cooper Industries, Hubbell Canada, Legrand Canada, and Leviton Canada** . Together they achieved a requirement to use tamper-resistant receptacles (child-safety outlets) in homes as part of the Canadian Electrical Code. They also worked to ensure these safer products remained affordable for consumers. In North America, an average seven children per day are treated in emergency rooms for injuries due to contact with electrical outlets typically from

inserting objects like paperclips and keys. The tamper-resistant receptacles block other objects from penetrating the outlet.



Ontario's Minister of Consumer Services, John Gerretsen, together with David Collie, President and CEO, Electrical Safety Authority and John Wiersma, Chair of the Board, Electrical Safety Authority congratulates the winners of the inaugural Ontario Electrical Safety Awards presented September 20, 2010 at the Electrical Safety Authority Annual General Meeting.

Shown (left to right): Top Row (L-R) Dave Morris, Chris Evans, Dave Graham, Bob Wright, John Mattinson, David Collie, Minister John Gerretsen, Brian Savaria, John Wiersma, Tom Macerollo.

Bottom row (L-R) Glenn McCurdy, Jason Crossman, Cindy Brodie, Deanna Foisy, Pierre Desilets

“We are on a mission to eliminate electrical fatalities and serious injuries in Ontario and these people and organizations exemplify the leadership and effort needed to achieve that goal,” said Peter Marcucci, Chief Public Safety Officer, ESA. “We’re very pleased to now have an awards programs so we can formally acknowledge the contributions of so many others working towards the same goal.”

About the Electrical Safety Authority

The Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) is responsible for public electrical safety in Ontario and administers the electrical safety code, provincial electrical contractor licensing, electrical distribution safety, and product safety. Its vision is an Ontario free of electrical fatalities and serious injury, damage or loss. To achieve that goal ESA is focussed on five critical areas that present the greatest electrical safety risks and harms to the public:

- Powerline safety
- High-risk electrical worker safety
- Electrical products safety
- Aging infrastructure
- New wiring installations and electrical code

For more information, go to www.esasafe.com.

For more information contact:

Cathy Chernysh
Director of Communication
Electrical Safety Authority
cathy.chernysh@electricalsafety.on.ca
(905) 712-5371