



For Immediate Release

RE: Flooding Monitoring and Preparation/ Restricted Fire Zone

Whitewater Region, Ontario - April 3, 2020

The Township's Municipal Emergency Control Group, comprised of the Mayor, Reeve, CAO and staff from key areas, meet regularly to review the current situation involving COVID-19 and Flooding.

Flood Monitoring and Preparation

The **Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR)** issued a Watershed Conditions Statement - Water Safety for Renfrew County on March 30, 2020 (attached). This type of statement "indicates that high flows, melting ice or other factors could be dangerous for such users as boaters, anglers and swimmers but flooding is not expected". At this time there is no indication that flooding will occur, and the bulletin was issued to ensure that everyone stays safe around rivers and streams.

The Township is monitoring the situation closely and updates are being shared between the County, MNR and operators daily and spring freshet calls are being held to share information with the larger group as needed. Additional information will be distributed, when it becomes available.

For safety, all residents should monitor weather conditions, check for updated messages, and exercise caution near fast-moving water. Residents should take appropriate precautions to protect their property, such as ensuring sump pumps are functioning, securing items that may float away, and all downspouts are attached properly and cleared of any potential obstructions.

The Township has sandbags available and these can be obtained by contacting Lane Cleroux, Manager of Public Works/CEMC, by email at lcleroux@whitewaterregion.ca or by phone at 613-646-2282 Ext. 128.

Restricted Fire Zone in Effect

In order to ensure public safety and well-being during the evolving COVID-19 outbreak, the Province of Ontario has declared a Restricted Fire Zone for the entire fire region of the province, including the Township of Whitewater Region, effective as of April 3rd, 2020 at 12:01 a.m. The Restricted Fire Zone is in effect until further notice.

Restricted Fire Zones help protect public safety. In a Restricted Fire Zone, outdoor fires are restricted. Portable gas stoves may still be used but must be handled with extreme care. For more information, contact your local Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) Fire Management Headquarters.

Additional information will be shared as available on the municipal website.

-30-

Additional information:

Robert Tremblay, CAO
613-646-2282, Ext. 126
rtremblay@whitewaterregion.ca

Michael Moore, Mayor
613-585-1609
mayormoore@whitewaterregion.ca

Ivan Burton, Planner/ EDO
Emergency Information Officer
613-646-2282, Ext. 124
iburton@whitewaterregion.ca

Lane Cleroux, Manager of Public Works
CEMC
613-646-2282 Ext. 128
lcleroux@whitewaterregion.ca

Watershed Conditions Statement - Water Safety

Pembroke District

Monday, March 30, 2020
3:30pm

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry – Pembroke District is advising area residents that a Watershed Conditions Statement - Water Safety is in effect in the District until Monday, April 06, 2020.

Residents in Renfrew County should keep a close watch on conditions, regularly check for updated messages and exercise caution near fast-moving rivers and streams. Residents who have a historic susceptibility to flooding should take appropriate precautions to protect their property, such as ensuring sump pumps are functioning and securing items that may float away as water levels rise.

The ministry is closely monitoring the weather and developing watershed conditions. Further updates will be issued as appropriate.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Description of Weather System

A significant amount of rain fell across Renfrew County this past weekend and temperatures for the next week are forecast to be above zero during the day and close to or below zero at night. Minimal additional precipitation is expected.

Description of Current Conditions

Over the past few weeks, snow has been gradually melting due to warmer temperatures, however there is still a significant amount of snow throughout the County. The snow that remains is heavily saturated and is less capable of absorbing any precipitation.

Lake levels and flows have increased due to the rain this past weekend in addition to the regular snow melt but are still within normal ranges for this time of year.

The ice is thinning on large lakes throughout the County and rivers and streams are opening as the ice melts. As the ice on lakes and rivers melts, it can be expected that water levels will respond accordingly.

DEFINITIONS

- **WATERSHED CONDITIONS STATEMENT – WATER SAFETY:** indicates that high flows, melting ice or other factors could be dangerous for such users as boaters, anglers and swimmers but flooding is not expected.
- **WATERSHED CONDITIONS STATEMENT – FLOOD OUTLOOK:** gives early notice of the potential for flooding based on weather forecasts calling for heavy rain, snow melt, high winds or other conditions
- **FLOOD WATCH:** potential for flooding exists within specific watercourses and municipalities
- **FLOOD WARNING:** flooding is imminent or occurring within specific watercourses and municipalities.

LEARN MORE

- Surface Water Monitoring Centre public webpage www.ontario.ca/floodforecast
- Environment Canada bulletins: www.weather.gc.ca
- A close watch on local conditions and weather forecasts from Environment Canada is recommended.