

Special Weather Statement

November 15, 2020

Environment Canada has issued a Special Weather Statement for Port Colborne, calling for very strong southwesterly winds gusting to 100+km/hr. These winds will significantly increase water levels and waves along the Lake Erie Shoreline. Residents living along Lake Erie should pay very close attention to water levels and waves in their area and are urged to stay away from the shoreline of Lake Erie during this event. Residents are also advised to close storm shutters and take other flood proofing precautions as necessary. Increased erosion and flooding due to storm surge and strong waves are likely.

What are City staff doing to prepare?

- Staff have been monitoring the weather and will continue to do so to prepare infrastructure, including municipal drains.
- Factors that impact municipal drains during significant rainfalls are:
 - The amount of precipitation;
 - The duration of precipitation; and
 - Wind speed, gusts and the direction of wind.
- An increase in precipitation levels can increase water flow downstream from the drains toward the lake. However, when the wind increases, particularly a south or southwest wind, the levels on Lake Erie increase, pushing the water back into the drains.
- Flood gates on the following drains have been closed to prevent the rising lake levels from impacting areas along the drain and to ensure the watershed has maximum storage capacity available for inland flows:
 - Eagle Marsh Drain
 - Wignell Drain
 - Weaver Drain
 - Oil Mill Creek
- Staff are pre-installing road barricades at H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park and surrounding areas in preparation for increased lake levels, for a quicker response time either during the day or after hours. These areas will be closed to all vehicular traffic, and residents are asked not to drive around barricades.
- Forestry equipment, including chippers and chain saws, have been checked and serviced and chippers have already been hooked up to trucks to respond as needed to downed trees.



PORT COLBORNE

PUBLIC NOTICE

- Contractors have also been placed on standby by and are prepared to respond to an emergency call for down trees in the municipality.
- Crews in urban area are inspecting and clearing catch basins and grates for fallen leaves and debris. They are focusing on our vulnerable areas with mature trees to ensure water can drain properly off the road allowance.
- Both operation and administrative staff are prepared to respond to an after-hours emergency.

If assistance is required during regular hours or after hours, call 905-835-5079.

It is projected that winds will change direction on Monday, Nov. 16. Once water levels subside, operations staff will re-open municipal drain gates and clear out the outlets of debris with heavy equipment.