

Continued protesting of Bala plant is just nonsense | MuskokaRegion.com

Letter to the editor

Opinion Oct 02, 2017 Gravenhurst Banner

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To all of the Save the Bala Falls protesters — please stop now!

Twelve years of fighting something that was fully approved by the provincial government that many years ago, after Swift River Energy Ltd. met all the provincial stringent rules, regulations and conditions ... is just nonsense.

Myself and others saw how your people intimidated, insulted, bullied, and interrupted the Swift River people at the Sept. 21, Bala meeting, organized by Swift River. Their agenda was to inform and update everyone on their current plans and progress, and to answer questions as needed. Your protesters gave them no choice but to close down the meeting within 15 minutes, with nothing accomplished. You had no right to stop the public wanting to hear and see what they had to say.

Phil (both Ward C and district councillor) did say a few words to calm people, but to no avail. Ruth (both Ward A and district councillor) yelled about safety. Sandy (Ward A councillor) yelled about trailer location. These councillors have been involved with, educated on and voted at the many open and closed-door meetings regarding Swift River all these years, as demanded by their employment with the Township of Muskoka Lakes. Their protesting sure looks like a conflict of interest to me.

Why have the needs of the few (under 100 people?) been given approval to take away the needs of many, and done so for 12 years?

The Township of Muskoka Lakes council is currently looking at its 2018 budget. They have a survey online for feedback, and their considerations include selling property, closing some fire halls, raising property taxes and closing some community centres to meet the future demands of the area. I feel our property taxes should now focus on these and other issues. No more wasted meetings with the Save The Bala Falls people.

Bala currently has two long-standing hydro plants (per Google). I did not see them mentioned in your blog. The "Big Eddy" has a 0.14 MW capacity.

The downtown "Burgess Creek" has a 8.0 MW capacity. I am assuming you have no problems with their proximity to town, water restrictions and operations.

Bala unfortunately has always been a geographical low-lying area, so subject to regular flooding. Cannot this clean industry of Swift River not help in the water control to reduce area flooding? Provide steady employment? Bring in new, updated and improved techniques? Provide substantial property taxes for the area?

Myself and others are now questioning your motives, standards and thinking.



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