

# STAFF REPORT

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF COBOURG



<b>Report to:</b>	Mayor and Council Members	<b>Priority:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Low
<b>Submitted by:</b>	Shannon Murphy, Emergency Planner, Emergency Management, Corporate Services <a href="mailto:smurphy@cobourg.ca">smurphy@cobourg.ca</a>	<b>Meeting Type:</b>	Open Session <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Closed Session <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	October 4, 2020		
<b>Report No.:</b>	Corporate Services-119-21		
<a href="#">Submit comments to Council</a>			

**Subject/Title:** Flood Response Plan

## RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council receives the Flood Plan approved by the Community Emergency Management Program Committee on September 23, 2021;

FURTHER THAT Council receive the Flood Preparedness Guide for information purposes and instructs staff to add the Flood Plan Annex 12 to the Towns Emergency Plan; and

FURTHER THAT Council authorize Staff to proceed with public education plans for flooding awareness for residents of the Town of Cobourg.

## 1. STRATEGIC PLAN

Not Applicable

## 2. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Not Applicable

## 3. PURPOSE

The Town of Cobourg Flood Response Plan has been developed as requested by Council motion on April 20, 2020.

As noted within the attached Flood Response Plan, the purpose of the plan is as follows:

The purpose of the Town of Cobourg Emergency Flood Plan is to outline a plan of action for the most efficient deployment and coordination of municipal services, stakeholders, organizations, and personnel to provide the earliest possible response by:

- Protecting and preserving life and property.
- Minimizing the effects of the emergency on the health, safety and welfare of citizens, property, and the environment of the Town of Cobourg.
- Defining procedures to be utilized in minimizing the effects of a flood emergency in the Town of Cobourg.
- Providing an effective communication plan for before, during, and after a flood event.
- Establishing a coordinated response consistent with prevailing conditions and information provided by external agencies including the GRCA Flood Forecasting and Warning System, local dam operators, and/or other sources.
- Defining the roles and responsibilities of the Town of Cobourg's departments and supporting agencies involved in a flood emergency.
- Restoring essential services as quickly as possible following a flood emergency

#### 4. ORIGIN AND LEGISLATION

The attach Flood Response Plan and the Flood Reduction Guide have been developed in response to the following motion that was based on April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 as follows:

*WHEREAS at the Committee of the Whole Meeting on April 20, 2020, Council considered a Notice of Motion from Councillor Emily Chorley and Councillor Nicole Beatty, regarding a Flood Mitigation and Response Plan for the Town of Cobourg; and*

*THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED THAT the Town of Cobourg Council directs staff to draft a Flood Mitigation and Response Plan, in consultation with the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority (GRCA) and other relevant agencies, for Council's consideration as soon as possible and no later than September 14, 2020.*

This plan is published as an annex to the Town of Cobourg Emergency Response Plan, as authorized by By-law 067- 2015, this plan will be reviewed annually by the Community Emergency Management Program Committee and maintained by the Emergency Planner. The authority for the development, content and implementation of the emergency plan is provided or referenced in the following legislation, regulations, policy statements and standards.

- Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act
- Ontario Regulation 380/04
- Town of Cobourg Flood Mitigation and Sandbagging Policy
- Canadian Emergency Management and Business Continuity Program Standards (C.S.A Z1600)
- Accessibility for Ontario with Disabilities Act

## **5. BACKGROUND**

The Town of Cobourg is geographically located along Lake Ontario, as well as many creeks and streams that run through various areas within the Town's jurisdiction and can experience annual/seasonal flooding.

Therefore, an emergency response to flooding requires collaboration between agencies, sectors and departments.

The extent of the initial flood response will depend on the warning time (which will vary based on the cause of the flooding) and on the scale of the flood event. Intense storms may produce a flood in minutes or a few hours, while areas downstream from heavy rains may have from twelve hours to several weeks to prepare. Flash floods can occur within six hours or less from the beginning of a heavy rainfall.

Although the Town of Cobourg has not experienced major significant flooding, the municipality, Town Council and the GRCA recognize the need for a Flood Response Plan to coordinate flood preparedness and response actions.

## **6. ANALYSIS**

Under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act Every municipality shall have an emergency management program committee. O. Reg. 380/04, s. 11 (1).

The committee shall advise the council on the development and implementation of the municipality's emergency management program. O. Reg. 380/04, s. 11 (5). The committee shall conduct an annual review of the municipality's emergency management program and shall make recommendations to the council for its revision if necessary. O. Reg. 380/04, s. 11 (6).

On September 23, 2021 the Town's Community Emergency Management Program Committee met to review and discuss the Flood Plan Annex and Flood Preparedness Guide and provided comments and final approval.

The Flood Plan Annex and Flood Preparedness Guide will be added to the Cobourg Emergency Plan, this current plan date 2015 currently needs to be updated and brought back to council for approval.

The CEMPC will be identifying timelines for all work in 2022 at the next meeting November 16, 2021. A report will come to Council December 6, 2021, with an Emergency Management Program update

## **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/BUDGET IMPACTS**

Not applicable.

## **8. CONCLUSION**

THAT Council receives the Flood Plan approved by the Community Emergency Management Program Committee on September 23, 2021;

FURTHER THAT Council receive the Flood Preparedness Guide for information purposes and instructs staff to add the Flood Plan Annex 12 to the Towns Emergency Plan; and

FURTHER THAT Council authorize Staff to proceed with public education plans for flooding awareness for residents of the Town of Cobourg.