

Recommendation:

That the report C.A.O.-2025-06, dated April 15, 2025 regarding the Ice Storm update be received for information.

Overview:

On Friday, March 28, 2025, the Township of Douro Dummer declared a Significant Weather Event in anticipation of the impending freezing rain / ice storm anticipated to impact the community the following day and through-out the weekend. As predicted the storm arrived and, in its wake, significant damage was done that resulted in blocked roads, fallen trees and limbs, downed utility lines, and widespread power outages that impacted 100% of our community. In consultation with the Fire Chief and CAO, the Mayor declared a State of Emergency Sunday, March 30.

The Township's first priority in this type of emergency is to ensure that we open roads for emergency access. This was achieved by the coordinated efforts of Public Works staff and our firefighters. Staff do not work within hydro line related trees, due to the inherent risk of injury. Public Works and other internal departments with trained staff and contractors continued by establishing two lanes of traffic and roadway clean-up, that continues at this time. To support the work of Hydro One in assessing the damage, Township Fire Fighters documented all roads and areas of roads with downed utility lines, highlighting hydro specific spots as a priority. All roads including private roads are accessible for emergency access.

The Township's second order of responsibility is to assess the state of the community and our facilities and ensure we have ability to offer warming, communications and hygiene for residents without power. In the first 72 hours post-storm all facilities in Douro-Dummer were without power which limited our ability to provide consistent and comprehensive services. Working with the City of Peterborough and Peterborough County, warming centres were established in several public spaces in the City and at the Norwood Community Centre. These spaces were available to all and anecdotally staff can confirm that there was some uptake both in the City of Peterborough and Norwood by Douro-Dummer residents. The Township was able to establish a smaller scale warming and device charging centre at Townhall and as the week progressed and areas were being repowered, the library was able to offer a secondary location extended days and hours.

In the Township's initial assessment, none of our buildings were physically damaged in the storm. We lost power to all of our facilities, including all fire stations. Townhall lost telephone access and established a temporary phone number until our traditional contact lines were reestablished on April 7th. Our parks suffered marginal damages primarily down tree limbs with the most significant damages happening on the Robert Johnson Eco-Forest Trail. A tree service contractor was retained to remove all tree

limbs that posed a risk to public safety in our parks and this work was completed in several locations. The Warsaw Firehall playground and Johnson Trail remain closed until further assessments and work can be completed to ensure they are safe for the public.

As our residents clean up their properties and are repowered with hydro, the Township has modified the operations of the Hall's Glen Transfer Station. We are accepting brush and spoiled food waste free of charge and have provided additional days with extended hours using additional staff to help manage volumes. In addition, there are several other locations in the City of Peterborough and Peterborough County to drop off food waste and yard waste free of charge. At this time, the Township does not intend to offer curbside pick up for yard waste, brush and debris related to the storm event. We did not provide this service in the aftermath of the 2022 Derecho Weather event, and this is also consistent with the surrounding Townships and County. Built-up urban and settlement areas like the City of Peterborough are providing this service.

Using the Township's social media channels and the corporate website, staff provided several updates daily related to the ice storm. The wealth of information and directions for assistance have been well received, regularly shared and effective for our community. Staff will continue to send out ice storm related content and information while the community continues its clean up.

Clean up efforts remain on-going and as our road infrastructure saw the most significant impacts, it will take the longest period to recover. The Township will continue to contract road clearing work when appropriate to local third-party organizations. Parks staff continue to be reassigned to Public Works to assist with chainsaw and wood chipping work. As well, the Township has called back all outside seasonal workers (2 from Parks and 1 from Public Works) four weeks early when available to further assist with the clean up. Public Works has hired a trained contract employee on a casual basis to assist with clean up. This represents a limited response using mostly Township resources and acknowledges that it will take time to complete this work and, in some instances, put our regular service delivery behind schedule. There are further resources available from the local and regional private sector or through the Province of Ontario, however speeding up our clean up work does cost significantly more.

Currently the threshold to be eligible to be considered for financial assistance from the province requires that dedicated clean up costs need to exceed 3% of our annual operating budget which is approximately \$200,000 in expenditure. Based on the work and costs to date, and projecting the work to be done, there is significant risk that even with paid third-party contractors doing most of the work we could struggle to meet the minimum threshold to be considered for reimbursement. Should Council determine that they would like to alter our level of service delivery or want to take more expenditure to

restore the community on a more aggressive timeline, staff request that they provide this direction through resolution.

Conclusion:

This report is intended to be a high-level overview of Township response to the 2025 Ice Storm and expect once the State of Emergency has been ended and clean up is well underway to bring a more fulsome report with full costs, impacts, positive experiences and areas for improvement. To date while there have been significant impacts to our public properties and many privately owned properties, there has not been significant damage to Township equipment or our owned infrastructure.

Financial Impact:

At this time costs are being tracked but the full impact will depend on the service level and expenditures as directed by Council.

