

Parry Sound PowerGen Watershed

Hydroelectric power generation has occurred on the Seguin River since the late 1800's and there are presently fourteen (14) water control structures within the Seguin River Watershed. MNR and the Town of Parry Sound each own one (1) of these structures. PowerGen owns the remaining twelve (12), of which two (2) are not operated. Nine (9) are operated for the purposes of water storage and one (1) is a generating station. Many of the dams were originally constructed in the early 1900's and remain essentially unaltered from the time of the original construction.

WATERSHED DESCRIPTION

The Seguin River Watershed is located within the Parry Sound District with less than 1% of the drainage basin located in the geographic township of Cardwell in the District of Muskoka. The headwaters are on the western slopes of the Algonquin Dome near the hamlet of Whitehall, and flow westerly for a distance of approximately 40 kilometres to Parry Sound Harbour at Parry Sound and ultimately to Georgian Bay. The watershed encompasses an area of about 102,300 hectares (1023 km²).

HYDROTECHNICAL FACILITIES

The Cascade Street Generating Station (GS), a hydroelectric-based facility, is located within the Town of Parry Sound approximately one (1) kilometre upstream from the mouth of the Seguin River. It is located on Lot 28, Concession III, Township of McDougall, now in the Town of Parry Sound, and is owned by Parry Sound PowerGen Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary company of Parry Sound Hydro Corporation. The Cascade Street GS is the only hydroelectric power generating station in the watershed. No significant tributaries enter below the generating station, and as such, effectively all runoff from the Seguin River Watershed must pass through the generating station or be bypassed through the associated dam structure.

As well as the Cascade Street GS and the associated dam, PowerGen owns and operates eleven (11) additional water control structures in the Seguin River Watershed, for a total of twelve (12). Water levels and associated river flows are controlled at nine of these structures with their operation consequently influencing the hydroelectric power generation at Cascade Street.

Location of Seguin River Control Structures

All of the dams located within the Seguin River Watershed illustrated below provide details regarding the location and ownership of the infrastructure.

Dam Name / Location	Township	Owner
Horn Lake	Monteith	PowerGen
Fry's Lake		
Whitefish Lake	Humphrey	
Martin Lake	Christie	
Grey Owl Lake (McKellar Lake)	McKellar	
Hurdville Dam (Lake Manitouwabing)		
Harris Lake	Ferguson	
Beverages Lake (also controls Haines Lake)	McDougall	
Mill Lake	Town of Parry Sound	
Cascade Street (Head Pond Dam)		
Trestle Dam	Town of Parry Sound	Town of Parry Sound
Vinett Lake ***	Monteith	Ministry of Natural Resources
Nine Mile Lake ***	McDougall	PowerGen
Trout Lake ***	McDougall	PowerGen

NOTES: ***

Each of these structures is not operated for waterpower production and not affected by flows or levels of any other dam.

The CPR Trestle Dam, owned by the Town of Parry Sound, controls the upstream water body known as the Mill Pond. It is not operated for hydroelectric power production, but flows and controlled water levels associated with this dam are influenced by the operation of the Cascade Street GS and dam. Water levels in Mill Pond also have a bearing on the efficient operation of the generating station in terms of appropriate turbine submergence.

One additional water control structure, owned by a third party, is located within the Seguin River Watershed.

The Vinett Lake Dam is owned by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and located in a headwater area in the eastern portion of the watershed and used for maintenance/ enhancement of waterfowl habitat.