

FEBRUARY 2021

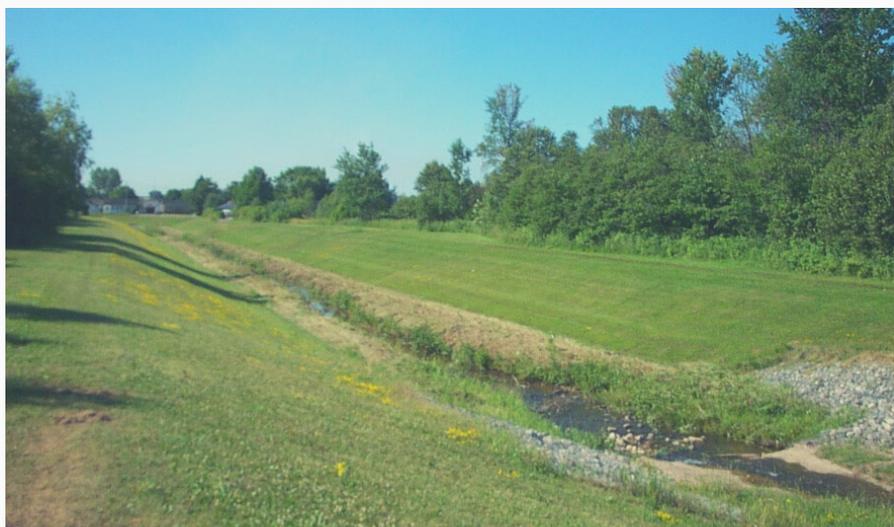
THINK SAFETY – IT COULDN'T HURT.

A Friendly Safety Message From the SSMRCA

Why You Shouldn't Use Flood Control Channels for Recreation

While local flood control channels may look like a great place for a walk or for kids to play, don't be fooled. These areas have a specific job, and that's to move water away from historically flood-prone neighbourhoods. Because of this, they are designed to have water flowing in and out of them, sometimes all year long (from rainfall and snowmelt) which makes them an unsafe place to walk or play. See for yourself, the next time you venture out. Look around the edges of the channel and at the beginning or end where there are large culverts and grates.

You'll often see open moving water, even in the winter! No matter how cold it seems outside or how thick the ice may appear, temperature changes can cause major variations in ice thickness. Air pockets are also easily formed under the surface and contaminants like salt weaken the ice. All these factors combined, create dangerous and unpredictable conditions that put your safety at risk.



Flood Control

Since its inception in 1963 the Sault Ste. Marie Region Conservation Authority has completed more than five flood control projects:

- Bennett-West Davignon Diversion Channel
- Central Creek Flood Control Channel
- Clark Creek Flood Control Channel
- East Davignon Flood Control Channel
- Fort Creek Dam, Reservoir & Flood Control Channel





Be aware, take care

REDUCE YOUR RISK, YOUR SAFETY IS OUR GREATEST TREASURE

The SSMRCA would like to extend a warning to residents and visitors to use extreme caution when close to rivers, creeks and flood control channels. Potential increases in water levels and flows can be especially dangerous and stream banks can be slippery. Please keep children and pets away from frozen and/or flowing water.



Now, more than ever, we know the global pandemic and the state of emergency measures are creating a need to get outside, be active and enjoy nature. With that in mind, we'd like to assure residents that our conservation areas and recreational trails are open for passive walk-through use as long as visitors follow the safety guidelines including:

- Visit only with people from your own household and avoid gatherings
- Maintain a physical distance of 2 metres/6 feet from all other users
- Be patient and respectful to other trail users
- Always have a mask on hand (yes, even when you're outdoors) in case you aren't able to maintain the recommended distancing from others.
- Take home all litter and don't forget to scoop your fur friends poop
- Remember "Dogs-on-leash" is always the rule.

Source: Adapted from Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority "Stay off Stormwater Ponds"

GET SMART, USE SAFETY FROM THE START.

The unobstructed flow of water from the northern part of the watershed, through the City of Sault Ste. Marie to the St. Marys River is essential.

Garbage, mattresses, shopping carts and bicycles don't belong on or near flood control channels. Yard waste like grass clippings and leaves can clog grates and outlets and cause localized flooding.

