

Questions and Answers on Floodplain Mapping: Kawartha Lakes South and Kawartha Lakes North

Floodplain Mapping Projects Overview

Otonabee Conservation is currently completing **Floodplain Mapping Projects** in the following areas:

- Meade Creek
- Curtis Creek
- **Kawartha Lakes South**
- **Kawartha Lakes North**
- Lakefield
- Norwood (Ouse River)
- Baxter Creek
- Jackson Creek

The **Kawartha Lakes South** project maps the floodplain along the shoreline of lakes that are within Otonabee Conservation's jurisdiction. This includes:

- the northeastern shore of Pigeon Lake;
- the entire shoreline of Chemong Lake;
- the southern shore of Upper Buckhorn Lake;
- the southern shore of Lower Buckhorn Lake (including Deer Bay);
- the southern shoreline of Lovesick Lake;
- the southern shore of Stony Lake, the entire shoreline of Clear Lake;
- the entire shoreline of Lake Katchewanooka; and.
- the northern shore of Rice Lake.

The **Kawartha Lakes North** project maps the floodplain along the shoreline of lakes that are within the Municipality of Trent Lakes and the Township of North Kawartha. We are doing this work on behalf of the municipalities. This project includes:

- the entire shoreline of Big Bald Lake;
- the entire shoreline of Little Bald Lake;
- the northern shoreline of Upper Buckhorn Lake;
- the northern shoreline of Lower Buckhorn Lake;
- the northern shoreline of Lovesick Lake; and,
- the northern shoreline of Stony Lake.

The total area of these subwatersheds is 4862 km². The area included in this floodplain mapping project is 23 km².

Questions and Answers

Why is Otonabee Conservation mapping the floodplain in my area?

Flooding is one of the biggest natural hazards along the Kawartha Lakes. The area has a long history of flooding in the spring, when the snow melts. The purpose of this project is to create maps that accurately identify areas subject to flooding along the shoreline.

How will the maps be used?

The Kawartha Lakes floodplain maps will enable residents and communities to better prepare for and take action during flooding events. The new floodplain maps will serve three main purposes:

- provide people currently living along the Kawartha Lakes shorelines with information about potential flooding on their property.
- help municipalities and Otonabee Conservation to direct future development outside of the floodplain, to avoid loss of life and property damage, as well as personal injury and stress.
- help identify areas where flooding may impact access to roads and emergency routes, so emergency responders can use alternate routes during flood events.

What is the timeline for completing the floodplain projects?

Technical work on the Kawartha Lakes South and Kawartha Lakes North is now complete and is scheduled to go before municipal councils in fall 2019. All of the projects will be completed in the next two years. Check our website for updates on each project.

How do I know if my property is inside the floodplain?

With our new interactive online resources (found on our [website](#)), you can search for your property and get a more detailed look at the floodplain map.

Why did Otonabee Conservation put my property inside the floodplain? I've never had a flood before.

Floodplain maps are created using remote sensing and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology. Our specialists create high quality digital elevation models of the shorelines and plot the high-water levels, resulting in the floodplains shown on the maps.

It is important to understand that the floodplain maps are planning tools that show where the floodplain is—they do not change it in any way. There are well-established standards that Otonabee Conservation uses for creating the maps.

If my property is inside the floodplain, what does that mean? Can I still build there?

If your property is wholly or partially within the floodplain, you can continue to live on and enjoy your property. You can still sell your property when it is time to move. Knowing that your property is within the floodplain will help you better understand your risk and prepare for any future flooding. Knowing where the floodplain is on your property can help you determine where you can safely construct a new building or addition early in your planning process without having to pay for a surveyor. If you have any questions, staff at Otonabee Conservation and our partnering municipalities are happy to talk to you about how the mapping affects your specific property.

If you would like to talk to Otonabee Conservation staff about how floodplain mapping might affect your property, please check out our project-specific pages or call (705) 745-5791 and ask to speak to planning and permitting staff.

Are the rules around development in floodplains changing?

No, this new mapping does not mean there is a change to any rules regarding development within the flooding hazard. Rules around development and site alteration already exist in provincial policy, municipal documents and permitting policies if your property is within a Conservation Authority jurisdiction. These rules are not changing as a result of the maps; the maps will help Conservation Authority staff, municipal staff and landowners understand how existing rules apply to specific properties.

What are the benefits to communities having floodplain maps available?

Floodplain maps predict the path of floodwaters—the area known as the floodplain. Having up-to-date information helps people and communities plan better. Flooding poses dangers to people and property. Knowing the extent of the floodplain is important in reducing potential property damage and risks to public safety, environmental protection, and emergency management. Effective floodplain management is a key goal of Otonabee Conservation.

Who can I talk to for more information?

Staff at Otonabee Conservation and our partnering municipalities are happy to talk to you about how the mapping affects your property.

If your property is in the Township of Selwyn, the Township of Douro-Dummer or the Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan, please call Otonabee Conservation at 705-745-5791 to speak to planning and permitting staff.

If your property is in the Municipality of Trent Lakes, please contact building and planning staff at 705-738-3800 x233.

If your property is in the Township of North Kawartha, please contact building and planning staff at 705-656-5188.

How can I learn more?

Visit our website for updates on floodplain mapping in your area. To receive updates on floodplain mapping in your area, simply send a message to floodplainmapping@otonabeeconservation.com.

What should I do if I see flooding?

If you are concerned about current flooding conditions, please check our website for flood messages or call our Flood Watch Hotline at (705) 745-5791, extension 228.