

Date: May 22, 2022

# EXPANDED CLOSURE AND EVACUATION IN THE NORTHERN AREA OF WHITESHELL PROVINCIAL PARK

Manitoba Environment, Climate and Parks is advising of a mandatory evacuation order and expanded closure area in the northern portion of Whiteshell Provincial Park **effective May 24, 2022**. Manitoba Parks continues to co-ordinate with Emergency Measures Organization and Manitoba Hydro in its preparedness and response.

The affected area for this order and expanded closure extends from the west entrance at the north end of Whiteshell Provincial Park along Provincial Road (PR) 307 eastward to the junction of PR 307 and PR 309. **Affected areas include Sylvia Lake, Eleanor Lake, Otter Falls, Barrier Bay and Nutimik Lake and the current Betula Lake closure area announced on Friday.**

Rising water levels and rapidly evolving conditions are posing a significant risk to public safety.

Tuesday, May 24 at noon: Manitoba Parks will conclude preparatory activities like sand bagging operation at Otter Falls.

Tuesday, May 24 at 5 p.m.: The director of parks will implement the expanded closure area requiring all residents and park users to evacuate the expanded closure area by this time. The evacuation order and expanded closure will apply to all cottage subdivisions, commercial areas, campgrounds, group use, day use, recreational and picnic areas, playgrounds, trails and beaches. During the closure no person should reside or enter into the closure area of the park.

If cottagers have any question, concerns or urgent matters regarding the high water please contact Manitoba Parks at **204-340-6769** between 8am and 6pm daily. To report an emergency please contact the RCMP via 204-348-7177.

