



PRESS RELEASE

County of Dufferin
55 Zina Street
Orangeville, ON L9W 1E5

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Are you 'Flood Ready'?

Dufferin – In the past two years, several parts of Dufferin County have experienced significant rainfall events that have led to flooding. One of these events, with little or no warning, left 120 millimeters of rain on Dufferin County in just a few hours.

Because of these events, flooding has been promoted to the top risk in Dufferin County's Community Risk Profile. The Community Risk Profile is compiled from identifying all of the possible hazards that could impact Dufferin County and assessing the likelihood and consequences of them.

In cooperation with Partners for Action and the University of Waterloo the County surveyed more than one hundred residents who had been affected by flooding in the past few years. Following the survey a focus group was brought together with municipal staff and residents to determine what could be done to mitigate the impacts of flooding. "From the research that was conducted we learned that most people don't understand their flood risk until they've experienced a flood and more than one third of those residents surveyed sustained more than \$10,000 in damage" says County Warden Darren White.

The County of Dufferin has undertaken several projects to better understand flood risk including facilitating public workshops, working with all five conservation authorities, the Canadian Red Cross, the Insurance Bureau of Canada and WDG Public Health. A flood prevention video has been created to provide useful information and tips for residents. In addition, web-based resources were created in partnership with Wellington Dufferin Guelph Public Health and the County of Wellington.

Please watch the County's Flood Prevention and Awareness video on YouTube <https://youtu.be/S0Lxqifi1DE> and visit A Guide to Flooding Prevention and Recovery on Wellington Dufferin Guelph Public Health's website at <https://goo.gl/HPaG1s>



Figure 1 An unknown driver takes a chance driving through floodwaters on Amelia Street in Orangeville on June 23rd, 2017.

Flood Facts:

- Floods are one of the most common hazards in Canada.
- A heavy rainfall can result in flooding, particularly when the ground is still frozen or already saturated from previous storms.
- Severe storms can cause flash flooding with little or no advance warning.
- All creeks experience flooding at one time or another. The potential for flood damage is high for houses and businesses constructed on low-lying, flood-prone lands.
- Over the past 60 years, average temperatures and average rainfalls in Canada have both increased. Together these have led to more extreme weather, such as severe storms and floods.

For more information, please contact:

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