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Lakehead Conservation Plans to Dredge Sections of Floodway

The Lakehead Region Conservation Authority is hoping to improve the ability of the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway to handle flood water.

Dredging of sediment is included in the Authority's 2007 Budget.

"It's been seven years since the sediment traps in the Floodway were last dredged," says Chairman Bill Bartley. He explains "Accumulated sediment reduces the Floodway's capacity to pass flood flows when a major storm strikes the City."

The sediment traps are essentially an underwater earthen berm constructed at two locations along the Floodway. As water passes over the berm, sediment and particulate matter falls out and settles to the bottom. There are two sediment traps, located upstream of the CPR Bridge and upstream of Balmoral Street.

The Neebing-McIntyre Floodway has been in operation since 1984. Since that time, the \$15-million structure has regularly diverted flood water from the Neebing River and has protected homes and property downstream. This has allowed for much of the development in the Intercity area.

Funds for the dredging are included in the LRCA's \$2.3-million budget which allows the Authority to administer its water and land management services. This includes the management of our 8 Conservation Areas, Hazelwood Lake Centre, Managed Forests and other lands that include floodplain and erosion control land. Also included in the budget is operation and maintenance of water control structures and erosion control, flood forecasting/warning, providing advice on erosion control, plan input and review, tree planting and forestry activities on our Managed Forest properties, watershed planning and education/outreach within our watershed jurisdiction.