



For Immediate Release

RE: Flood Monitoring and Mitigation Measures

Whitewater Region, Ontario – April 30, 2025

On Friday, April 24, 2025, the Ministry of Natural Resources - Pembroke District is advising area residents that a Flood Warning is in effect for areas along the Ottawa River most noticeably from Pembroke to Britannia until Friday, May 02, 2025. A Flood Warning indicates that flooding is imminent or occurring within specific watercourses and municipalities.

Recent rainfall combined with warmer temperatures has melted most of the remaining snow locally. Remnants of the snowpack through the northern portion of the Ottawa river watershed are expected to continue to melt sustaining and/or elevating levels and flows. This combined effect is causing the water levels and flows of the Ottawa River to rise.

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.

Residents with private wells are reminded to take precautions if their water supply has come into contact with flood waters. The Renfrew County and District Health Unit advises that steps be taken to ensure drinking water is safe for consumption. Additional information on water safety and drop-off locations can be found at <https://www.rcdhu.com/healthy-living/emergency-preparedness/caring-for-your-well-water-during-and-after-a-flood/>

Sand and Sandbags

Pre-filled sandbags are available at the Westmeath Public Works Garage located at 1798 Westmeath Road. The Township will continue to replenish filled sandbags at this location based on usage. If additional sand/sandbags or support is needed, please contact the Township.

Road Conditions and Emergency Access

The Township's Fire and Public Works Department are monitoring roads for flooding and potential closures. Municipal511.ca is being updated to report impacted roads as they become known. The Township advises residents in low lying areas affected by flooding that access may be restricted by emergency services.

Boating Advisory and Launch Closures

Effective immediately, the Westmeath and LaPasse boat launches are closed to the public, with access limited to emergency services. Boaters are asked to stay off the Ottawa River in flood-affected areas, as vessel wakes can worsen conditions for residents and responders.

Evacuation

Those residents with restricted road access are being asked to prepare to evacuate if needed. Those residents that voluntarily evacuate are encouraged to do so with family or friends. If possible, it is recommended that the home's utilities be turned off before leaving for safety reasons.

We ask that evacuations be reported to the Township by calling 613-646-2282. Those requiring emergency lodging should also contact the Township.

Single Point of Contact

The Township can be contacted at 613-646-2282 from Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and after-hours emergency at 613-647-3333.

Anyone in need of immediate and urgent assistance or requiring evacuation outside of the hours noted above, should call 911.

Information Gathering

Flood resource information, current MNRF bulletins, and relevant press releases can be found on the Township's website.

For safety, all residents should monitor weather conditions, check for updated messaging and exercise caution near fast moving water.

Ottawa River Regulation Planning Board (ORRPB)

- www.ottawariver.ca/

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)

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

Ontario Power Generation (OPG)

- <https://water.opg.com/region/southeast/>

Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU)

- www.rcdhu.com/

Municipal 511

- www.municipal511.ca/

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