

Muskoka Lakes Council Re-Affirms It's Bala Falls Bump-Up Request

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OPTION #1 ULTIMATUM. Swift River Energy's Bala Project Manager Karen McGhee (**above**) told council the company could adopt Bala Falls Option #1, if it can't acquire District land for Option #2. Moon River Property Owners Association President Sandy Currie, who also spoke, urged council not to give in to "PR spin and coercive threats."
(Photo by Matthew Sittler)

Muskoka Lakes Council did not oppose Bala Falls Option #2 today, but instead re-affirmed their previous bump-up request for more investigation by the province. Residents packed the Port Carling Community Centre this afternoon to hear both sides of the controversial issue speak. Swift River Energy's Bala Falls Project Manager Karen McGhee said the company would revert to Bala Falls Option #1, which includes an above-ground power house, should they not be able to acquire District land for Option #2. Sandy Currie, president of the Moon River Property Owners Association, saw this as a threat. He urged council not to give in to "PR spin and coercive threats." Council now awaits more information on security, safety and other details re: Option #2, before any further decisions are made. The township's legal opinion is that Muskoka Lakes could face a lawsuit from Swift River if council withdraws support for the present proposal at this stage. McGhee told the crowd that fictional information is being spread, which is causing unfounded concerns about the project. She added that 'the sky is not going to fall in Bala' and that the company will not dry up the falls. Another public meeting on the issue will be held at the Bala Community Centre on September 18th, but council could address it again on September 15th.