

# READING

June/July 2012

# Wanted: 100-Year Old Homes & Businesses

Traverse City Light & Power (TCL&P) has been providing reliable and affordable electricity to the Traverse City community for 100 years. In fact, some of the homes and businesses that received our electricity in the early days, are still in existence today. Take, for instance, the house located at 202 S. Spruce Street. This house was built in 1881 and has been in the Skiver family the entire time. Doris Skiver, daughter of Jerry and Marge Skiver, still calls this location home.

Doris has lived in the home her entire life, except for a period of 10 years when her husband found employment in Detroit in the early 1940s. He was deployed to fight in World War II and when he returned, the couple made their way back to the Spruce Street house. The couple had their electricity turned back on October 4, 1952, according to the TCL&P Agreement for Electricity and the deposit slip Doris found in her records.



The Skiver residence, 2012.



The Skiver Family residence, 202 S. Spruce St., 1881.

TCL&P wants to celebrate the Skiver family and the many others who have been in the Traverse City area for 100 years. Has your family owned the same house or business for 100 years AND been a TCL&P customer since 1912? If so, TCL&P wants to recognize your house or business. You'll need to be able to provide proof that the home or business has been in the family for 100 years and has been a TCL&P customer. To submit your house or business for recognition, visit the TCL&P website at tclp.org.

#### AVERAGE MONTHLY ELECTRICITY USAGE

Year	Kilowatt Hours (kWh)	Cost/kWh
1912	15 kWh	\$.08
2012	585 kWh	\$.09

# Power of Art Contest And the Winners Are...

In celebration of TCL&P's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, TCL&P launched the "Power of Art" contest in February 2012. The contest focused on educating area students and community members on the importance of energy efficiency in the Traverse City community. The contest had two submission categories: two dimensional art, and video.

The winning two dimensional art entry was submitted by Ms. Evan Norgaard, a 7th grader at Traverse City Christian Schools. Evan earned an energy efficiency classroom sponsorship that will support supplies and



7th Grader, Evan Norgaard, with her winning entry.

curriculum. Evan's teacher, Katie
Chester, also earned a downtown Traverse
City gift certificate for making the contest part of her class's curriculum.



8th Graders, Taylor Weckstein and Emma Simon, submitted the winning video.

The winning student video entry was submitted by Ms. Emma Simon and Ms. Taylor Weckstein, both 8th graders in Jody Mackey's class at East Middle School. Emma and Taylor split the prize of downtown Traverse City gift certificates.

The winning two dimensional art piece and the first, second and third place videos can be viewed at tclp.org.

All entries were judged by a panel of local video and art professionals. Entries were rated on overall impact, effectiveness of conveying the theme, artistic merit and technical proficiency.

### **Coming Soon...**

TCL&P is working on a 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary history book which details the history of the utility over the past 100 years and the role it's played in the development of the community. The limited edition history book will be available to interested customers on a first-come, first-served basis. The history book should be available at the Governmental Center's billing counter by late summer.

#### **Keep Cool During the Summer**

Those hot summer months are right around the corner and TCL&P customers can take advantage of energy and money saving incentives that will keep you cool all summer.

Get a \$150 rebate when you upgrade your central air conditioning unit to one with a 16 Seasonal Energy Efficiency Rating (SEER), which can save up to 15% on the typical energy bill. Get a \$15 rebate when you install an ENERGY STAR® qualified room air conditioner, which can save at least 10% on your energy bill compared to a conventional unit.



For more information on how to take advantage of these, and other energy and money saving incentives, see the Energy Smart tab at tclp.org.

#### **Mark Your Calendar!**



TCL&P will celebrate powering the community for 100 years at Friday Night Live on August 10<sup>th</sup>. All customers are invited to attend! This family-friendly event will have energy saving and safety demonstrations, bucket truck demonstrations, free hard hats for the first 500 kids and more! The event runs from 5:30–9 p.m. on Front Street in downtown Traverse City. You won't want to miss it!

#### **REMINDER:**

As the warmer temperatures arrive, yard work begins. Please remember that bushes, trees and other plants should not be planted in front of or around transformers – the green electrical box that may be in your yard. Typically there is a sticker on the transformer which indicates this. Please be aware that TCL&P crews need direct access to these boxes in case of an electrical outage or emergency. Having a clear path to the transformer assures that TCL&P crews can safely and quickly restore electric service in the event of equipment failure. TCL&P is not responsible for any damage done to vegetation or obstacles that may obstruct access to the transformers. Thank you for your cooperation as TCL&P works to provide reliable service to all customers.

#### L&P Mission:

To provide safe, reliable, competitively priced energy and related services in an environmentally conscious manner.

#### Did You Know...

Did you know that TCL&P recently launched an E-newsletter? Receive your *Light Reading* newsletter, along with the most up-to-date information regarding your hometown utility at the convenience of your fingertips. To sign up, go to the TCL&P website, tclp.org, and click on the E-newsletter button at the bottom of the homepage.



## **Executive Director Update: Online Customer Account**

The City of Traverse City and TCL&P has launched an online bill payment system where customers can view and pay their electric, water and sewer utility bills through an online process. The new online payment system offers easy access to billing and payment history, account information, past electric, water and sewer usage data and an online utility bill payment option.

To access the online bill payment system, go to the TCL&P website, tclp.org, and click on Online Bill Payment located at the top of the homepage.

Customers are also able to take advantage of a paperless billing option, which you will need to sign up for separately from the online bill payment system. If you're interested in enrolling in paperless billing, please contact the Utility Accounting department by phone at 231-922-4431 or email utilities@traversecitymi.gov to set up this option. You should be prepared to provide your account number and email address.

Customers who use a credit card to pay their utility bill using the online payment system will be charged a convenience fee of 2.85%, with a \$1 minimum. If you prefer not to pay the convenience fee, you can have your utility bill payments automatically deducted from your bank account every month for free. The autodebit form can be downloaded at the TCL&P website.

For more information regarding the new online bill payment system, visit the TCL&P website at tclp.org.



Ed Rice
Executive Director



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See the Home Energy Saver and L&P Energy Smart Program at: www.tclp.org