



NICKEL DISTRICT CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
OFFICE DE PROTECTION DE LA NATURE DU DISTRICT DU NICKEL

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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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N.D.C.A. HOLDS ANNUAL SPRING RUNOFF MEETING

Sudbury... The Nickel District Conservation Authority (NDCA) held its annual Spring Flood Contingency Planning meeting yesterday, March 19th, at Tom Davies Square. Many organizations and agencies were represented at the meeting to discuss preparations for the upcoming Spring runoff. Representatives from the City of Greater Sudbury's Infrastructure, and Emergency Services departments; Greater Sudbury Police Services; Union Gas; VALE; Domtar; Ontario Power Generation; Ministry of Natural Resources, etc., attended the meeting.

Preparations by all the agencies for the Spring runoff were reviewed in detail. It was emphasized that many of the organizations and agencies will be communicating on a regular basis during the runoff period. The general public will be regularly updated on developing conditions by the N.D.C.A and its partners. It was noted at the meeting that flood preparedness/ emergency preparedness information can be found on the NDCA's website at www.nickeldistrict.ca and the City's website at www.greatersudbury.ca. If necessary, this type of information would also be delivered directly to residents in hazard areas.

At this time, as a result of the coldest and snowiest Winter in many years, there is above average snowpack across all watersheds in the Greater Sudbury area and the water content of the snow is above average. Ground conditions are currently frozen and were highly saturated at freeze up as a result of all the rain received in late Fall, 2013. Frozen and saturated ground conditions will not assist in absorbing snowmelt and runoff if it occurs rapidly this Spring. The large amount of snow and continuing below normal temperatures into late March is not the only problem. The very cold, severe Winter has lead to ice covered lakes, creeks and rivers. In many locations the ice is very thick. With the current snowpack and ice conditions, flooding becomes a real possibility this Spring, especially if the weather gets too warm too fast in April and early May and if there is significant rain at the same time.

Weather conditions over the next four to six weeks will directly influence the severity and extent of spring runoff to be experienced in our watersheds. Residents who live in low-lying and known hazard areas, will have to closely monitor developing conditions once the melt and runoff begins. Residents of the City of Greater Sudbury who may experience overland runoff and flooding problems, must call the municipality at 3-1-1, 24 hours a day for assistance.

The NDCA, like other agencies, wants to remind the general public to stay away from waterbodies and watercourses as they start to open up once the Spring runoff is fully underway. Stream and river banks are unstable and slippery. Areas with ice and snow covered waterbodies should be considered unsafe. A tragedy can happen very quickly around cold, fast-flowing water. Frequent updates and continuous messaging will be provided in various ways as required during the spring runoff period for the Greater Sudbury watersheds.

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For More Information Contact:

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