

TERRACE BAY NEWS

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LARGEST CIRCULATION IN TERRACE BAY

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AGUASABON POWER DEVELOPMENT

As a further step in the development of Ontario's rapidly expanding northland, The Hydro Electric Power Commission of Ontario is at present engaged on the construction of a 55,000-horsepower generating station on the Aguasabon River just west of the Terrace Bay project of the Long Lac Pulp and Paper Co. Ltd.

By the time the Aguasabon power project has been completed, the surrounding district will have undergone a noticeable change in topography. A large area will have been flooded and Blue Jay Lake, now located more than a mile west of the Aguasabon River will be enlarged to more than 500 times its present size to connect with the river and extend upstream for a distance of 12 miles.

Located 25 miles upstream is a control dam for the Long Lake diversion. The "tie-up" with Long Lake provides a triple safeguard: there will be a good supply of water available to the power plant if it is ever needed due to a dry season; the flow of water into this area (which prior to the building of the Long Lake diversion was directed into Hudson Bay by way of the Albany River) can now be directed southward at an average of some 6000 gallons per second; and when the dam has been built, the flooded area will provide an operating head of 297 feet.

At the intake structure located on the edge of the new Blue Jay Basin, the water will enter, from all sides, six ports controlled by a steel plate vertical cylinder gate and will be dropped vertically 270 feet through a concrete lined shaft bored through solid rock to a horizontal tunnel. This tunnel will convey the water over a distance of 3400 feet to a steel penstock, 15 feet in diameter through which it will travel another 100 feet to a "Y". From this point it will divide into two streams to feed the two generating units which will be installed in the power house located down on the shore of Lake Superior nearly 300 feet below the level of the enlarged Blue Jay Lake. To reduce pressure and improve regulation, a surge tank, 235 feet high will be incorporated in the development. Situated 480 feet back from the powerhouse, this structure will connect with the tunnel through a 100 foot vertical shaft cut through solid rock.

While almost half of the generated power will be used initially by the Long Lac organization in the operation of its Mill and Townsite, the balance will be used to augment Hydro's Thunder Bay system by means of a 110,000 volt steel-tower transmission line which has already linked Terrace Bay with the Alexander and Cameron Falls stations on the Nipigon River. This power will help supply the active Port Arthur and Fort William Districts.

Preliminary surveys on the Aguasabon power development were undertaken in 1945 and actual construction work commenced early in 1946. The Hydro construction staff averages 700. Total cost of the project is estimated at \$10 million dollars including the \$1½ million dollar transmission line.

General Superintendent of the Aguasabon project is Charles L. Hays who is very ably assisted by a capable staff including Hal. Johnson, Resident Engineer.

Side by side, here at Terrace Bay, two huge projects are evolving—the Aguasabon power project with its 55,000-horsepower of electric energy and the 300-ton sulphate pulp mill of the Long Lac organization with its modern Townsite development.