



## For Immediate Release

### RE: Flooding Monitoring and Preparation

#### Whitewater Region, Ontario - April 15, 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)** – Pembroke District has issued an update on April 14, 2020 (attached), extending the Watershed Conditions Statement - Water Safety that is in effect in the District until Wed., April 22, 2020.

The MNR says lake and river levels and flows continue to be moderately elevated but are still within normal ranges for this time of year. Continued risks include degradation of ice and ice jam related flooding from increasing water levels and flows, fast moving cold water with rapidly changing conditions and flooding of low-lying areas with a history of flooding.

MNR is advising that 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 and all downspouts are attached properly and cleared of any potential obstructions.

The **Ottawa River Regulation Planning Board** issued a statement on April 9, 2020 cautioning that levels and flows on the Ottawa River continue to rise gradually due to on-going snowmelt in the central and northern portions of the basin.

The **Ottawa River Regulation Planning Board** <http://ottawariver.ca/> (1-800-778-1246) and **Ontario Power Generation (OPG)** <https://www.opg.com/building-strong-and-safe-communities/our-communities/eastern-ontario/> (1-888-884-8022) continues to make improvements to how information is delivered including website improvements and you should check their websites regularly during the Spring Freshet period to keep yourself updated and prepared.

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](mailto:lcleroux@whitewaterregion.ca) or by phone at 613-646-2282 Ext. 128.

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 shared as available on the municipal website.

-30-

#### Additional information:

Robert Tremblay, CAO  
613-646-2282, Ext. 126  
[rtremblay@whitewaterregion.ca](mailto:rtremblay@whitewaterregion.ca)

Michael Moore, Mayor  
613-585-1609  
[mayormoore@whitewaterregion.ca](mailto:mayormoore@whitewaterregion.ca)

Ivan Burton, Planner/ EDO  
Emergency Information Officer  
613-646-2282, Ext. 124  
[iburton@whitewaterregion.ca](mailto:iburton@whitewaterregion.ca)

Lane Cleroux, Manager of Public Works  
CEMC  
613-646-2282 Ext. 128  
[lcleroux@whitewaterregion.ca](mailto:lcleroux@whitewaterregion.ca)