



For Immediate Release

Minden, ON. May 1, 2014

10:00 am

Release #14-07

SUBJECT: Update for High Water Levels on the Gull River and Surrounding Lakes

The **Gull River and Surrounding Lakes** continue to respond to the rain received over the past few days, accompanied by mild temperatures and spring runoffs. Residents are advised to use caution around these areas in Minden Hills as high water levels can create unstable conditions.

Ministry of Natural Resources continues to monitor the weather and developing watershed conditions and has posted a flood watch for the area. Please visit our newsroom to review the MNR bulletin of April 29th, 2014.

Please be advised that portions of the Riverwalk and Invergordon Avenue are flooded over, please use extreme caution if it is necessary to travel in that area.

From the Community Services Department

Please be advised that while water levels on our lakes and rivers continue to rise and fall, ground saturation continues to be a concern. Much of the area surrounding water sources is soft and extreme caution should be exercised when approaching and/or using these areas. Boat ramps and riverbanks are particularly vulnerable due to fast currents and the public is advised to avoid these areas if possible.

Caution should also be employed on all walking pathways located near a water source. Again, currents are fast and powerful and safety should be your first consideration.

Particular areas of the Minden Hills Riverwalk are currently underwater. These areas have been closed and blockades have been positioned to designate vicinities of high concern. In addition, the lights along the Riverwalk will remain off as many of these fixtures are currently under water. The Community Services Department would like to stress that these walking paths are extremely unsafe in low light conditions and we advise against any use of these pathways during evening hours.

For Precautionary Measures - Sand and Bags are available

For precautionary measures, Sand and bags are available at the Minden Road Shed located at 1987 Fleming Road. This resource is self-serve; please remember to bring your own shovel and assistance if required.

The Municipality advises residents to prepare themselves for self-evacuations and to consider your neighbours as they may require assistance with sand bagging and evacuating.

Anyone needing assistance with evacuation should the need arise should contact the municipality:

During Regular Business Hours
(8:30 - 4:30 pm Monday to Thursday)
705-286-1260

Or

After Hours 1-866-856-3247

Suggestions to assist you during the Spring Thaw

- **Be Prepared** - Build an Emergency Survival Kit that allows you to be self-sufficient for at least 72 Hours. Please visit Emergency Management Ontario at www.emergencymanagementontario.ca/english/beprepared/beprepared.html for an example list.
- **Subscribe to our Website** – Sign up at www.mindenhills.ca to receive email alerts on conditions and other important information.
- **Emergency Contacts** -
Keep a list of emergency contacts and other important numbers near your phone
- **Sump Pumps** –
Ensure the sump pit is clear of debris and that all electrical connections are plugged in correctly and circuit breakers are operational. Check your maintenance manual for instructions on how to check the float, test the check valve and clean the impeller.
- **Hydro Services** -
If you discover water in your cottage, please vacate the premises and call the Hydro Call Centre at 1-888-664-9376 to have services temporarily disconnected

- **Sand Bags –**

- Sand and bags are also available at the Minden Road Shed at 1987 Fleming Road. This resource is self-serve; please remember to bring your own shovel and assistance if required.

Although the municipality is not distributing sand bags at this time, if the need arises, there are sufficient resources available to accommodate the demand.

- Remember your neighbours - don't forget about those around you that may have difficulty with this task.

- **Remember -**

Keep all items up and off the floor where potential flooding may occur.

Staff will continue to monitor the levels. Please visit our website at www.mindenhills.ca, for all up to date and accurate information to assist you in preparing for immediate measures before they are required.

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