

Message from the Emergency Measures Coordinator:

As you are all aware, we are experiencing water flow rates significantly higher than what has been predicted by Saskatchewan Watershed Authority a few months ago. The Qu'Appelle River, Wascana Creek, Flying Creek and the Cottonwood are all experiencing extremely high flow rates causing flooding in various locations throughout the rural municipality.

The flow rates are beyond the capacity of many of the municipality's culverts and are causing intermittent flooding of municipal roads. For your own safety please be sure to adhere to road closure signs and/or barricades.

Homeowners are encouraged to take any mitigation measures available to them to protect their personal property. The Province has an Emergency Flood Damage Reduction program where homeowners may be able to obtain funding for flood mitigation measures. More information regarding the program, daily forecasts and flood information can be obtained at www.saskfloods.ca.

The municipality has about 3,000 unfilled sand bags available for purchase. You can contact the municipal office to arrange for pick-up of the bags. Sand will be available but the purchaser will need to fill the bags. If you are requiring pumps you can contact Flaman's in Southey, they apparently have 4" pumps left.

If you see any damages, dangers or frozen culverts throughout the municipality, please be sure to contact the Municipal Office at 731-2404.

The municipality's Emergency Measures Plan can be viewed on the municipal website at www.lumsden.ca for your information.

It is our hope that all community members, all businesses and certainly all organizations within the municipality are able to understand what their responsibilities are in the event of a flood.

- 1) Certainly all individuals are responsible for the safety of each other and their families and personal property first. It is important that everyone has an evacuation plan and a way to inform others of your whereabouts in the event of separation during an evacuation.
- 2) The community as a whole is responsible for it's own safety and security in as much as they are capable of managing without outside support and response. That means that we have steamed culverts, purchased sand bags for ratepayers, monitoring situations closely and closing roads when necessary.
- 3) In the event that the community is overwhelmed by the incident, we have the capacity to declare an emergency which will then give us extra support and powers from the provincial and federal levels as well as the capacity to make decisions for the safety of the people living within vulnerable areas.

The most important consideration right now is that we are going to work together no matter what sort of difficulties we face this spring and we know that neighbours help neighbours all of the time. That sort of trust and reliance will bring us together for whatever comes our way. Emergency Preparedness Guides are available on our website. We hope every household takes the opportunity to review the material in order to assure their own preparedness in the event of spring flooding.

We will provide updates and water flow information on the home page of our website at www.lumsden.ca, under the heading “Emergency Preparedness”. Questions can be directed to your municipal office.

Don Barnett
Emergency Measures Organization Coordinator