



Update
Proposed Hydro-electric Generation Station at the Bala Falls

Update

- Current status
- Focus on one issue
- Who is the proponent
- Legal
- Next steps

Possible Proposed Schedule

- **October 2015**
 - Widen shoulder of Muskoka Road 169
- **June 2016**
 - Cofferdam in Bala north channel
- **June 2018**
 - Likely earliest operation

Fighting the Good Fight

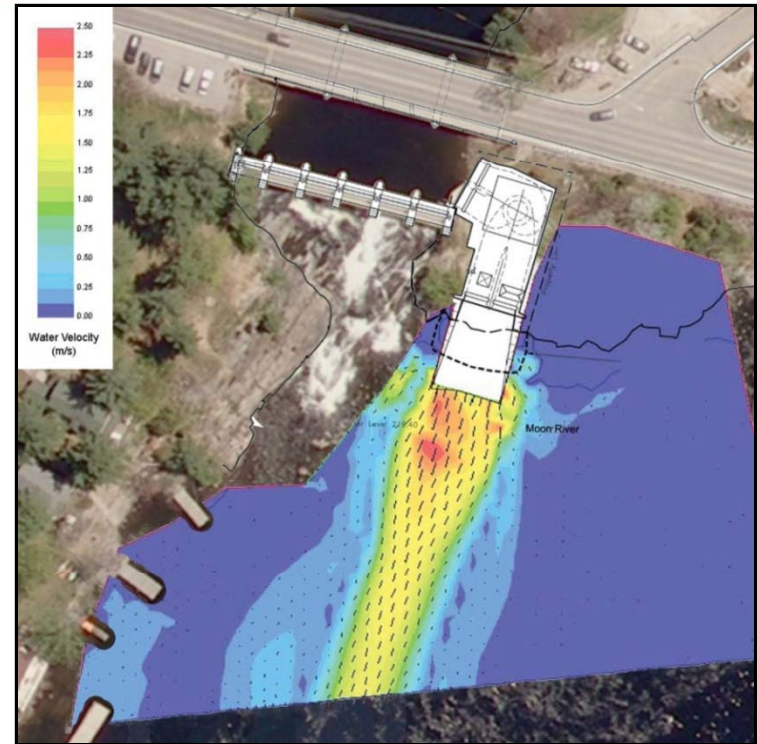
- They do not have all permits required for either construction or operation
 - Building Permit, Phase 2 Plans & Specifications, MRWMP, (CP Rail bridge repairs), First Nations consultation, PTTW
- More advanced projects have been cancelled
 - This can too
- The project can be cancelled without penalty
 - Proponent agreed their contract could be cancelled if they provided inaccurate or misleading information
 - Proponent has reneged on major commitments they made
 - ▶ For example, they stated the roof of their building would be below Muskoka Road 169, but it would tower 20' above it

Our Concerns

- For years, we have asked:
 - Would it be **safe** for the activities that are so important to Bala
 - Would it be **beautiful**, as the area is
 - Would there be enough **water over the falls** to continue to draw people to Bala
- There are unaddressed concerns about Zinc contamination, flooding risk, damage to the CP Rail and highway bridges, damages to the Bala north dam, fish habitat, noise, building height, scenic flow, make power that is too expensive when it isn't needed, the Bala Portage, heritage impacts, boating safety, Lake Muskoka water levels, barbed-wire fencing ...

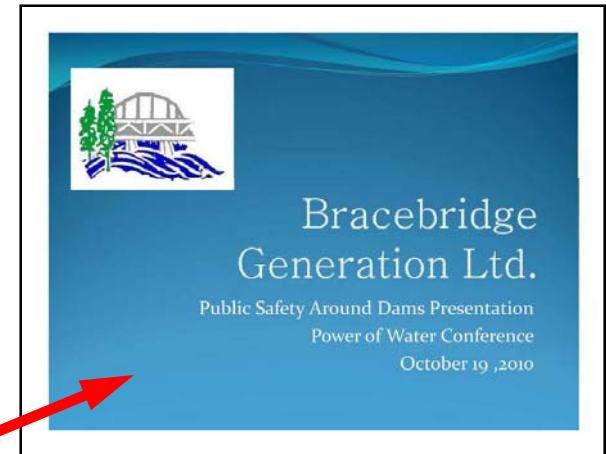
Focus

- Keep it simple
 - **People would drown**
- MNR says
 - Proponent's responsibility *"to ensure appropriate public safety measures"*
- Proponent says
 - They have *"no plans for fencing"*



Wilson's Falls Generating Station

- Wilson's Falls generating station
 - A few km upstream of the Bracebridge Falls generating station
 - **Less than 10% of the flow of the proposed Bala station**
- In 2008, a group of boys were swimming past the station's tailrace
 - More details in this presentation to the waterpower industry's annual conference a few years ago
- A 16 year old boy drowned in the fast water from the station
 - They brought in grief councillors for their staff
 - A few years later, the size of the station was quadrupled



The Proponent and Past Legal Actions

- Proponent funded by Anthony Zwig
 - Lives in Toronto
 - Hasn't attended any public meetings
 - All “consultation” has been telling us what they plan to do

- Another proposed project he funded was 18 wind turbines in **Thunder Bay**
 - **Years of strong community opposition**
 - In 2010 attempted to sue City of Thunder Bay for \$126,000,000 when they only approved 14 turbines
 - Ontario government **cancelled project** in 2014
 - ▶ Possibly due to being late



Proponent past legal actions

- For the proposed Bala project, in 2013, proponent sued the Township of Muskoka Lakes, the Mayor, a Councillor, John Doe 1, John Doe 2, Jane Doe 1, and Jane Doe 2
 - For \$3,000,000
 - Due to alleged statements made and alleged interference with work at the proposed construction site
 - Lawsuit Fictitious Names can be provided later
 - ▶ Until then, they threaten everyone
 - **Lawsuit to Township still outstanding**
 - ▶ Is this on-going threat influencing the Township's actions?
- To summarize
 - Proponent knows how to escalate to legal action

Current Legal Status

- SaveTheBalaFalls.com is actively investigating legal options
 - Much preparation to choose the right issue to pursue
 - Don't want to be wasting money on frivolous lawsuits or responding to counter-suits
- Proponent may begin site preparation in a few months
 - But they cannot begin heavy construction work such as blasting and excavation until next summer
 - ▶ **So we have time to be careful**

Current Legal Status

- **We need to have, and to show we have,** the funds for a prolonged legal battle
- Proponent issued Notices of Trespass stating they would instruct the OPP to arrest people entering Margaret Burgess Park
 - They intend to intimidate us to control the situation
 - All seems quiet now, but this will change quickly
- **The community must be ready to fight back**
 - Letters and volunteers have got us through ten years
 - Now we need funds to go to Court
- **You can now receive a charitable donation tax receipt**
 - Can save you 30% to 40% depending on your income tax situation
 - All details at SaveTheBalaFalls.com, or e-mail us

Bad Proposed Projects

- **Bad projects do get cancelled**
 - Melancthon mega-quarry, west of Barrie
 - Dump Site 41, Barrie
 - Oakville and Mississauga natural gas generating stations
 - Big Thunder Wind Farm, Thunder Bay (same proponent)
- Details differ on why cancellations happened, but
 - Main lesson is **Keep fighting for what is right**

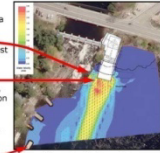
Next

- Three facts about the proposed project
 - Way too dangerous
 - Muskoka is for everyone
 - This mess can be cancelled for free
- E-mail the Premier
 - Copy info@SaveTheBalaFalls.com if you like
 - Ask the Premier for a reply
 - The message is: **People will drown**
- It is time to donate

Three Facts About the Proposed Generating Station at the Bala Falls

1) Way Too Dangerous

- For generations, people have been drawn to Bala to be in the usually-serene water at the base of the Bala north falls.
- But the proposed generating station would be just a few feet away, and without warning it would start at about noon on summer days. People would either be **drowned by the undertow** from the treacherously fast and turbulent water, or would be pushed out to the middle of the Moon River.
- Generating stations are not and should not be located this close to in-water recreational areas, yet the proponent and Ministry of Natural Resources have not addressed this **death trap**.
- The fast water would also tip people out of their canoes and kayaks, both on their way to the only public docks on the Moon River, and to the three private docks closer to the Bala north falls.



2) Muskoka is for Everyone

- Anybody can come to Bala, and park for free, and fish or swim for free, or bring a picnic and watch the beautiful falls for free – even the washrooms are free. There are stores and restaurants, and you can rent a canoe or kayak and go exploring.
- At least 50% of the flow of the Niagara River must go over the Niagara Falls – because it drives the area's economy. But in Bala only 4% of the flow would be over the falls, the greedy proponent would bring Bala dry.
- Our area's economy is driven by the Bala falls – literally bus-loads of people come to see them. But people won't come to see **dry rocks where the falls used to be**.
- The proposed station would make the most power – in the spring and the fall – exactly when it is least needed. Ontario taxpayers would be paying this private developer up to **17¢/kWh** for excess electricity that Ontario would have to **sell at a huge loss to the US** for less than **5¢/kWh**. Over the initial 40-year contract, the private developer would be paid a **subsidy of over \$100,000,000** just to **ruin both Bala's economy and Ontario's economy**. The politics of the Ontario Liberal government's misguided renewable energy policy has shown the environmental assessment process to be a farce. Major issues remain unaddressed.

3) This Mess Can be Cancelled for Free

- The proponent has reneged on crucial commitments, they promised their building's roof would be lower than the road, but it would tower more than 20 feet above it.
- The proponent still doesn't have all the required approvals, has not dealt with major risks and environmental issues, and so they would miss their deadline to be in commercial operation.

For both these reasons the Ontario government can cancel this costly mess without the proponent having the right to claim costs or expenses. We need to convince the government that now is the time to cancel.

Find out more at SaveTheBalaFalls.com

What You Can Do to Help Save the Bala Falls

A) E-mail Premier Wynne

- KWynne.mpp@liberal.ola.org

B) Make sure she hears that

- The proposed Bala hydro station would drown people
- There would be no warning when their station starts
- The proponent has no way to keep people safe

C) Donate to our Legal Challenge Fund

- Details at SaveTheBalaFalls.com

D) Be signed-up for our e-Newsletters

- Click at the top-right, at SaveTheBalaFalls.com

Find out more at SaveTheBalaFalls.com