

Save The Petawawa: Update #4

May 2, 2011



Thank you all for your continued interest and support in protecting the Petawawa River from the proposed hydroelectric project. We understand that this is a long road to travel before final decisions get made, and we appreciate everyone 'sticking with it'.

Upcoming Events:

Public Information Centres Announced by Xeneca: As advertised in the newspapers recently, Xeneca will hold Public Information Centres (PIC) in the Quality Inn, Petawawa, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the 5th and 31st of May. The PIC on May 5 will concentrate on safety and recreational use. Based on similar PICs for other projects, the format will be a small room with posters on the walls, and the opportunity to discuss the project one-on-one with Xeneca representatives. CASP has protested this format, but as usual has been ignored. Nevertheless, it is important that there is a good turnout at these PICs. If it looks like there is little interest, future PICs may be cancelled.

Hell Or High Water: Come join CASP at the Hell Or High Water event on the Petawawa River this Saturday. The race, now in its third year, raises more for river conservation causes across the province - including the Petawawa. There will be signs to pick up, letters to sign, and a petition to the Minister. Come to Centennial Park this Saturday morning, and sign your name to save our river!

How you can help: Your letters, concern and questions are still very much important. All the details are on the CASP website: www.SaveThePetawawa.ca including a form letter, e-mail addresses and a list of possible questions.

Have you told your friends and family yet? This river needs our help and the more people we involve, the better, so please pass along this update and the web site address to your friends and colleagues.

Many thanks,
Community Alliance to Save the Petawawa

www.SaveThePetawawa.ca
Petawawa-River@hotmail.com
Facebook: Save The Petawawa

Recent Activities:

Media Work: There have been several Letters to the Editor in local papers lately, and CASP has responded to them, as well as to concerned citizens who have asked for information.

Public Disturbance: CASP met with the Ontario Provincial Police, who had apparently been contacted by Xeneca, to allay any fears of violence or other malicious acts at any of Xeneca's upcoming public information centres. Understandably, with issues that are as contentious (and near and dear of people's hearts) as this one, tempers could flare. CASP discourages this type of behaviour, and asks all residents to conduct themselves in a courteous manner. Make your concerns known. Ask your questions, and follow them up with a written submission (since otherwise, Xeneca will keep the only record). Speak your mind.

The OPP will have a low profile presence at the public information centres, as they have had as other such sessions across the province.

Upcoming Town Hall: The May 5 PIC was called at such short notice that there was no opportunity to arrange a Town Hall meeting in advance. However we will hold such a meeting at the Petawawa Lions Club Hall on May 17 at 7 p.m. There, we will update you on information received at the May 5 PIC, revelations from Xeneca's draft Operating Plan, and other recent developments. We'll also have a letter to the Premier with an attached petition available for signature. Please plan to attend.

Draft Operating Plan : This document, prepared for Xeneca and circulated for review to the various regulatory agencies, has been obtained by CASP. It provides a very scary look at the future condition of the river. Although we are not yet able to provide the document publicly, we will discuss its contents at the May 17 CASP Town Hall.

Fish Migration: Among other things, the Operating Plan makes it clear that the project will form an insurmountable barrier to fish migration from the Ottawa River to Algonquin Park. Since some of the species using this route are Species at Risk, this alone should be sufficient reason to stop the project.

Economic / Tourism Impact: Back in March, CASP made a presentation to the Ottawa Valley Tourism Association expressing our concerns about the possible socio-economic impacts that destroying this section of river would have on the community. The OVTA recognizes the potential harm and has requested that Xeneca conduct such a survey before the project moves ahead. The OVTA request is now posted to www.SaveThePetawawa.ca if you wish to review it.

Whitewater Recreation: Xeneca has been working very hard to "spin" the concerns of the whitewater community, and recent advertisements allude to their "accommodation" of kayaking and rafting. In fact, the Draft Operating Plan indicates that Xeneca is making an extremely poor effort to accommodate the safe navigation and recreational use of the river. This is a loss to the entire community.

Recreational users have been very vocal about the damage this hydro dam will cause. A private meeting was held between Whitewater Ontario, Xeneca and the Petawawa River Rats to discuss the issues at hand. Xeneca provided few answers and spoke only in generalities, and participants left with no more information than they had going in. The whitewater community remains opposed to the project, but has provided information to Xeneca on current usage numbers (+/- 5000 person trips / year), flow rates (all flows from 470 cms to 15 cms) and seasons (ice out to ice in). The same information will be provided to Transport Canada's Navigable Water Program, the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Don't forget about the PIC on May 5, and we will look forward to seeing you at the CASP Open House on May 17.

Your CASP Executive



The Community Alliance to Save the Petawawa

is holding its 3rd Town Hall meeting

May 17 at 7:00 PM
Petawawa Lions Club Hall
1163 Victoria Street, Petawawa

Help  the Dam!

Presenting information on

- *Xeneca's Deep River presentation to the Professional Engineers
- *Xeneca's *Draft Operating Flows and Levels* report (It's worse than expected)
- *Our latest understanding of the financial benefits to the community
- *Our small victories

Join the discussion about

- *Xeneca's Public Information Centres
 - What happened May 5th
 - Suggestions for May 31st
- *The question campaign and protest letters
- *Petitions to Dalton McGuinty
- *Hell or High Water May 7th
- *and More



SaveThePetawawa.ca