

From: Ron McCurdy

Date: Fri, Oct 10, 2008 at 1:00 pm

Subject: Bala HEP Construction Photos that Illustrate the Tourist Attraction

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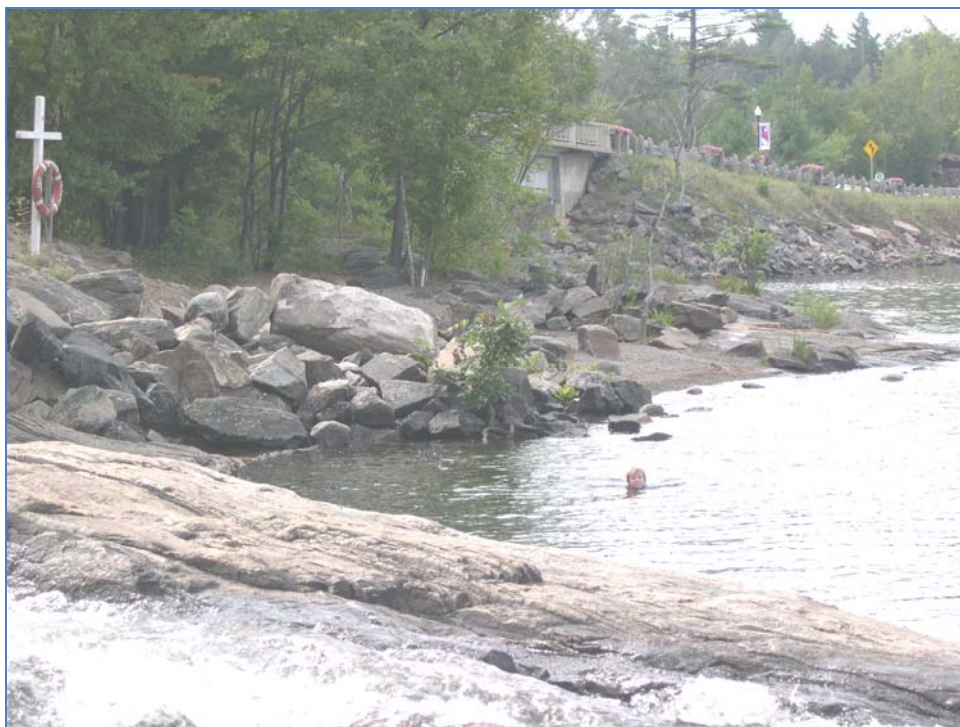
Please do not proceed with approval of the H.E.P. development in Bala!

Hydroelectric power has some advantages to recommend it over nuclear, coal, and natural gas. HOWEVER the government needs to exercise due diligence in its approach to influence the use of our waterways for power development especially since there is frequently multiuse conflict.

In the case of the Bala project tourism and local economies will be seriously and negatively affected.

The recent safety warnings about sudden release of water to generate power will impact on the use of Bala falls likely with warnings so that use in the summer will be seriously degraded. My children will not be able to swim in the waters for fear of sudden release of water though the tail race.

I believe this lone swimmer would be caught in the outflow and a valuable piece of recreation will be lost – even lives.



I present additional photos to enforce the importance of the north river branch as a source of recreation, which translates into economic value for the community.



This shows the natural backdrop of a wader in the falls. This natural area is to be replaced by contrived landscaping and machinery-devoted concrete to serve the needs of a greedy few.



Here we see the calm waters below the falls during swimming season being enjoyed by snorkelers. Scuba training programmes are also run in the waters below the falls.

As a final consideration, it would be appreciated if the government processes would eliminate the guarantee of "no money will be lost by the entrepreneurs" who would like to desecrate this site.

The government promote the production of green electricity. I would think it much wiser to develop and equivalent size solar power farm which will more reliably produce power during the day when demand is greatest. Such a farm could be put in place WITHOUT destroying a centuries old economy, a heritage site, and a jewel unique beauty in our province. The MNR and residents know that there are countless areas which could be devoted to solar electricity production without impacting on this special area. Solar technology has advanced with giant strides and should be encouraged over a 100-year-old technology impacting this irreplaceable site.

The falls and river are enjoyed by thousands who are drawn to the area by such events as our famous Cranberry festival. The synergy of the festival, falls, tourists and area residents should be supported not destroyed.

Ron McCurdy, 25 year resident.