



## For Immediate Release

### RE: Flood Monitoring and Mitigation Measures

#### Whitewater Region, Ontario – April 30, 2023

On Friday, April 28, 2023, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) – Pembroke District extended the Flood Warning for the Ottawa River until Friday, May 5, 2023. A Flood Warning indicates that flooding is imminent or occurring within specific watercourses and municipalities.

Residents along the main stem of the Ottawa River, for the area of Lac Coulonge (near Westmeath) should consider the following:

- A rain event is expected to bring 55 to 65 mm of precipitation over the next few days, it is anticipated that the area will return to and maintain the thresholds for major flood levels along the Ottawa River at Lake Coulonge, and areas downstream (Chats Lake, and Lake Deschenes).

Levels are expected to raise above the threshold for minor flood levels in the Pembroke area.

Renfrew County and District Health Unit is recommending that residents with water wells in contact with flood water:

- Boil their water for one minute at a rolling boil before drinking, food preparation or brushing teeth with the water,
- Use bottled water or,
- Use water from an alternate potable water source.

Well water should be tested for bacteria after flood waters recede. Water sample bottles can be picked up and dropped off at the Renfrew County and District Health Unit. For more locations, visit <http://www.rcdhu.com/healthy-living/safe-water>.

#### Mitigation Measures

Residents that 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.

Sand and sandbags are continuing to be made available at the following locations to safeguard lower-lying portions of flood-prone areas:

- Sunset Trail,
- McWitt Trail,
- Sandpoint Trail,
- Greenway Drive at Coulonge Lake Trail
- Hilltop Drive
- Vizena Trail

Should sand become unavailable at these locations, sand and sandbags will be available at the Westmeath Public Works Garage located at 1798 Westmeath Road. If additional sand or sandbags are needed, please contact the Township.

The Township's Fire and Public Works Department are monitoring roads for flooding and potential closures. [Municipal511.ca](http://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.

Residents considering evacuating are encouraged to contact the Township so that we can account for vacancies. Those residents who decide to evacuate are encouraged to do so with family or friends. Those requiring emergency lodging, contact the Township.

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**

Flood resource information, current MNRF bulletins and Ottawa River Regulation Planning Board press releases can be found on the Township's website.

First-hand reports of changing water conditions from local agencies are greatly appreciated and benefit the overall flood program. Please also consider tweeting reports of flooding with the hashtag **#ONFlood**.

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)

- [www.ottawariver.ca/](http://www.ottawariver.ca/)

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)

- [www.liaapplications.lrc.gov.on.ca/webapps/swmc/flood-forecasting-and-warning-program/#ontarioFloodMap](http://www.liaapplications.lrc.gov.on.ca/webapps/swmc/flood-forecasting-and-warning-program/#ontarioFloodMap)

Ontario Power Generation (OPG)

- [www.opg.com/powering-ontario/our-generation/hydro/river-system-data/](http://www.opg.com/powering-ontario/our-generation/hydro/river-system-data/)

Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU)

- [www.rcdhu.com/](http://www.rcdhu.com/)

Municipal 511

- [www.municipal511.ca/](http://www.municipal511.ca/)

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Additional information:

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