

NEWSLETTER
#2

WHITEWATER REGION FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT



General Scope of the Project

Jp2g is to complete a flood risk assessment for an area south-west of the Westmeath Provincial Park along the Ottawa River, including many non-conforming (grandfathered) properties situated in the floodway or flood fringe, as well as the Westmeath Provincial Park. This area seasonally floods with the spring freshet and represents a significant and recurring flood risk. The Township of Whitewater Region has identified flooding in its Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment.

It is understood that the area was severely impacted by 2019 flooding with several property owners relying on the Disaster Recovery Assistance for Ontarians (DRAO) Program to address flood damage.

The goal of the flood risk assessment study is to prepare an action plan with flood mitigation solutions.

Background Information/Information Gathering

To understand the significance of the flooding in the area, the Township of Whitewater Region distributed Newsletter #1 which included contact information for Jp2g. Jp2g collected background information from residents through phone calls, emails, and 1-on-1 interviews on site. Seasonal flood information, as well as 2017 and 2019 flood levels were noted at the respective properties. It was determined that seasonally, the water level does rise, and in some areas the access roads are impassable, but typically there is no damage to the infrastructure. In 2017, sandbags were used as a flood mitigation strategy, which proved unsuccessful leaving some lower lying structures and accessory buildings flooded and requiring repair. Based on the information collected from homeowners, no mitigation measures were successful in the 2019 flood. There were extensive damages to most properties along Greatview Trail, Edgewater Trail and Sunset Trail, some of which were unrecoverable. In response to these flood events, some residents and cottage owners have installed retaining walls/rock walls or raised their structures onto cinderblocks or other foundations. Based on the flood risk mapping, all properties and all roads are within the floodplain.

If you were unable to provide background information or wish to express any additional information/concerns, please contact Andrea Bishop to arrange a meeting time.



Schedule

A Background Report has been completed, summarizing the background information, existing flood mapping data and 2019 flood levels. This report is available for viewing on the Township website.

Next steps will include quantification of the risk to the flood-prone areas under various scenarios and evaluating current and future climate conditions. Jp2g will prepare a Draft Report identifying the risks to the infrastructure based on flooding levels and climate change parameters. The report will identify solutions for flood protection measures in the study area and will include an action plan to address and mitigate the risk of flooding. Newsletter #3 will be sent in January, including proposed flood control measures and will outline a summary of the prioritized action plan and flood mitigation options.



Contact information

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