The Edge

Community Newsletter

Vol. 11, Issue 5, December 2013

**The Edge Hours
Tues – Fri: 10 – 4
Sun: 10 – 2
322a Monashee Ave**

"Making Lemonade out of Lemons Award"

BC Hydro has managed to convert "an options deal" for customers into a positive response for accepting Smart Meters.

Many customers received an options deal in September by mail; supposedly these customers had made it known to BC Hydro that Smart Meters were not to be installed at their site.

The options are to accept the Smart Meter, or

   radio-off meters – a set-up fee of $100 and a monthly fee of $20 starting April 1, 2014;

   keeping an old meter – a monthly fee of $35 starting December 2, 2013.

Your choice was to be in by Dec 1 2013.

Now we have been alerted by email that: *"We are reorganizing our meter reading routes to improve the manual meter reading process for meters that are not yet able to automatically transmit readings. This will reduce the number of times we may bill customers based on estimated meter reads."*

Is BC Hydro now admitting that the Smart Meter deployment is not going to work; is this the reason why we have had no communication from BC Hydro? And is this an indication that we are paying for the Smart Meter deployment.

Tips to Maintain your PC

- Keeping an up to date Antivirus and Firewall

Many files on the internet are infected with viruses, and without an updated Firewall it is easy for hackers to gain access to your computer.

Recommended free antivirus program would be AVG (http://free.avg.com/ca-en/homepage and proceed to select „Download" under „AVG Anti-Virus Free") (You can also go to www.cnet.com and search for either program) The Windows Firewall, when up to date, will provide sufficient protection against intruders.

-Defragmenting your Computer

Disk defragmenting is a process that organizes system files, and chunks of data, into a way your computer can more efficiently access them. Performing a Disk Defragment on your computer weekly is recommended; to keep your PC performing properly Disk Defragmenter can be found by accessing the "Start" Menu, then "All Programs", "Accessories", "System Tools", then "Disk Defragmenter". On some PC"s this will vary. If you are having trouble finding it you can Search for it under Start > Search.

-Removing unnecessary web clutter

When you browse the internet many websites saves files on your computer, called Cookies, which allow them to load faster. They often store other Temporary Internet Files as well. These can be removed easily by accessing "Start", "All Programs", "Accessories", "System Tools", "Disk Cleanup". This may vary on some PCs and can also be found in Windows Search. It is recommended to perform a Disk Cleanup on a regular basis.

-Make sure software is up to date

It is also important that the software and drivers on your computer are up to date. This can be done by following the prompts on the bottom right of your taskbar (They usually pop-up on startup and say "Important Windows Updates Available"). Simply click on the bubble, and follow the prompts to install updates.