



# Town of Iroquois Falls

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## Media Release - Update on Declaration of Emergency

Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Keeping in line with the ongoing measures to provide remediation towards the persistent high-water levels at Nellie Lake, I would like to issue an update to the residents of Iroquois Falls.

The Town of Iroquois Falls continues to work closely with the Porcupine Health Unit, the Provincial Emergency Operations Center, and our Ministry partners.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing is finalizing its assessment as to whether the flooding on Nellie Lake meets the criteria for activation of the Disaster Recovery Assistance for Ontarians (DRAO) program. Residents affected by flooding around Nellie Lake should not hesitate to contact their insurance providers for assistance. If DRAO is activated, all applicants must first demonstrate they have made use of their insurance coverage, if applicable. Residents should also take pictures of damage to their property and collect receipts and estimates for repairs to support their application if DRAO is activated.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry is implementing plans to reduce Nellie Lake water levels to support the assessment of water damage to property and infrastructure, and to limit increased damage as cooler temperatures approach.

The pumping contractor continues to install equipment on site. Prior to pumping taking place, water quality assessments will take place. Pumping will begin in the coming days and will be closely monitored by the contractor and MNRF. The rate of reduction will be gradual over the next 4-5 weeks to assess impact and ensure levels are reduced to a normal season range and ensure the maintenance of water quality.

As water levels gradually reduce over the next several weeks and you have any questions or concerns with respect to septics or other health matters, please contact the Porcupine Health Unit. If you have concerns over pumping activity, please contact the Town of Iroquois Falls or MNRF Cochrane District Office ([mnrf.coc@ontario.ca](mailto:mnrf.coc@ontario.ca)).

The MNRF, in collaboration with WSP Canada Inc, has provided the Town of Iroquois Falls with a Technical Memorandum outlining the investigation of the high-water levels at Nellie Lake. To request a copy of this report please contact Maureen Reeder, Deputy Clerk, by email at: [mreeder@iroquoisfalls.com](mailto:mreeder@iroquoisfalls.com).

As the water begins to recede, the Porcupine Health Unit (PHU) is reminding residents of the potential effects on their drinking water and sewage systems. The precautionary boil water advisory remains in place for all. It is especially important to continue to boil and test your water supply if you notice any changes, colours or odours in your drinking water. Sewage system impacts may not be immediate and could appear weeks or months down the road. Please continue to complete regular maintenance on the system and watch for signs of sewage system failure. Helpful information can be found in the SepticSmart! booklet ([Septic systems | ontario.ca](https://www.ontario.ca/septic-smart)). The PHU continues to be available to assist residents on these issues as this situation continues.

As we continue to work with various Ministries and government agencies, we once again ask that residents and boaters refrain from making wakes on Nellie Lake until further notice. This is in effort to mitigate more damage to property, shoreline erosion, as well as high water levels. The OPP will continue to patrol the lake to monitor No Wake Zones and request that residents report any incidents to the OPP directly at 1-888-310-1122 so that they may allocate resources accordingly.

The Town of Iroquois Falls wishes to express our gratitude to all members of the community, the Porcupine Health Unit, our Ministry partners and the Provincial Emergency Operations Center for their continued support and collaboration. We will continue to monitor this situation, as we work together towards short and long-term resolutions.

Tory Delaurier, Mayor of Iroquois Falls

For further information please contact:  
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