



## REPORT N° ADMIN 2019-009

<b>Date</b>	2019-08-07
<b>Submitted by</b>	Helen Collier
<b>Subject</b>	Flood 2019
<b>File N°</b>	n/a

1) **NATURE/GOAL:**

To provide Council with an information report on the 2019 Flood.

2) **DIRECTIVE/PREVIOUS POLICY:**

The emergency plan of the City of Clarence-Rockland dictates that under a declared emergency situation the CAO is responsible to manage the situation with guidance from the CEMC (Community Emergency Management Co-ordinator) and to report back to Council after the events. Under the Purchasing By-Law when the CAO makes emergency expenses the CAO must report back to Council.

3) **DEPARTMENT'S RECOMMENDATION :**

**WHEREAS** the municipality of Clarence-Rockland recently experienced a severe flooding event on April 26, 2019 and has experienced incremental operating and capital costs;

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the council of the City of Clarence-Rockland hereby requests the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to activate the Municipal Disaster Recovery Assistance program; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** Frédéric Desnoyers, Treasurer, be and is hereby delegated with the authority to verify and attest to the accuracy of the financial claim to be submitted.

**ATTENDU QUE** la municipalité de Clarence-Rockland a connu de graves inondations le 26 avril 2019 et a subi des coûts de fonctionnement et d'immobilisation supplémentaires ;

**QU'IL SOIT RÉSOLU QUE** par la présente, le conseil de la Cité de Clarence-Rockland demande au ministre des Affaires municipales et du Logement d'activer le programme municipal d'aide de secours aux sinistrés après une catastrophe ; et

**QU'IL SOIT AUSSI RÉSOLU QUE** Frédéric Desnoyers, trésorier, soit autoriser de vérifier et attester l'exactitude de la réclamation financière à être soumise.

4) **BACKGROUND:**

Starting in late April, and lasting into early June 2019, water levels started to rise in the Ottawa River. This was following a previous peak water level more customary with annual spring flooding, and was a result of large scale melting upriver.

As a result of significant overland flooding occurring within Clarence-Rockland and more water expected, on Friday, April 26, 2019 at 10:25 a.m. the Mayor declared a State of Emergency pursuant to the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*. Immediately the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) was opened.

The State of Emergency was terminated on June 5, 2019 at 11:10 a.m.

5) **DISCUSSION:**

During the early hours of the flood situation, a situational briefing was held within the EOC immediately following the declaration of a State of Emergency.

The EOC team was made up of many members; CAO as Incident Commander, Director of Protective Services as the CEMC, the Mayor, the Director of Infrastructure and Planning, the Director of Finance, the Director of Community Services, the Manager of Engineering and Operations, the Communications Officer, UCPR representatives (including: Paramedics, CEMC, Social Services, Infrastructure, and other services in attendance), OPP, the Victim Services, the Medical Officer of Health, the Electrical Safety Authority (ESA), Enbridge, the Ontario Office of the Fire Marshall and Emergency Management (OFMEM) and the Red Cross. There were many support staff involved, including 60 Clarence-Rockland staff members assisted with the emergency operation.

Due to the evolving nature of the emergency, in the early days of the flood, operational periods were established to ensure improved situational awareness, and the EOC team met twice a day (morning and evening). This allowed the team to assess what ever happened over night and then to look again at the end of the day at what had happened during the day. Initial site visits were done at least daily by the CEMC to look at the conditions first hand. This was critical to providing good information at the EOC meetings. The primary functions and decisions included what resources were required and communication matters. A comprehensive list of what happened in the EOC is summarized in Attachment "A".

There were many offers of assistance from ratepayers, politicians, military, local business, national business, and neighbouring

municipalities. The support was given in many ways from filling sandbags to providing food and supplies.

Following the event, Council received a detailed briefing on June 10, 2019. A full debrief meeting was held on June 20, 2019 with the EOC members. It was a productive 2 hours that resulted in comments to be considered for the next event. A few of the key items included improving communications and organizing volunteers. Provided in Attachment "B" is a summary of the comments from this debrief.

The floods caused a number of homes to be damaged, and in some cases people have had to relocate. The Red Cross was on scene assisting every day to help people register for assistance. Recently they provided the City with some statistics. It provides a quick snapshot of the numbers of people affected. In short, 63 households registered for assistance. See Attachment "C" for more details. The Red Cross was very efficient in dispensing the funds to those in need. After the visit by Minister Goodale, he announced Red Cross funding. Within the week funds started to be given out.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing has two programs to help recover from the floods. The first program, Disaster Recovery Assistance for Ontarians (DRAO), is aimed for individuals, small owner-operated businesses, farms and not-for-profit organizations. This program has been activated for the City of Clarence-Rockland area. The second program, Municipal Disaster Recovery Assistance (MDRA) is to reimburse municipalities for extraordinary cost associated with emergency response and repairs to essential property and infrastructure. The program is activated if the event meets the eligibility criteria for Municipal Disaster Recovery Assistance. The initial claim and supporting documents is to be submitted within 120 days from the event, August 26, 2019.

One of the major criteria is that the eligible costs have to be over 3% of our Own Purpose Taxation levy, which represents \$575,000. The province will reimburse 75% for expenses on the first \$575,000 and 95% for expenses over \$575,000.

For the City of Clarence-Rockland, including an estimate of \$519,000 for road repairs, the municipality would be eligible for a refund of \$912,365 and responsible for \$169,072.

### **Flood Clean Up**

To reduce expenses, the decision was made to remove sandbags from the designated drop off sites. The cost to remove sandbags from properties was foregone. Most property owners garnered their own volunteers to remove sandbags from their properties. Although Council approved Team Rubicon to lead with sandbags removal, they were

unable to mobilize enough resources in time. Completion of the removal is anticipated for July 31, 2019.

### **Flood Mitigation**

The province has established a Task Force to locate the cause and mitigation. The mayor is a member of this Task Force.

Council decided in the 2018 budget discussions not to address a budget for flooding emergencies or any mitigation options. Currently, Chief Wilson is working with the federal government through Public Safety Canada on a long term solution. The federal government has established a program called the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund. This fund supports projects that are a minimum of \$20 million however, they only fund 40%. That would mean an investment of \$12 million for the City of Clarence-Rockland. There are some other smaller programs that staff are pursuing.

6) **CONSULTATION:**

n/a

7) **RECOMMENDATIONS OR COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE/ OTHER DEPARTMENTS:**

n/a

8) **FINANCIAL IMPACT (expenses/material/etc.):**

The City is expecting a net cost of \$169,072 due to the spring flood. The funding of this shortfall will be addressed in the next budget status report.

Costs incurred to date	\$562,437
Future anticipated costs	\$519,000
	-----
Total costs	\$1,081,437
Funding from the Province under MDRA	\$912,365
Net Cost to the City	\$169,072

9) **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:**

n/a

10) **RISK MANAGEMENT:**

n/a

11) **STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS:**

n/a

12) **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:**

Attachment A – Comprehensive List

Attachment B – Summary of the Comments from the Debrief

Attachment C - Red Cross - Financial Assistance Stats

Attachment D – Summary of Flood Cost