

Acton Island Association

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Sent by email to BMauro.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org

September 3, 2015

Honourable Bill Mauro
Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry
Suite 6630, 6th Floor, Whitney Block
99 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1W3

Dear Minister Mauro,

The Acton Island Association (the "Association") represents over 100 families (residence owners) on Acton Island, a large island in close proximity to Bala, Ontario. We are a non-profit association dedicated to maintaining the quality of life on Acton Island and/or the lands or waters in close proximity to Acton Island. In furtherance of that principle one of the objectives of the Association is to preserve and protect the natural environment of Acton Island and its surrounding waters including protection of natural shoreline.

At our recent annual meeting our membership expressed strong disapproval of the proposed hydro development slated for the Bala Falls. In particular the membership was very concerned about the effect of that development on the water level in Lake Muskoka in which Acton Island is situated and the related extreme reduction in the water flowing over the Falls. The level of the lake in winter can be essential to protecting docks, boathouses and shoreline from the devastating effects of ice.

The reduction of water levels flowing over the Falls can have an equally devastating effect upon the economy of Bala. Among the most beautiful features of Bala, the Falls are a magnet for sightseers and adventurers. The contributions those groups make to the town's economy are essential to maintaining its vitality. When combined with the dangers to swimmers downstream of the proposed power plant and the power plant itself which by all accounts is oversized, disproportionate to the rest of the town, the effect on the tourist economy of the town could be devastating. Bala is a key hub for the region and its health is tremendously important to Association members.

Minister, the Association joins its voice to those who are calling upon you to reconsider this project. The physical and economic costs to the region will outweigh any expected benefits.

Yours very truly,

Hugh Kerr
President, Acton Island Association

cc: Premier Kathleen Wynne (KWynne.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org)
Hon Glen Murray, Minister of the Environment (GMurray.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org)