September 2013

Dear Council Head and Members of Council

On May 16, 2013, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, in response to local council motions, declared the Town of Bancroft and the Municipality of Hastings Highlands as disaster areas for the purpose of the Ontario Disaster Relief Assistance Program (ODRAP)

The Town of Bancroft and the Municipality of Hastings Highlands experienced flood conditions during the last weekend of April, caused by heavy rain falls in addition to the spring thaw. This flood led to severe infrastructure damage to homes and small businesses, as well as the temporary closure of schools and businesses in both municipalities.

A Disaster Relief Committee has been appointed in accordance with the requirements of ODRAP in order to coordinate both fund-raising efforts and to adjudicate claims from private residents, farmers and small businesses that were impacted by the flood.

The Committee has set a financial goal of $87,500 and is making measurable gains towards meeting it by the fundraising campaign deadline of October 31, 2013. This $87,500 goal was established following preliminary assessments by the Provincial Disaster Assessment Team. Under ODRAP, the province will top up funds raised to the amount that is needed to pay eligible claims at 90 per cent up to a maximum of $2:$1 ratio. Claims for financial support will continue to be submitted until August 30, 2013.

The Bancroft and Hastings Highlands area is predominately rural in nature and is not densely populated. For that reason, we know that the $87,500 goal is a challenging one but we are working extremely hard towards that end and are confident we can reach it. Our fundraising campaign began less than a month ago and early results are encouraging. For your information, I am enclosing a copy of our brochure which is a living document and will evolve as events are completed and new initiatives roll out.

On behalf of the Bancroft and Hastings Highlands Disaster Relief Committee, I am asking municipal councils across the province to support our fundraising efforts by making a donation to this worthy cause. Contributions in any amount will be gratefully received.

Cheques should be made out to Bancroft and Hastings Highlands Disaster Relief Committee and mailed to the Municipality of Hastings Highlands at 33011 Highway 62 N, PO Box 130, Maynooth, ON K0L 2S0.

Yours truly

Dennis Purcell
DRC Chair