

August 26, 2008

Lakehead Conservation Plans to Dredge Sections of Floodway

Over the next several weeks the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority will be dredging sediment from two sediment traps along the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway to maintain the overall integrity of the Floodway to pass the Regional Storm. In addition, excess sediment will be removed from the entrance to the diversion channel.

“It’s been eight 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 in the Neebing and McIntyre River watershed 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. The two sediment traps are 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 excess water from the Neebing River into the Floodway and has protected homes and property downstream. This has allowed for much of the development in the Intercity area.

To date in 2008, the Floodway diverted surplus flows in April and May for a total of approximately seven days. The Floodway was also operational during the June 6th, 2008 rainfall event and passed flows for eight days between June 6th and June 14th. The Floodway was designed so that excess water is automatically diverted from the Neebing River to the Floodway when required during rainfall/snow melt events.

2009 marks the 25th Anniversary of the completion of the Floodway and the Authority plans to mark the occasion with several special events.