



## REPORT TO COUNCIL 2025-031

**TO:** Mayor Gerrits and Members of Council

**FROM:** Kevin Watson CRS-S, Roads Superintendent

**DATE:** April 2, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Flood Response

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### **Recommendation**

That Council accept Report to Council 2025-031 as information and provide any direction accordingly.

### **Event**

The GRCA started sending out alerts about the potential for flooding when weather forecasting models assured that the rise in temperature along with heavy rain and above average snowpack as being high risk for March 15-17 in the Grand Valley watershed.

### **Summary**

Roads staff started making preparations early in the week of March 10-14 for the potential fast thaw and subsequent flooding due to higher temperatures and heavy rain that was entering the area Saturday March 15<sup>th</sup>. Patrols through the early morning of Sunday March 16<sup>th</sup> indicated that flooding over roads had begun.

The Dufferin EMC had initiated communications with the 3 lower tiers that would be affected by the rising water levels in the Grand on Friday March 14<sup>th</sup> and continued communications throughout the weekend providing updates, fielding concerns and requests for mutual aid. Global Medic, a quick response disaster relief organization, was reached out to for assistance and they supplied a sandbagging machine to help with the flooding in Grand Valley, East Garafraxa also pitched in at the end to help clean up the road for reopening.

The Grand River in Waldemar was watched very closely and at 1:15pm the 10<sup>th</sup> line was closed from CR 109 to 5 side road by Police order. The residents along the flood plane were canvased at 1:25pm to leave the area as the water levels rose to a few inches under the Station St bridge. Roads staff deployed "Road Closed" trailers and installed barricades near the affected flooding areas and were on standby throughout the duration of the event. Township staff logged between 70-75 hours during this event.

On Monday March 17<sup>th</sup> the water had receded well off the road and Roads staff cleaned any debris left behind off the road and contacted OPP that it was safe, OPP allowed staff to open the road early afternoon, and the closed road segment was removed from Municipal 511.

The Township of Amaranth is fortunate to have “Road Closed” trailers that can be deployed very quickly with other barricade devices to try and restrict entry to closed areas, however it was noticed through the high-water portion of this event that the public ignored these devices and were seen very close to dangerous areas. Staff will be looking into the availability of other “hard closing” devices and signage that could be deployed when an event like this happens again.

The days and hours leading up to and including the event were well monitored by the Dufferin EMC and Township staff, resulting in a collaborative effort that was very successful in its deployment and monitoring.

**Strategic Plan Pillar:** Expand our capacity to serve  
Goal #2 Identify and prioritize areas for service improvement

**Strategic Plan Pillar:** Preserve our Rural Roots  
Goal #3 Prepare for impacts of climate change and reduce our emissions

Respectfully submitted,  
Kevin Watson CRS-S  
Roads Superintendent

