

Mitchell Shnier  
Save the Bala Falls.com  
c/o Box 346  
1038 Bala Falls Road  
Bala ON POC 1A0

September 17, 2012

Dear Mr. Shnier,

Thank you for your letter of September 4, 2012 and the information provided to support a possible historical portage route along the south side of the north channel and north falls in Bala.

I have reviewed the information in your letter and the accompanying excerpts and anecdotes relating to the evolving history and landscape of Bala.

While the information provided demonstrates that there has been some portaging in the area in the past, it does not establish that there was a portage route in place prior to the initial Crown patent. Further, the documentation does not illustrate the specific location and path of any portage, if any portage existed prior to Crown patent. With no real evidence of the historic path and use prior to Crown patent evidenced through early surveys, maps or documents, the use of an area of land to move between two bodies of water does not qualify as a portage.

Therefore there remains insufficient historical evidence to warrant protection under s.65(4) of the Public Lands Act (PLA).

Sincerely,



Anne Collins  
Planning & Information Management Supervisor  
Parry Sound District MNR

Cc: A. Garcia-Wright  
Director, Environmental Assessment Branch  
MOE