

# 'Lectric Larry'

## BELOVED ELECTRICAL SAFETY EDUCATOR SPARKS A PASSION FOR LEARNING

Larry Mullin, or 'Lectric Larry' as he is known around Waterloo North Hydro and the community, loads his cart with his materials for the day's presentations. As he rolls through the hallway, he shares his destination details with every employee he passes with the excitement of a young child on Christmas morning. This is Lectric Larry, Waterloo North Hydro's ambassador of electrical safety.

Larry joined Waterloo North Hydro in 1979 and throughout his 30 years of service, Larry held multiple positions in various departments including the control room, meter reading, and general maintenance where he finished his career in 2009. After only two years of retirement, Larry began his role as an electrical safety educator, communicating electrical safety, conservation and awareness messaging to grade five and six elementary school classes within the community. Larry naturally fell into the role based on his love for children and enthusiasm for the electricity industry, both of which are obvious in all of his presentations.

Over time, Larry began tailoring the electrical safety program to suit his style, a style that is energetic, interactive and entertaining, captivating audiences of all ages. Larry adapts his presentations to ensure they are relevant and engaging, which is a challenge given his audiences. However, with interactive demonstrations and references to the latest in pop culture, Larry continues to electrify and captivate audiences. The advancement of the program demonstrates its success, and the demand it has generated from word-of-mouth referrals by educators in the service territory is phenomenal. The program has become so well known, that Larry has received requests from schools outside of Waterloo North Hydro's service territory to provide his programming to their students as well.



Initially, the program's reach was limited due to a lack of awareness, but through Larry's perseverance, which included personal letters, emails and follow-up calls, every school in Waterloo North Hydro's service territory is now aware of the program.

Larry currently delivers over one hundred sessions annually not only in classrooms, but also at local community events. Most recently, Larry took his programming

to the University of Waterloo's Engineering Science Quest summer day camp where he presented every week to the day camp students.

Through Larry's work, Waterloo North Hydro's electrical school safety program reaches approximately 3,000 children annually. In 2014, Larry presented to 94 per cent of schools within Waterloo North Hydro's service territory and nearly 80 per cent of schools in 2015. These presentations include all schools within the utility's service territory: public, private, Catholic and Mennonite. Although the number of schools Larry reached is above the 80 per cent level, Larry is on track to eclipse the reach of 3,000 students because of community events and summer camp programs.

"The impact of Larry's presentations is far reaching and invaluable", says Rene Gatien, President and CEO of Waterloo North Hydro. "The real testament to Larry's work and the program is through the enormous demand for Larry to present, not only within our service territory but outside of it as well." The evidence of Larry's efforts and the program's success are more than apparent by the overwhelming positive feedback Waterloo North Hydro receives from both students and teachers. From letters and cards to pictures and posters, Larry receives enough fan mail to make one think he is a celebrity. "Lectric Larry was great and fun entertainment.

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Lectric Larry taught me a lot of great safety so I can avoid getting hurt," one student wrote. It is responses from students like these that truly demonstrate the value of the program. While it is both fun and entertaining to have a classroom

visitor, Larry's message is one of safety, and its goal is to protect the children within the community from harm. This message resonates far beyond the classroom throughout the community.

For more information on Waterloo North Hydro's School Safety program and for samples of Lectric Larry's presentation please visit Waterloo North Hydro's School Safety Program webpage [wnhydro.com/schoolsafetyprogram](http://wnhydro.com/schoolsafetyprogram).

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*Waterloo North Hydro Inc. is regulated and licensed to provide all regulated electricity distribution services to over 55,700 residential and business customers spanning 672 square kilometers in the City of Waterloo and the Townships of Wellesley and Woolwich. Its mission is to deliver electricity safely and reliably, at the lowest reasonable cost. Waterloo North Hydro Inc. is a subsidiary of Waterloo North Hydro Holding Corporation and is jointly owned by the City of Waterloo and the Townships of Wellesley and Woolwich.*



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