

FLOODING PREPAREDNESS GUIDE | 2019



ARE YOU PREPARED?

- What are your Risks?
- Flood Forecasting
- Emergency Communications



Clarington

FLOOD FORECASTING

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority, Ganaraska Conservation Authority and Kawartha Region Conservation Authority are responsible for flood forecasting and warnings in Clarington.

When spring melts or severe storms are expected, the conservation authorities estimate the severity, locations and timing of possible flooding and notify municipal emergency management officials and local media.

The conservation authorities use a colour-coded system to deliver flood warnings.

Green	Normal, no flooding conditions
Yellow	Water Safety - Dangerous conditions exist. e.g. melting ice, unsafe banks, high flows etc. Flood Outlook - Early notice of potential flooding based on local weather forecasts.
Orange	Flood Watch - Flooding is possible in specific areas. Municipalities, emergency services and landowners in flood-prone areas should prepare.
Red	Flood Warning - Flooding is imminent or already occurring. Municipalities and individuals should take action to deal with floods. This may include road closures, emergency communications and evacuations.

Residents can stay up-to-date on flood watches and warnings by visiting:

- www.clarington.net | twitter.com/ClaringtonON
www.facebook.com/MunofClarington
- twitter.com/clarchieff | www.facebook.com/ClaringtonEFS
- www.cloca.ca | twitter.com/CLOCA_Flood
- www.grca.on.ca | www.facebook.com/GanaraskaCA
- www.kawarthaconservation.com
www.facebook.com/kawarthaconservation
www.twitter.com/kawarthaconserv

During a flood or other emergency, the Municipality of Clarington will update residents through our website and social media channels. To receive emergency updates, subscribe to our Emergency and Weather Updates section at www.clarington.net/subscribe.

If you don't have access to the internet, or there is a power outage, make sure you have a battery powered radio with extra batteries in your emergency kit. Tune in to local radio to stay up-to-date with emergency messages.



Rising flood water from a nearby marsh.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION OUTLETS

Radio

CKDO	The Rock	680 News	KX96
1580 AM or 107.7 FM	94.9 FM	680 FM	95.9 FM

Television

Global Durham	Rogers Television
Cable 12 Rogers Digital Channel 129 Bell Fibe Channels 235 & 1235 Bell Channel 583	Cable 10, 63 & HD510

Web & Social Media

Municipality of Clarington

www.clarington.net

twitter.com/ClaringtonON | www.facebook.com/MunofClarington

twitter.com/clarchief | www.facebook.com/ClaringtonEFS

Region of Durham

www.durham.ca

twitter.com/RegionofDurham

www.facebook.com/RegionofDurham

Durham Emergency Management Office

www.durham.ca/demo

Ontario

www.emergencymanagementontario.ca

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority

www.cloca.ca | twitter.com/CLOCA_Flood

Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority

www.grca.on.ca | www.facebook.com/GanaraskaCA

Kawartha Region Conservation Authority

www.kawarthaconservation.com

www.facebook.com/kawarthaconservation

www.twitter.com/kawarthaconserv



Clarington

KNOW THE RISKS

Flooding can happen year-round.

Flooding happens when an overflow of water occurs on normally dry land. Floods can cause extensive damage to property.

The Municipality has a Clarington Flood Response Plan that outlines Municipal response and responsibilities during a flood emergency. Clarington's priority is to protect our residents. The Municipality will provide resources during a flood emergency and will work on protecting critical infrastructure.

Flooding can occur when:

- Rivers and lakes cannot contain excessive rain or snow melt;
- Excessive rain or snow melt cannot be fully absorbed into the ground;
- Waterways are unusually high or blocked by ice flow and other debris;
- Water and sewer systems breakdown; and
- Strong winds cause a storm surge pushing lake water onto land.

It doesn't have to be raining in your area for a flood to happen.

In Clarington, low-lying areas or areas near lakes, streams, rivers or culverts are at a greater risk of flooding.

Areas near the shores of Lake Ontario can also be affected by storm surges that push water onto land and cause high waves. Properties in proximity to Lake Ontario or another body of water, like marshes or rivers, can be at particularly high risk during gusting winds and excess rains.

This guide will help you and your family prepare in case of a flood. Use this guide, as well as Clarington's Emergency Preparedness Guide found on www.clarington.net, to make sure your family is ready in the event of an emergency. Complete the checklists and emergency contact information pages in the Emergency Preparedness Guide then use the Flooding Preparedness Guide to find flood-specific information and checklists.

CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES

Clarington is under the jurisdiction of three Conservation Authorities. Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority (CLOCA), Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority (GRCA) and Kawartha Region Conservation Authority (KRCA).

The conservation authorities have identified areas most at risk for flooding. Residents living in these areas should be aware of the increased risk of flooding and be prepared for a flood emergency. Use the Clarington Emergency Preparedness Guide to help you build your emergency kits and gather your emergency contact information.

Contact your conservation authority to find out more about the risk of flooding in your area.

CLOCA

- www.cloca.com | mail@cloca.com | 905-579-0411

GRCA

- www.grca.on.ca | info@grca.on.ca | 905-885-8173

KRCA

- www.kawarthaconservation.com | geninfo@kawarthaconservation.com | 705-328-2271

PREPARE FOR A FLOOD

Prepare in advance

- Check with the conservation authorities or Municipality of Clarington to see if your area is in a flood plain or high risk area.
- Use the Clarington Emergency Preparedness Guide to create emergency kits and write down emergency contact numbers.
- Check your insurance policy for coverage particularly for an overland flood.

When a flood is forecast

- Monitor local radio, television, www.clarington.net, twitter.com/ClaringtonON and facebook.com/MunofClar for updates. Use the Emergency Preparedness Guide for a full list of emergency communications resources.
- Make sure your vehicle has a full tank of fuel.
- Move furniture, clothing and valuables to the highest place possible.
- Secure loose objects, relocate vehicles, outdoor furniture, equipment and water containers. Remove household hazardous waste from your shed or garage to higher ground.
- Inspect the exterior of your home to make sure water flows away from your foundation. Build up low lying areas where water might get inside.
- Find a safe place for your pets.
- Check on your neighbours to see if they need help.
- If you are relocating to a safer place, do it before the flood comes. Never drive or walk through flood water.
- Do not attempt to shut off electricity if any water is present. Leave your home immediately and don't return until authorities indicate it is safe.



Prepared sandbags

Sheltering in place

Keep these items in your home to help protect your property.

- Sump pump
- Backup generators
- Wheelbarrow
- Shovel
- Store or know where you can get sand and sandbags in advance of a flood. During a flood, remember that demand may exceed supply as people rush to buy these products.



Strong winds cause a storm surge pushing lake water onto land.

Evacuating

Pack the following items and add them to your emergency kit:

- Waterproof clothing including raincoats and pants.
- Life jackets for every member of the family.
- Put all your important papers into waterproof pouches or containers.

Evacuate when you are advised to do so by emergency authorities. If you have time, complete the following checklist:

- Empty your fridge and freezer, leaving the doors open to avoid damage or loss if they float
- Turn off your gas, electricity and water. Do not attempt to shut off electricity if any water is present. Leave your home immediately and do not return until authorities indicate it is safe to do so.
- Put sandbags in your toilet bowl, sinks and over all laundry and bathroom drain holes to prevent sewer backup.
- If you have time, take pictures of your home. This may help with insurance claims.
- Lock your home and take the recommended evacuation routes.
- Do not drive into water of unknown depth and current.
- If you are caught in fast-rising waters and your car stalls, leave it and save yourself and your passengers by moving to higher ground.
- Do not attempt to rescue people or pets from flood waters if they fall in. Call 911 immediately.

Too late to leave

- Monitor your local radio for warnings and advice
- Get to higher ground
- Do not allow children to play in or near floodwaters
- Avoid entering floodwaters, if you must do so, wear solid shoes and check depth and current with a stick
- Stay away from drains, culverts and water over knee deep.
- Do not use gas or electrical appliances that have been in floodwater until checked for safety
- Do not eat food that has been in floodwaters
- Boil tap water until supplies have been declared safe

Use the Clarington Emergency Preparedness Guide to learn what to do after an emergency.