

## **Re: Swift River Energy Ltd.'s Bala Falls proposal....**

This is intended for the attention of Mr. Gord Adams, and is meant to be shared with each council member of the District of Muskoka Lakes.

Hello and good day to each of you.

This is in regards to the Swift River Energy Ltd.'s Bala Falls proposal.

My family and I are year round residents outside of Bala, and also own Moon River waterfront properties.

The top reasons for my own rejection of this dastardly Swift River Energy proposal for the Bala Falls & the Moon River are really quite simple. The town of Bala will not survive the traffic disruption as planned, and the beauty and the serenity of the Bala Falls will be lost forever. At a time of so much change and development throughout Muskoka. Some things should be left the same, this is truly one of them.

- I feel there is an absolute mockery of democracy currently taking place right here in the Township of Muskoka Lakes regarding the Swift River plan.

The elected Mayor Susan Pryke, and the nine other elected councillors: Mary Grady, Patricia Arney, Dianne Davidson, Nancy Thompson, Liz Denyar, Ian Wallace, Stewart Martin, Karen Ellis, Brian Hare, have been and are still completely ignoring the voices, actions, and the desire of the entire town of Bala and that of the neighboring community's. I feel completely betrayed by them all, and in particular with that of the representative of ward A - Patricia Arney. Whom I had actually voted for - now regrettably.

On July 8, 2008 at the Muskoka Lakes Township Council meeting, it was Councilor Pat Arney whom is the very representative of the Bala Falls area Ward A - (making it appear that she speaks on behalf of every one in her ward) who had raised the motion to allow the Swift River Energy Ltd.'s proposal and to "agree in principal" to continue pending the outcome of environmental assessments.

The motion was seconded, and then unanimously passed by all the others.

Not a word was spoken by anyone about it.

In the past, these same Council members had once denied an applicant's wish to relocate their business - simply because of "the possible negative impact it would have on the scenic corridor."

As if for that very reason - it doesn't apply here?

If not for the one and only reason! - I think would also apply in this case?

Hopefully minds can change before it is too late.

- I also found it not very amusing to see the only printed advertisement about the 1:00 P.M. August 13/08 public meeting of this proposal, was in fact printed in both the

Gravenhurst Banner & the Bracebridge Examiner weekly additions issued on August 13/08 - by the time that people had purchased that paper- the meeting had already been over.

- In an other article Swift River Energy Ltd. is quoted saying that they "had mailed out information packages to 3,000 people, and another 900 were mailed just recently." There is only an approx. total of 600 to 800 address' at best in the entire targeted area- and I have yet to have spoken with any resident or business owner whatsoever in that entire location who recieved any info.

I don't believe this, and I would most certainly like to see the mailing list that was used for this purpose.

- I was again also shocked, to have read in the paper that on behalf of the Moon River Property Owners Association, Patricia Arney was quoted as saying " that the MRPOA has no opinion on the matter".

- I thought that it is Pat Arney who should have no spoken opinion of this matter, and even should not have been involved at all on this matter at the Council meeting! In other circumstances identical to this -I thought the term for this is "Conflict of Interest", right?

- Also disturbing is that the Swift River Energy Ltd. is just another outside company coming in with the dreams of cashing in on his \$22 Million plan, Only to which him and all the other investors shall profit from this scheme of destruction and devastation of the Bala Falls that we who live here have known and come to cherish this beautiful spot.

- I hear that the proponents claim that the people against are practicing "NIMBY-ism"...

For the record, I would like them all to get it right,

- What it is more like NOT IN MY BACK YARD AGAIN!

We already have 2 Hydro-Electric generating stations currently on the Moon River- And now we are talking about a possible 3rd?

At first, I heard that they were going to sink \$12 Million into it, and then lately the last that I heard was \$22 Million.

This is insane, I would like to see what the projected ROI is?

Is it 20 years? 50 years? 80 years? 120 years? Just exactly how long?

I feel that our presently elected Muskoka Lakes Township Mayor and each Councillor have dropped the ball, and they completely ignored all of the voices from the community and failed us miserably by allowing this to pass. Those names will be remembered the next time they appear on any ballot.

It has come down to our current District of Muskoka Lakes councillors whom are now needed to step in to demand that this new proposal be stopped immediately and deny this application to continue.

I believe that there is far more to be lost in this project than there ever could possibly be gained by this proposal, and the area be left alone.

To do anything else is absolutely poor planning, and an example of wasteful practices at it's very best!

Every one talks about saving our environment, and our recourses.

It's time for our leaders to walk the talk, and do the right thing...

NOT just say they will act, and then do nothing to stop all this madness!

- I can only hope that those whom make-up the decisions in this can open their eyes, and see the value of what is our only true treasure that we have and that each of us care dearly for. It is up to them to see what their legacy will be to the area on their "watch" during each of their political career.

I can only hope the Bala Falls will be left alone for future enjoyment.

Please do the right thing....

Sincerely,

Chris Kerr,

A.K.A.

Concerned Muskoka Resident and tax payer,

Moon River waterfront property Owner

Muskoka Lakes Township, Ward-A Electorate