



For Immediate Release

RE: Flood Monitoring and Mitigation Measures

Whitewater Region, Ontario - April 26, 2024

The Whitewater Region Municipal Emergency Control Group (MECG) met this morning to review localized conditions and implementation per the Township Flood Readiness Plan.

This meeting follows the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's April 26, 2024, Conditions statement – Flood Watch, advising watershed residents of the rising levels along the main stem of the Ottawa River which could potentially cause flooding in low-lying areas and areas with poor drainage over the weekend and the coming week (low-lying areas are those that are regularly flooded during the spring freshet period). See the full bulletin at:

<https://www.whitewaterregion.ca/services/emergency-management/2024-watershed-monitoring-7228.html>

The situation is being monitored by the Township. As a preparedness measure, Municipal staff and members of the Whitewater Region Fire Department are being trained on a sandbag filling machine this evening, which Renfrew County has recently acquired and will provide to the Township when necessary. The Township remains in continued communications with the Renfrew County Emergency Management Community of Practice Spring Freshet 2024 - including the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), Ontario Power Generation (OPG), the Ontario River Regulation Planning Board (ORRPB), Renfrew County and neighbouring municipalities.

As we gather more information on projections, residents are encouraged to report flooding-related concerns and observations via the form found on AccessE11: <https://form.foreaction.cloud/submit/whitewater-region> (Category→Emergency→Management→Flooding) found on the Township Website Home Page→Feedback and Inquiries Button.

Roads

The Township's Public Works Department is monitoring roads for flooding and potential closures. Visual observations were conducted by Township staff which have observed some low-lying areas and roads in the Township experiencing minor flooding.

Municipal511.ca is being updated to report flooded roads as they become known. The Township advises residents in low-lying areas affected by flooding that access may be restricted by emergency services.

Mitigation Measures

Residents who have been affected by high water and flow conditions in the past should take necessary action to protect/secure any vulnerable property in proximity to rivers and lakes and closely monitor developing conditions and regularly check for updated messages.

The Township is prepared to implement the necessary mitigation measures (i.e., sand and sandbags, site command, etc.) and are awaiting updated water level forecasts (precipitation, wind speed, and direction) to ensure an informed decision from the MECG.

The Township can be contacted at 613-646-2282 (Option 0) on Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and after-hours emergency at 613-646-2282, Option 9.

Information Gathering

For safety, all residents should monitor weather conditions, check for updated

messaging, and exercise caution near fast-moving water.

Ontario River Regulation Planning Board (ORRPB)

- <https://ottawariver.ca/>

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR)

- <https://www.liaapplications.lrc.gov.on.ca/webapps/swmc/flood-forecasting-and-warning-program/#ontarioFloodMap>

Ontario Power Generation (OPG)

- <https://www.opg.com/news-resources/education/water-management/>

Municipal 511

- <https://www.municipal511.ca/>

Township Website for Emergency Management/2024 Watershed Monitoring

- <https://www.whitewaterregion.ca/services/emergency-management/2024-watershed-monitoring>

-30-

Additional information:

Kurtis McGonegal, Dipl. M.A., Dipl.M.M.
Treasurer/Acting Chief Administrative Officer
613-646-2282, Ext. 161
kmcgonegal@whitewaterregion.ca

Neil Nicholson

Mayor
613-646-2282, Ext. 173/ 613-401-0097
nnicholson@whitewaterregion.ca