

Public Notice

Declaration of Significant Weather Event – O. Reg 239/02

February 15, 2025 – 9:30 p.m.

Environment Canada has issued a [Winter Storm Warning](#) across Simcoe County indicating a **winter storm, and snowfall warning** for our area. These conditions are favourable for the development of fast accumulating snow, near zero visibility, and blowing snow due to winds. As a result, the Township of Oro-Medonte is declaring this Significant Weather Event under [O. Reg 239/02](#) effective **February, 15, 2025 at 9:30 p.m.** until further notice.

As per the Ontario Municipal Act, a municipality may declare a significant weather event when a weather hazard, either forecast or occurring, has the potential to pose a significant danger to users of the roadway in which they have authority. This declaration suspends the standard timelines required for municipalities to meet maintenance objectives prescribed by Provincial regulation.

Environment Canada's forecast includes snowfalls in excess of 30 cm's, peak snowfall rates of 5 cm's per hour, and near zero visibility, which could result in fast accumulation, resulting in downed trees and possible drifting. Please continue to monitor alerts and forecasts issued by Environment Canada or tweets using <https://x.com/ECCCWeatherON>.

With potential power outages, streetlights may also be impacted. To report Hydro One outages, contact 1-800-434-1235 or via the storm centre <https://www.hydroone.com/power-outages-and-safety>.

The declaration will not change how or when the Municipality performs maintenance operations. However, it may take staff longer than usual to bring roads and sidewalks back to a state of repair.

Roads crews are responding to the winter storm on Township roadways. However, the winter storm may cause road conditions to change rapidly, and unnecessary travel should be avoided. Public safety is the Municipality's top priority; should conditions become unsafe, road closures may be necessary.

Notice will be provided when the Declaration of Significant Weather Event has been removed based on the Township's ability to achieve maintenance standards requirements.

To report emergencies or downed power lines please call 9-1-1.

To report trees on Township roadways and road related concerns, please contact 705-487-2171 and follow the prompts.

Karla Musso-Garcia, CET, CRS-I
Manager Operations