

CLWA Voices Support for Marmora Pumped Storage Project

The CLWA has sent a letter of support for the Marmora Pumped Storage Project to the Marmora and Lake Council. Reeve Terry Clemens reviewed the project during his discussion about Municipal activities during the CLWA Annual General Meeting on July 16, 2011. A motion was adopted endorsing the project and directing that a letter of support be sent to the Marmora and Lake Council. The letter was prepared and delivered on July 27. It was also sent to the EMC News and published as a Letter to the Editor. The letter follows.

Reeve Terry Clemens and Council

Municipality of Marmora and Lake

Marmora, ON

Re: CLWA Support for Proposed Marmora Pumped Storage Project

The Crowe Lake Waterway Association (CLWA) is a membership organization of approximately two hundred permanent and seasonal property owners on Crowe Lake, Crowe River, and associated waterways. The CLWA has a strong commitment to Crowe Lake and its waterways and to protecting this magnificent natural resource. The CLWA also has a strong commitment to the economic strength of the municipality of Marmora and Lake. The Marmora Pumped Storage Project will benefit the community and the region economically and from what we know of the Project, should not be detrimental to the lake and the waterways. Therefore, the Crowe Lake Waterway Association supports the proposed Marmora Pumped Storage Project. The CLWA urges the Council to continue efforts to gain approval by the Province of Ontario and the Ontario Power Authority. The CLWA also urges the Minister of Energy, Brad Duguid, and MPP Leona Dombrowsky to support the proposed Marmora Pumped Storage project.

The \$660 million-dollar construction project, with 400 to 1000 jobs during the 4-year construction and 35 to 45 permanent high-paying jobs, will provide short-term and long-term benefits to the community and the region. Marmora has a proud history and the mine operation was a critical part of the economy in the past. This project will restore many of those benefits to Marmora and Lake and Hastings County. It should also bring new elements into the economic and community life in Marmora and Lake.

The inclusion of Eco-Tourism features in the project plans could be a valuable asset to the community. The project should be a natural tourist attraction. The development of wetlands, trails, environmental attractions, and associated facilities could make Marmora an important tourist destination. The benefits to the businesses in the community and the region are obvious. The CLWA mission is built around the waterway and intelligent use of this natural resource. The positive approach to the environment and ecology contained in the project plan is an important factor in the CLWA endorsement.

The interest shown by local colleges and universities is encouraging. Efforts by these educational institutions to incorporate the facility into their curriculum could expand the uses of the facility in many ways. Studies of tourism, energy research, ecology, or business and economic development could be developed around the Pumped Storage Project to be part of the education of students from primary school to university level. Any efforts by these educational institutions in the life of the community will benefit everyone.

There are numerous benefits not mentioned above. Briefly, the use of the mine as a Pumped Storage Facility removes from any future consideration the much less desirable use of the mine as a waste disposal site. The interest and involvement in the community by Northland Power is a logical consequence of their long-term operation of this facility. Finally, the presence of a major source of power, coupled with the recently discussed high-speed internet project, would make the entire region an attractive place for many types of businesses.

The Crowe Lake Waterway Association supports the Marmora Pumped Storage Project because it promises many short-term and long-term benefits to the community and the region with no apparent negative consequences to the natural resource that CLWA holds so dear.

Yours sincerely,

Executive Board

Crowe Lake Waterway Association