



Nickel District Conservation Authority
401 – 199 rue Larch Street
Sudbury, ON P3E 5P9
705-674-5249
ConservationSudbury.ca

MEDIA RELEASE

March 12, 2020

CONSERVATION SUDBURY HOLDS ANNUAL CONTINGENCY MEETING

AREA RESIDENTS REMINDED TO USE CAUTION AND ALWAYS BE PREPARED FOR EMERGENCIES

Sudbury – Conservation Sudbury hosted its annual spring Flood Contingency Planning meeting today at Tom Davies Square. The most recent information regarding snow pack and water levels was shared and preparedness for the upcoming spring runoff was discussed. The following organizations participated:

- City of Greater Sudbury
- Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
- Canadian Red Cross
- Vale Canada
- Glencore (SINO)
- Ontario Power Generation
- Greater Sudbury Police Service
- Enbridge Gas

The above organizations and agencies communicate on a regular basis during the runoff period. The general public will be updated on developing conditions by Conservation Sudbury and its partners.

Across our watersheds, snow depths and water content are well above the normal range for this time of the year. Conservation Sudbury staff will continue to assess the snowpack until the snow cover has all but disappeared. The ground is largely saturated and is frozen in some areas due to the recent cold weather; frozen and saturated ground conditions will not assist in absorbing snowmelt and runoff if it occurs rapidly this spring.

Weather conditions directly influence the severity and duration of spring runoff to be experienced in our watersheds. Ice jams could also be a problem in some areas, as the water levels rise. Residents in low-lying and known-hazard areas will have to closely monitor developing conditions once the melt and runoff begins in earnest. Flooding is a real possibility each spring, especially if the weather gets too warm too fast from mid-March into April; this can be aggravated by significant rainfall at the same time.

It was noted at the meeting that flood and emergency preparedness information can be found at ConservationSudbury.ca, Canada.ca and greatersudbury.ca. Residents are reminded to ensure that their [72-hour kits](#) are ready for use throughout the year. To help prevent water from infiltrating basements, homeowners are reminded to ensure that drainage around their homes is clear, that sump-pumps are working and window wells are free of ice and snow.

Managing our watersheds today - for tomorrow
Gérons nos bassins hydrographiques aujourd'hui, pour demain

Residents can also sign up for **Sudbury Alerts**, the City's notification system that will alert residents of a potential hazard or concern that is considered an imminent threat to public safety. For more information visit greatersudbury.ca/sudburyalerts or any of the City's 13 Customer Service Centres.

WATER SAFETY MESSAGE

- Conservation Sudbury, along with our partners, reminds everyone to stay away from watercourses as spring progresses. Most streams continue to flow through the winter and are now starting to open up.
- As the March Break is upon us, this is an important reminder for parents and guardians of children who may be spending more time outdoors, especially as the weather gradually warms.
- Areas of ice and snow-covered waters should be considered unsafe. Stream banks are often slippery and can be unstable. A tragedy can happen very quickly around cold, fast-flowing water.
- Educators are reminded of our [Fast-Flowing Water Program](#) available to all schools in Conservation Sudbury watersheds.
- Snowmobile enthusiasts are reminded to stay on the official marked trails. Many of the area's lakes are controlled by dams and late winter operations will make ice conditions dangerous.

Frequent watershed conditions updates and continuous messaging will be provided by various means during the spring runoff period for the watersheds found within Greater Sudbury.

- 30 -

For More Information:

Carl Jorgensen
General Manager
705-674-5249 ext. 203

OR

Anoop Naik
Water Resources Specialist
705-674-5249 ext. 205