

Yellow outline: Crown land
Green outline: Municipal land



Aquatic Safety Audit and District's Riverbed Road Allowance **Proposed Hydro-electric Generation Station at the Bala Falls**

Two issues

- Aquatic Safety Audit report
- District riverbed road allowance

Unprecedented dangers

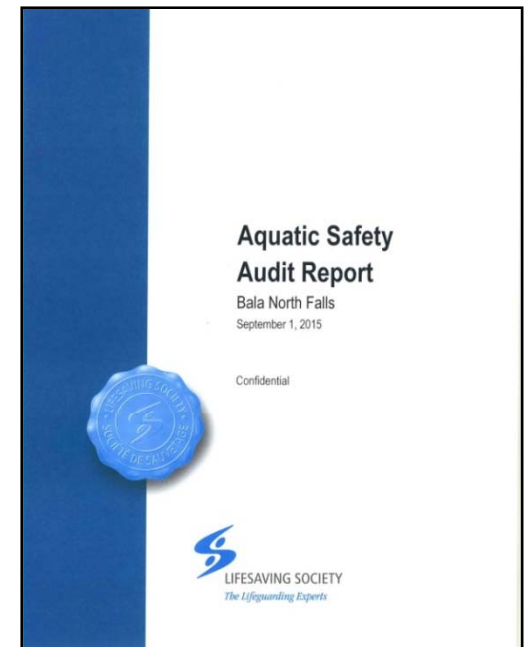
- Visiting 32 nearby and similarly-sized hydro-electric generating stations shows that:
 - **None** have public and private docks as close
 - **None** have in-water recreation as close
- Locating a generating station in the middle of a recreational area would be **unprecedented**
- Rather than mitigating these dangers, the proponent:
 - Would **not** warn the public before station would begin operation at about noon on summer days
 - **Increased** minimum flows, so would be even more dangerous

The danger is real

- In 2008 a 16 year old boy drowned at the Wilson's Falls generating station while attempting to swim past the tailrace discharge
- The proposed Bala station would have **more than ten times this flow**
- We have asked impact to in-water recreation be studied by a competent authority, but this has **not** happened
 - Proponent acknowledges in-water recreation and claims it would be safe outside the safety booms
 - Even with fencing and signs, people will continue to reach the falls from the **Township's docks and Portage Landing**, from private docks, and from boats

Aquatic Safety Audit report

- We commissioned an organization with the required expertise to provide an Aquatic Safety Audit report
- Many recommendations, including:
 - *“this development would create an **unusually and extremely dangerous situation**, and therefore requires a commensurate level of planning ...”*
 - *“This [planning] process should be started and completed **before any construction proceeds**, to both ensure it would be practical to implement, and so that any required changes could be incorporated into the design of the proposed station.”*



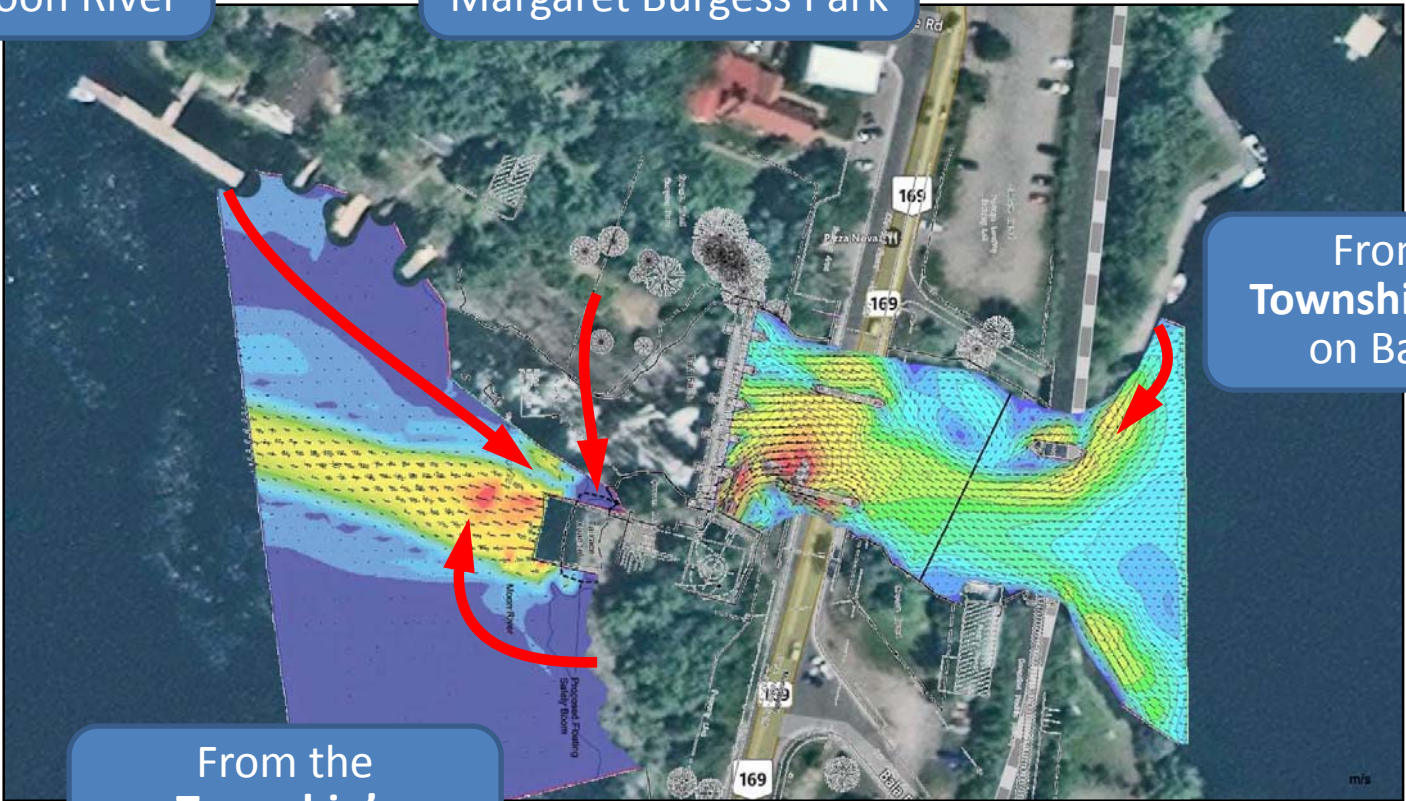
People access the water from Township property

From the Township's Docks on the Moon River

From the Township-maintained Margaret Burgess Park

From the Township's Docks on Bala Bay

From the Township's Portage Landing

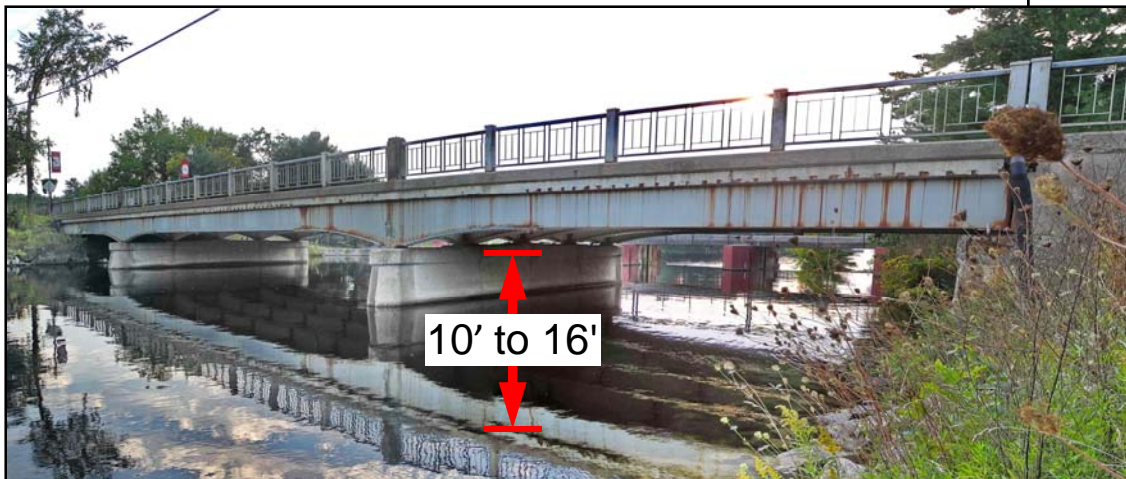
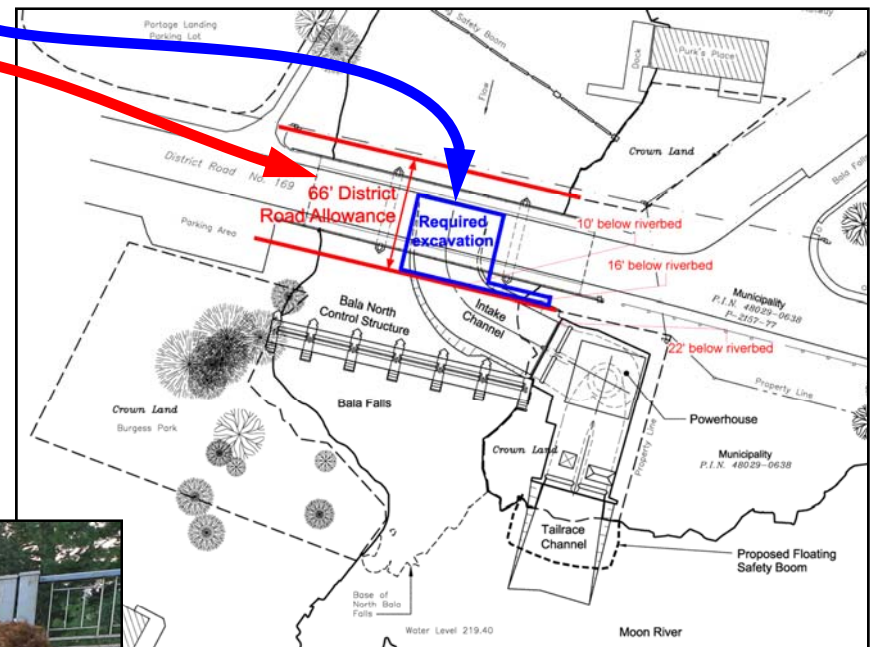


Township has responsibility

- Proponent has **not** adequately addressed public safety
- People would access the water from **Township** owned or maintained property
 - Township needs to show efforts to ensure public safety could and would be addressed
- Proposed project should not be allowed to proceed until then

Blasting and excavation below bridge

- Proponent **must** blast and excavate below District's bridge
- **District owns this riverbed**
- There would be no benefit to the District or the taxpayers to allow this **risk to crucial infrastructure**



The Township has the power

- The Township has the power to take away many problems:
 - Risk to and liability for in-water recreation
 - Continuing costs for lease negotiation and enforcement
 - Destroying Portage Landing
 - Losing parking space
 - Construction mess
 - Disruption to local businesses
 - Negative impacts to area's economy
- It is not in the District's or Township's interest to allow this risk to the bridge
 - Could Township Council convey this to the District