

# Township of Muskoka Lakes Mayor Phil Harding Facebook Post / Update on Flooding in Muskoka

[Phil Harding Mayor](#) is with [Susan Mazan](#) and [6 others](#).

Yesterday at 8:44 AM ·



[#flood2019](#) update. Came across an email sent to me in March 2019 from the MNRF after asking the question about snowpack and water levels. As seen by the attached graph, snowpack in 2019 was the highest since 2013, and based on Lake Muskoka water levels, the MNRF did not draw down the water to even the same levels as 2018 (with lower snowpack). Pretty clear why we flooded. Fyi, 2018 lower snowpack than 2019 with warmer temperatures. 2019, higher snowpack with average temperatures (So MNRF can't blame too much rain or above average temperatures).

Dan Duggan District Manager of the MNRF in Parry Sound in an email to me March 2019 said;

"As you may appreciate, it is not possible for our office to anticipate or predict whether or not flooding will occur each year. While melting snow can contribute to high water levels, there are other contributors to consider when assessing the potential risk of flooding, including warm temperatures and rainfall. Because of challenges with the accuracy of long-range weather forecasts it is challenging to determine flood hazard potential.

The amount of water contained within a snow pack (also referred to as Snow Water Equivalent), at this time, on average in the Muskoka Watershed is approximately 171mm. The water content in snow in Muskoka is above average for this time of year. The fact that we have above average snow pack does not mean flooding will occur, snow pack is one of the factors we consider when making decision. Historically years with above average snow pack do not always correspond with flood years."

So - Back in March the MNRF admitted they have higher than average snowpack with water content at 171mm. And yet they left Lake Muskoka water levels higher then they did in 2018 (with lower

snowpack). Were they anticipating blow average temperatures and no rain whatsoever from April - July this year? If they anticipated "average" temps - Lake Muskoka should have been drawn down lower than last year.

Please share and forward this post regarding the Flood and more importantly the Muskoka River Water Management Plan that needs to include provisions for Climate Change and needs to be significantly updated. And most important - advise, request and politely demand an update the MRWMP with the our elected officials in the Province. Enough is enough.

Doug Ford Premier of Ontario [#FordNation](#) [doug.fordco@pc.ola.org](mailto:doug.fordco@pc.ola.org)

Norm Miller MPP Parry Sound/ Muskoka

[norm.miller@pc.ola.org](mailto:norm.miller@pc.ola.org)

Ps. Photos are from the Muskoka River April 24, 2019 taken downstream of Bracebridge, heading out to Lake Muskoka. Remember this is at the entrance to Lake Muskoka so water is extremely high, overall lake Muskoka is high but pictures are deceiving. What I do know is that currently on the big part of Lake Muskoka - lake levels are at or just about to exceed 2013 Flood levels.

