



Moon River Property Owners' Association

September 9, 2024

The Township of Muskoka Lakes
1 Bailey Street PO Box 129
Port Carling ON P0B 1J0

Via email: TMLPublicComment@muskokalakes.ca

To: General/Finance Committee meeting September 11, 2024

Re: Report CED-2024-017 - Swift River Energy Limited (SREL) Lease Reserve Fund
Agenda item 11. What should the Township of Muskoka Lakes do with the \$192,400 Lease
funds from Swift River Construction of the Bala Falls Generating Station?

The Board of Directors of the Moon River Property Owners' Association (MRPOA) has become aware of a report being tabled Wednesday September 11th to the General and Finance Committee of TML. Report CED-2024-017. This report outlines four options to discuss on how the TML should spend the \$192,400 proceeds from the Swift River lease of lands.

Upon review of the report, the MRPOA Board is in favour of 'Option 4 - Bala Community Consultation'. We also feel that the hiring of an outside consultant should not be undertaken because it would significantly reduce the available funds. Surely an Engage section on the TML website could garner the information needed to make informed decisions on how the residents of Bala would like to see this money spent.

The MRPOA Board suggests that some of this money be directed to planting new vegetation and other measures at Jaspern Park to help reduce the Goose feces problem. This topic was discussed at the MRPOA Spring members' meeting with the Mayor, Councillor Zavitz, and then CAO, Derrick Hammond in attendance.

The forthcoming report on the 2024 Swimming program which indicates that attendance at Jaspern Park has fallen from 109 to 80 registrants and that due to swim advisories one week out of the eight, the swimming program was suspended at the park. Is attendance down due to parents' concern about water contamination caused by the Goose feces?

Furthermore, the MRPOA Board does not support the illumination of the Bala Falls. We believe the number of people that would be viewing the falls at night would be minimal and there is very little water flow over the falls in the busy summer months. Our dark skies should be protected, not further destroyed by ambient light from illuminating the Falls. Considering the Township's Dark Sky initiative and by-law, the illumination of the Falls would send the wrong message.

Respectively,

The Board
Moon River Property Owners Association