

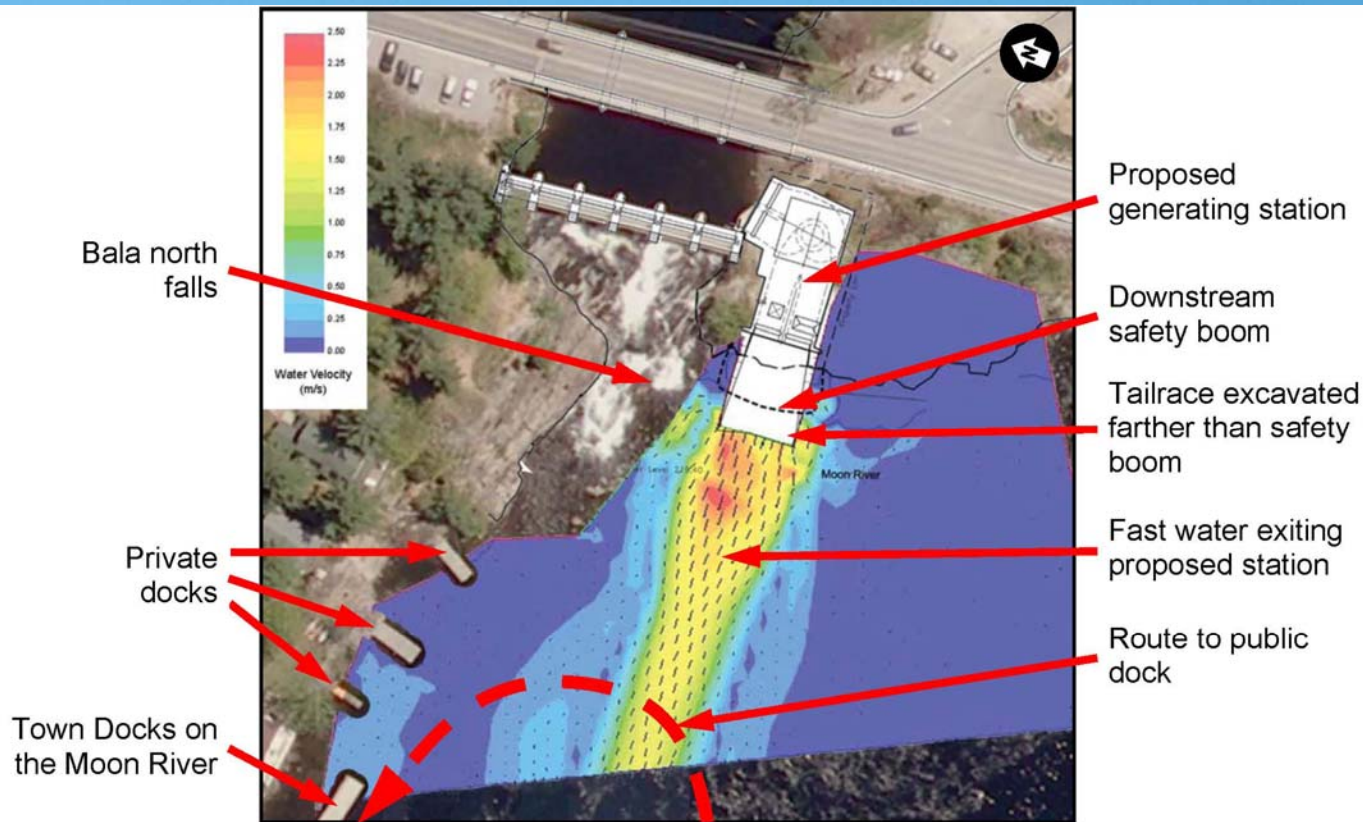


Proposed Hydro-electric Generating Station at the Bala Falls  
Unaddressed Public Safety and Land Ownership Issues  
**What are the Township's responsibilities**

# Transport Canada's involvement?

- Approval is required from Transport Canada, under the Navigation Protection Act for:
  - Works in water
  - Impacts to marine navigation
  - Portaging**On “scheduled waterways”**
- As of June 25, 2014 Transport Canada provided approval under the Navigation Protection Act
  - But the Moon River and Mill Stream are “unscheduled waterways”, so responsibility may fall to the Township of Muskoka Lakes

# Marine navigation

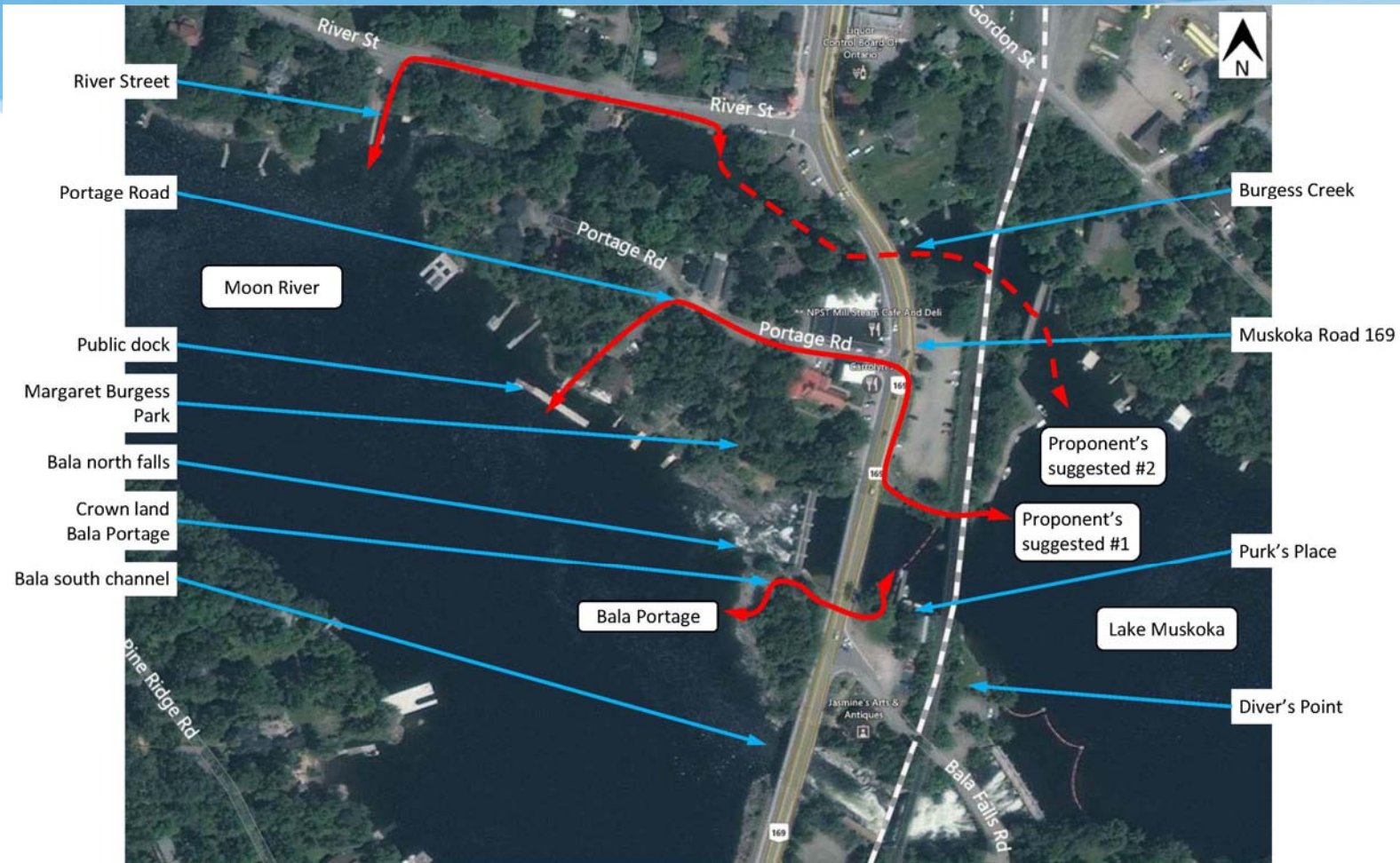


- Flow would be automatically controlled
- No way for boaters to know when flows would be high

Faster water is more dangerous to canoes and stand-up paddleboards

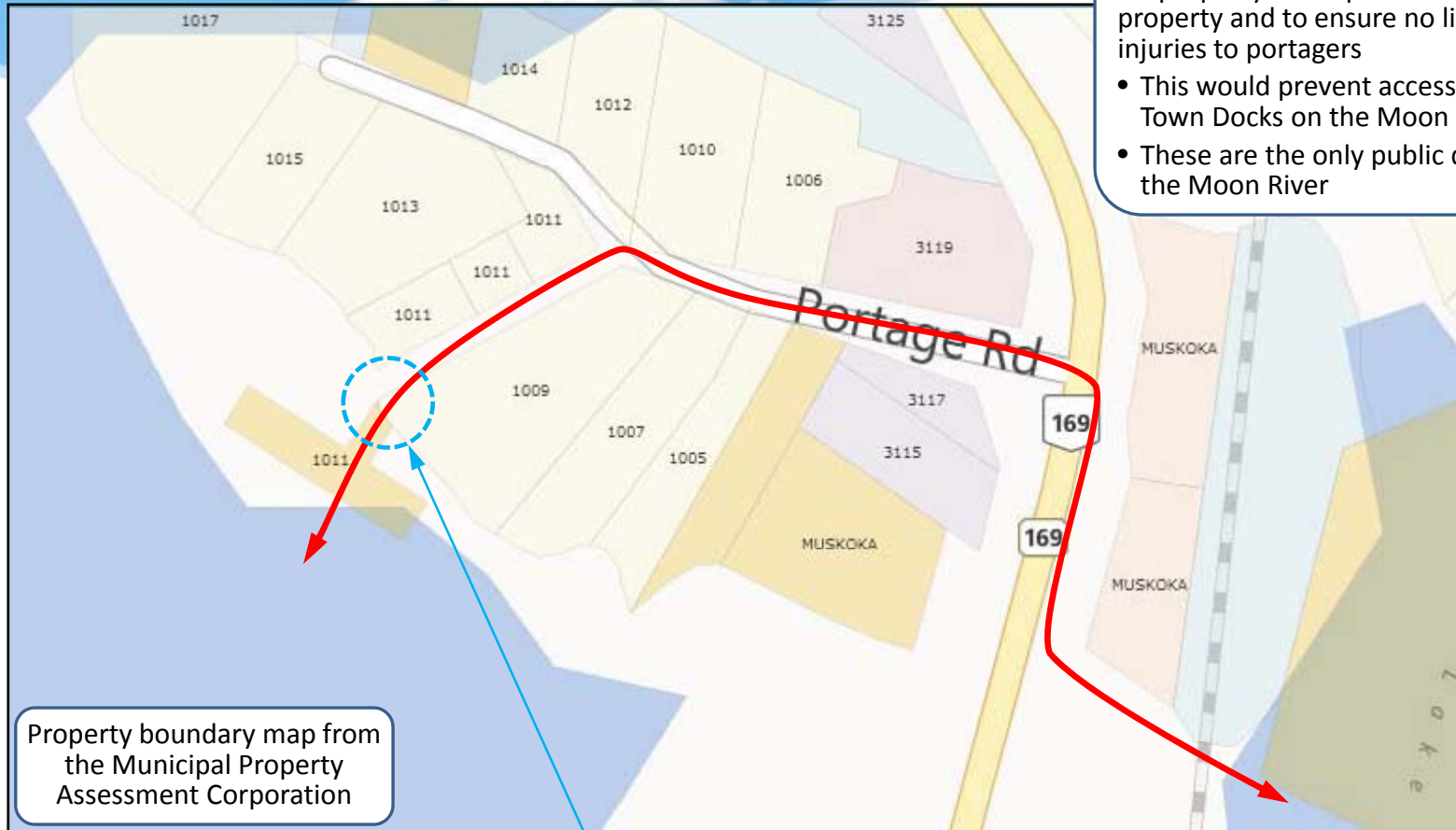
- Proposed generating station would operate at full capacity an average of 21 days every summer
  - Boats docking at the Town Docks on the Moon River – and the three private docks upstream – would need to travel through the fast water exiting the tailrace

# Portaging through Bala is required to get from Lake Muskoka to the Moon River



- Proposed project would obstruct the historic Bala Portage
  - But both alternate portage routes suggested by the proponent would have significant public safety and land ownership issues.

# Proponent's suggested alternate Portage Route #1



Property owner may need to fence-off his property to keep title to the property and to ensure no liability for injuries to portagers

- This would prevent access to the Town Docks on the Moon River
- These are the only public docks on the Moon River

Property boundary map from the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation

Requires trespassing over private property, portaging on a road with no sidewalks or shoulders, crossing at a bend in Muskoka Road 169 which obstructs view ...

# Proponent's suggested alternate Portage Route #1



Muskoka Road 169 can be busy, parked cars obstruct views and are dangerous when backing-out

## Proponent's suggested alternate Portage Route #2



- Difficult to travel upstream
- Water speed depends on flow through Mill Stream generating station

Mill Stream narrows under Muskoka Road 169, so water speed suddenly increases – too dangerous for the inexperienced

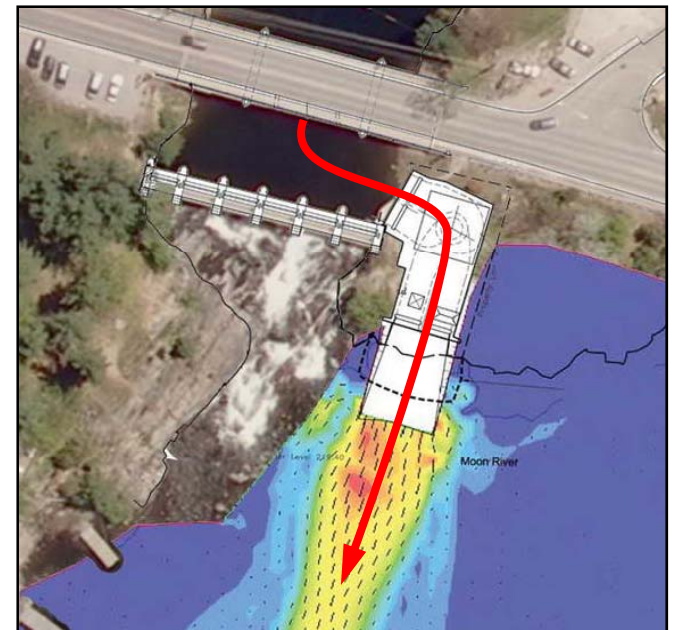
# Proposed construction concerns





# High risk of flooding during construction

- Construction would require completely blocking-off Bala north channel for 10 months (June through March)
  - During these months, the Bala south channel could not have handled the required flow in 12 of the last 45 years
  - Avoiding the spring freshet is not enough to avoid flooding – this is still a one in four risk of flooding Lake Muskoka, too high a risk
- Proponent's claim of quickly removing coffer dam is not credible
  - Dangerous to operate heavy construction equipment at the falls during a storm
  - Required equipment and personnel may not be on-site
  - Flow could bypass Bala north dam, flooding the Moon River



## Of concern to the Township of Muskoka Lakes

- Three detailed letters have been sent to Transport Canada, but they have not replied
- Township has WSIB (Ontario Workplace Safety and Insurance Board) obligations for emergency response employees
  - What safety, training, equipment, and resources would be required for emergency calls due to proposed station's intake and tailrace

# Conclusion

- The proponent's plans would create:
  - Risk of flooding during construction
  - Risks to boating and Township emergency responders
  - Suggested alternate portages that are not safe or that require trespassing over private property
  - The walking path to the Town Docks on the Moon River may need to be fenced-off, preventing public's use of the docks

What are the risks to the Township  
What are the Township's responsibilities

- Until these issues are addressed, the Township should not facilitate the proposed project, so ...
  - No Driveway Entrance permit from Bala Falls Road
  - No use of Township lands