# THE FINAL STRETCH

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Get in touch: 1-877-389-4099 info@balafalls.ca ♥ @balafallshydro balafalls.ca



Happy New Year! It's hard to believe but we are finally in the last stretch of completing the North Bala Small Hydro Project.

As a part of our continuing engagement with the community, here's what you need to know about our activities:

#### **The Latest**

We've been very very busy and made a lot of progress over the past few months. All concrete work for the powerhouse and underground water passage is now complete. Water and sewer connections to the municipal right of way is also complete. We've also completed the electrical work that enables us to connect to the public grid. We've also been able to complete excavation work for the intake channel, where water enters the powerhouse.

On February 5th, we successfully installed the turbine into the powerhouse. The turbine is an important piece of equipment that will spin for the next 40 years, producing clean green energy for the region.

#### Work completed:

- Concrete work for powerhouse
- Excavation of intake in the river bed
- Interconnection work
- Trenching work for water, sewage and power
- Installation of intake gates

## **Turbine Installation**

On February 5th, early in the morning, we celebrated a significant project milestone with the installation of a 5-ton hydroelectric turbine in to the powerhouse. The installation of the turbine is an important next step in bringing the North Bala Small Hydro Project online.

"The installation means we are one step closer to the project being completed. Soon families can safely enjoy the site yearround, including new community features like the observation deck overlooking the Moon River, the new park and the additional fish habitat created during the project's construction," said Nhung Nguyen, VP Development, Swift River Energy Limited. "We are also one step closer to delivering the kind of clean, renewable, hydro-electric power needed to help drive Ontario's economy forward".

The turbine was a customized unit designed specifically for the water characteristic in Bala. The 5 ton turbine required a 300 ton crane to lift it into position. A special installation team flew in from Boston to oversee the operation. The team members have over 30 years of experience with turbine installations.

# What's Next

In late February, we will be removing the cofferdam for the intake channel, where water enters the power house. It will be removed no later than March 1st. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry will continue to operate the North and South Dams until the power plant goes into operation. The Ministry continues to monitor and manage water levels in accordance with the Muskoka River Water Management Plan.

In March, we will be conducting one final controlled blast to excavate and remove rock at the tailrace, where the water leaves the power plant. The blast will not impact street traffic and will not require any road closures.

In the coming weeks and months, the project will be reaching a number of key milestones including final work on the powerhouse and installation of electrical equipment.

### According to the Canadian Electricity Association, Water Power is Canada's largest source of electricity!

	FEB				MAR				APR			
Powerhouse Building	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Electrical	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Mechanical	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Tailrace (where water exits the powerhouse)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

Construction Schedule

## **Community Update**

In December, our neighbors at Bala United Church graciously invited our construction crew to a luncheon. We were treated to delicious spaghetti and home-made pies. The gesture and welcome was truly appreciated by our team, especially because our crew has been working in rain, snow, and sub-zero temperatures. Earlier in the year, the crew helped refinish the church's sidewalk. Thank you again to the Bala United Church!





ABOUT: The North Bala Small Hydro Project is a 4.7 Megawatt run-of-river waterpower facility at Bala's North Dam. Project benefits include a new park joining the two halves of Bala, a new observation deck overlooking the Moon River, more parking spaces, and creation of additional fish habitat. The project will come online in 2019.