

Proponent's August Malarky

The "Scenic Flow" of water over the falls would be reduced to only 6% of what it is now. At Niagara Falls, 33% of the water must flow over the falls. Why any less for Bala.

Why, just why, won't the proponent communicate this to the public, they've had 9 years to figure it out.

And how does the proponent know the fast water would adequately dissipate for the entire route boats need to take to dock. Show us an impartial report, not wishful conjecture.

And how exactly is taking 94% of the water, leaving only a trickle for Scenic Flow "optimizing", you're greedy, wringing Bala dry.

That's a lie. The flow below the Bala dams can only change suddenly when MNR staff remove a stop-log, and they first warn the public. The terrible tragedy of the two drownings were people that could not swim and were wearing their clothes. There's never been an accident in Bala for people canoeing or portaging.


The alternate portage routes all have major problems; trespassing over private property, crossing Muskoka Road 169 with inadequate sight-lines to approaching cars, walking behind and beside parked cars, and along roads with no sidewalks or shoulders.

The proposed generating station would have 14 times the output and 25 times the footprint of the generating station previously there. And it would obstruct the Bala Portage, where the previous generating station left a 16'-width for portaging to continue. This proposal has nothing to do with the station previously there or Bala's heritage.

The proposed construction would create a 1 in 5 chance of causing flooding of Lake Muskoka. This is too risky and is irresponsible.

The proponent only actually answered 46 of the 156 questions asked by the Township. Answering less than 30% of the fair and relevant questions asked is not consultation.

Project Update August 2014



We're Listening

Swift River is committed to keeping you informed about the North Bala Small Hydro Project. Here we share answers to Frequently Asked Questions.

Q: Will water still flow over the falls?
A: Yes. Currently the North Bala Dam is closed after the spring freshet allowing "leakage" through the logs. This same flow will be maintained. Flow through the South Channel, however, will decrease. Swift River is working on plans to provide additional scenic flows to address concerns about aesthetics. Stay tuned.

Q: Will downstream docks still be usable?
A: Yes. While there will be a stronger current at the outlet of the plant, it will dissipate as it moves downstream.

A navigational boom will be installed around the outlet to keep boats safely away from stronger currents.

Q: Why does Bala need another dam?
A: It doesn't. There are already two dams at this site. The project involves a powerhouse with a turbine/generator designed to optimize use of the two existing dams for creating green energy.

Q: Will we still be able to swim at the falls/dam?
A: Swimming downstream of a dam is never advisable as flows and levels can change without warning. Two adults drowned at this site in 2009.

Q: How will we get through town during construction if you are building a bridge? Are you closing off Highway 169?
A: Rest assured traffic will continue through town. We will build a temporary construction-use only bridge over the north falls to access the site.


There will be no road or bridgework done on Muskoka Road 169 for this project.

Q: Are you going to block portaging between Lake Muskoka and Moon River?
A: No. There are several safe portages for paddlers. See BalaFalls.ca for preferred routes.

Q: Will this project destroy Bala's cultural and historical landscape?
A: No. Our facility will bring waterpower back to the same site as the Bala #2 Generating Station that was located there for much of the last century.

Q: Will the project change water levels that could flood my property or impact the use of my docks?
A: No. Swift River will continue to operate within the Water Management Plan that sets out how the Bala Dams are to be operated with respect to water levels in Lake Muskoka and Moon River. This plan was established in 2005 and is based on years of community consultation and scientific/environmental studies. In fact, we expect plant operations will reduce water level fluctuations from what is currently seen. See our July update for more on water levels at BalaFalls.ca.

Q: Has the municipal government been consulted on the Project?
A: Yes. The Township and District have both provided comments through the Environmental Assessment and permitting process. Swift River responded to all comments, and the Minister of Environment ruled these responses were acceptable. In addition, the company has made approximately 15 presentations to the Township and District since 2007 and answered all questions posed by the councilors during these meetings.



Now tell the truth – traffic would be stopped for up to 90 minutes during the months-long blasting.

All economic benefits claimed are meaningless as the proponent refused to consider, or even ask about the many negative economic impacts. Ignorance is not an excuse.

Proponent would raise the water level of Lake Muskoka (to increase their profits), increasing the likelihood of a surprise rainstorm causing flooding.

Not safe, but rather very dangerous; the 43'-deep intake would drown anyone nearby, the treacherously turbulent water exiting would suck people underwater, operation would begin at about noon on 1/3 of summer days just when people would be nearby in the water, and the proposed station would operate at full capacity an average of 21 days each summer – all very dangerous.



^ North Bala Dam with view of Project Site beyond.

Project Benefits

- Over \$10million invested in the Muskoka economy, supporting local businesses.
- Improved water level and flood management.
- Low environmental impact; synergy with existing dams.
- Maintenance of safe, educational attraction for Bala.
- Increased clean, green energy production.
- Creation and enhancement of fish habitat.
- Reduced dam operation and maintenance costs for the provincial government
- Honours power heritage of Bala.

Project Progress

- Environmental Assessment complete.
- Phase 1 engineering design complete.
- Township's Judicial Review of project land-use defeated at both the Ontario Divisional Court and Court of Appeal.
- Permitting and Phase 2 engineering and architectural design ongoing.
- Design Consultation Process: Stage 1 complete, Stage 2 in progress.
- Site work to begin following the Bala Cranberry Festival.

Ontario's prosperity was built on waterpower

Until the 1950s, all of the province's electricity came from falling water. Today, all Ontario political parties support this green renewable power source, and below are some reasons why.

FACT Waterpower moderates electricity prices. All of Ontario's more than 200 operating waterpower facilities (about 1/4 of our electricity supply) moderate electricity prices due to their durability and reliability. Waterpower lasts virtually forever.

While any new generation will cost more to construct than the facilities already built, waterpower remains the most cost-effective form of generation available, particularly over the long term.

FACT Waterpower contributes significantly to the economy. Unlike any other form of generation, waterpower directly contributes to the Provincial government's Consolidated Revenue Fund through "resource royalties" in excess of \$150 million/year – the single largest such source of revenue to the provincial treasury.

A recent socioeconomic analysis of the 200 MW of "small hydro" currently in development projected 9,900 person years of employment and an increase of \$1.3 billion in Gross Domestic Product.

FACT Waterpower uses water as a "tool" not a "fuel". The energy from falling water is used as a tool to spin the blades of a turbine connected to a generator to convert mechanical energy into electrical energy before being returned back to the river. Nothing is added nor removed from the water used. It is not "used up" like a fuel.

FACT Made in Ontario waterpower provides critical and distinct "attributes" which contribute to a functional, secure electricity grid. Waterpower is reliable and is the backbone of the grid. It was Ontario's waterpower facilities that served as the catalyst for the recovery of the entire system during the 2003 blackout. Some communities with embedded waterpower generation were able to "island" and keep critical infrastructure such as hospitals running.

Whether it is the ability to "ramp up" production quickly when demand increases daily, store excess production from other sources during the evening, provide the "reserve margin" required to meet international technical standards and obligations, or re-start the system when it fails, waterpower assets contribute much more than cost effective electricity.

To learn more about the North Bala Small Hydro Project

www.BalaFalls.ca

Waterpower makes the most electricity when it is needed the least – in the spring and fall.

This proposed generating station would receive a subsidy of over \$100,000,000 from us taxpayers over the 40-year contract.

No, mining usually contributes more – and for the first ten years of operation, there would be no royalties paid.

The water over the Bala falls drives the area's economy – and you plan on ruining this by taking most all the water.

Quit thinking so much of yourselves, you're starting to believe the overblown claims the Ontario Waterpower Association tells the provincial government. The "backbone" of Ontario's generation is Nuclear, providing twice as much as hydro-electric. All generating stations can begin operation without grid power. Hospitals have their own emergency generators.

All we want to know is:

- Would it be **safe**.
- Would it be **beautiful**, as the area is.
- Would there be enough **water over the falls** to continue to draw people to Bala.

But the greedy proponent won't answer the public's fair and relevant questions.

**Find out what's really happening at
SaveTheBalaFalls.com**