

Dear Editor,

My name is Peggy Peterson and since the beginning of September I have been occupying the Bala Falls to protect them from the Ontario government's plans to build a hydro station on them. I am here on behalf of the people of Bala who are overwhelmingly opposed to the project. I am here on behalf of the First Nations for whom this is a historical and traditional portage. I am here on behalf of the animals, the waters, the rocks and the trees. And on behalf of the future generations who should be allowed to appreciate this beautiful spot for ever.

Nobody asked me to do this. I felt I was called to be here. Nobody paid me to do this. The only payment I have received has been the wonderful support and gratitude from the people of Bala and Muskoka and from people from all over Ontario.

I, therefore, deeply resent Mayoral candidate Don Furniss's comments, as reported in the Gravenhurst Banner and on MooseFM.com, that *"The occupation of this hydro site by paid protesters with aboriginal involvement is a charade concocted by your Mayor and other Save the Bala Falls fanatics to turn Bala into Caledonia North."*

There is not a word of truth in this statement and I call on Mr. Furniss to publicly withdraw it.


PEGGY PETERSON