



November 4, 2013

"DEVOLIN ACCEPTS AECOM'S 2013 GULL RIVER FLOODING REPORT"

MINDEN: Local MP Barry Devolin is announcing the release of a third-party review of Parks Canada's actions during the 2013 Gull River Flooding.

The review was commissioned to help identify the impacts of decisions made before, during, and after the spring flooding of the Gull River sub-watershed. The fact-based look at the flooding between April 18th and May 15th was also intended to support effective communications and decision-making between emergency authorities and other partners in the region.

"Among other things, the report states that on April 17, 2013, conditions were relatively normal along the system with a lighter than usual snowpack," said Devolin. "However, on April 18th and 19th, the single largest 48 hour rain event in more than 50 years occurred with little to no warning."

"The report states that the combination of rain and melting snowpack added 84 to 115 mm of water equivalent to the April rainfalls, doubling the water input to the reservoir lakes," said Devolin. "That combination created the worst possible conditions at the worst possible time. It would be like a 100 vehicle crash on the Don Valley Expressway at the height of rush hour."

"It is interesting to note that the dams at both Gull Lake and Moore Lake were wide open prior to the rain event," said Devolin. "That annual draw down was already occurring as part of the Trent Severn Waterway's schedule of operations."

"Further, the review states that "communication channels between dam owners/operators and levels of government are not clearly defined by law", said Devolin. "I plan on working with my counterparts at the provincial and municipal levels to improve coordination and communications during cases of future incidents that put public safety at risk."

Parks Canada manages water reserves for the Trent-Severn Waterway on a system-wide basis to meet a broad range of stakeholder needs, including municipal water supplies, flood mitigation, commercial activity, fisheries, hydro generation, and recreation. While the Trent-Severn Waterway is open for navigation from May to October, monitoring and managing its watershed is a year-round responsibility.

AECOM's 2013 Gull River Flooding Review can be found here:
<ftp://ftp.pcan2.ca/2013%20Gull%20River%20Flood%20Review%20Final%20Report.pdf>

- 30 -

For more information, please contact:

Barry Devolin, MP
(705) 324-2400 or (866) 688-9881