

Dear Members,

### **A STATE OF EMERGENCY HAS BEEN DECLARED**

District Chair Klinck at 5:33pm on Sunday April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019 under the Emergency Management & Civil Protection Act has declared a state of emergency due to severe flooding in much of Muskoka. The District has activated its Emergency Plan and its Emergency Control Group (ECG) and is monitoring the situation closely. Click here view emergency resources, detailed road closures and drinking water advisory [District of Muskoka Emergency Bulletin](#).

The current municipalities within the district that have also declared a state of emergency are the Town of Bracebridge, Town of Huntsville and Township of Muskoka Lakes. The Canadian Armed Forces have been called in to the Town of Bracebridge to assist.

The Township of Muskoka Lakes and Bracebridge have asked that seasonal residents stay away due to many impassible roads due to flooding. A reminder to all there is floating debris everywhere and it is not safe to be out on the water.

There have been many residences evacuated from flooded homes. Due to heavy rain last Friday, water levels have shot up by almost a foot and are now 0.25 m [10 inches] above the 2013 record flood level. A similar amount of rain is forecast for Wed May 1st. This means that all shorelines structures , if not already, will be flooded and many will be substantially submerged. At this time the expectation is that the water levels will not begin to recover to normal until the weekend of May 24<sup>th</sup> or later. This is dependent on the current weather forecast and a change in forecasted rainfall could change this date.

#### **What to Expect:**

- Most docks and boathouses on Lake Muskoka are under 18-24" underwater
- Water is beginning to lap over docks on Lake Joseph
- Docks on Lake Rosseau are underwater
- Floating personal items & debris
- Floating docks, unless weighted down
- Boats floating off winter storage supports
- If low ceiling in boathouse, boats may hit roof
- Beware all low situated electrical service, may be shorted out and dangerous
- Ice damage to shoreline structures
- Significant shoreline erosion in progress
- Many local roads are closed, check the District of Muskoka website for current information
- State of emergency may make services available to impacted residents

The Muskoka Lakes Association Water Level Task Force had an emergency meeting this morning at 8:30am. One of the action steps will be to compose a letter to the province concerning the Muskoka River Water Management Plan. (MRWMP)

We will continue to monitor the District communications on the current state of emergency, and encourage our members to do the same. For the most current information please use the links below.

**STAY CONNECTED:** Please monitor local media outlets, the MNRF and area municipal websites and social media feeds for updates. For more information please visit [www.muskoka.on.ca](http://www.muskoka.on.ca) or follow the District on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), or our [Newsfeed](#).

We are monitoring the situation acutely and will continue to keep you informed via EBlasts as matters further unfold.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lawton Osler". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "L" and "O".

Lawton Osler  
President  
Muskoka Lakes Association