

Swift River holds first community consultation

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While some are trying to fight the new Bala Falls power plant, others are meeting with Swift River as part of the design and community consultation process.

Swift River Energy has launched Stage 2 of its design consultation process by forming the Bala Design Committee with its first meeting in early September. The committee is comprised of eight community members, representatives from Swift River and project architect Karl Stevens.

"The design committee members have asked to remain anonymous due to reported incidents of intimidation by some members of the community against those that have previously had any input into the project," says Karen McGhee, Bala project manager for Swift River Energy. "These people are good enough to donate their time and effort in the pursuit of making the best possible project for Bala. Swift River will respect this request."

Discussions included overall design concepts as well as specific design features for the North Bala Small Hydro Project.

"Committee members shared design

ideas that they would like to see incorporated in the design including (but not limited to) incorporation of educational elements and a look-out, possible exterior cladding options, making the facility a "destination" for Bala and respecting that the north face of the building will likely be in the backdrop of future wedding and

other photos taken from Margaret Burgess Park toward the North Falls," says the release. Size, location and orientation of building were also discussed.

The eight community committee members are a mix of full-time and seasonal residents, business owners and retirees from a variety of backgrounds including business, technology, design, sales, landscaping, construction, manufacturing and the arts.

Architect Karl Stevens of Stevens, Burgess Architects expressed that his vision for the project would include treating Burgess Island as a cultural landscape. He will now take the comments received during the first meeting and develop some concepts for further discussions at the next meeting scheduled for early October. Updates on the progress of the Bala Design Com-

mittee will be posted to the project website at www.balafalls.ca through the "Design Consultation Process" button.

As part of the Project's Environmental Screening Process, SREL committed to

working with the community to develop the exterior design of the North Bala Small Hydro facility. Stage 1 of the design consultation process was completed in January.

Lifelong learning



Photograph: Norah Fountain

Analyzing Complexity: An interdisciplinary analysis of water is a learning opportunity blending guest lectures and private seminars for learners 50 and over in a six-session exploration of water, through a lens of, health, literature, native studies, philosophy, culture and environmental ethics, offered at Nipissing University's Bracebridge campus. Class began on Thursday Sept. 11 where lifelong learners joined the degree-bound students already registered in the course.