

Preserving Bala's natural beauty while contributing to its economic well-being

Swift River Energy would like to thank the residents, cottagers, business operators and the municipality for the valuable input that has led to the development of the Option 2 Plan for our Bala Falls Small Hydro Project.

This Option 2 Plan is made possible by a long term lease to use a small parcel of municipal land. This will enable us to move our small hydro project from provincial lands abutting Bala Falls to a site some 35 metres away. While we have confirmed that both the original Option 1 and the preferred Option 2 plans are technically and economically viable, Option 2 more effectively addresses community concerns about our original site design.

Relocating the project away from Bala Falls will allow us to landscape over a low profile powerhouse, improve access to the Bala Falls, and better restore the natural beauty of this site.

It is worth noting that reports released by the West Muskoka Chamber of Commerce and the Muskoka Lakes Township identified a number of initiatives that would encourage and lengthen visits to the community. Many of these initiatives are part of our site development plan.



The Bala Falls area showing the location of our proposed Bala Falls Small Hydro Project.



For example, our Option 2 Plan includes:

- Two new picturesque public viewing areas:
 - An upper, barrier-free lookout adjacent to Hwy 169
 - A lower, easily accessed, water's edge lookout
- Parkland improvements, with input from a Community Advisory Committee, that include:
 - Safer pathways to Bala Falls
 - Interpretive signage highlighting Bala's history
 - New walkways and seating
 - Indigenous plantings and rock elements to maintain the Muskokan character
- Support for a new, safer, all-season pedestrian/snowmobile link connecting Bala's two commercial areas.

The 40-year lease, for use of municipal land, will provide additional long-term community benefits.

As evidence of our continuing commitment to make a lasting positive contribution to the Bala community, we have commissioned a study, to be made public, that will

bring some rigour to the various claims about the project's potential economic impacts. And, to address questions about the project's implications for the "scenic flows" at Bala Falls, we are working to form a local committee to address this matter.

We take particular pride in the fact that our Bala Falls Small Hydro Project represents a small but important part of a province-wide effort to find and develop new green sources of renewable energy generation. And, we are especially heartened by the role this project can play in preserving Bala's legendary history while contributing to its long term economic well-being.

Respectfully,



John Wildman | Vice Chair | Swift River Energy Limited