

Report to Council

Report Title:	Pinkerton Flooding		
Prepared By:	Sarah Johnson, Deputy Clerk, Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer, and Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer		
Department:	Administration		
Date:	March 24, 2026		
Report Number:	CAO2026-07	File Number:	C11AD, P03PI
Attachments:	Pinkerton Flooding Updates from Mayor – March 20 th , 17 th and 14 th , 2026		

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number CAO2026-07 – Pinkerton Flooding, prepared by Sarah Johnson, Deputy Clerk, Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer, and Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer and in doing so authorizes the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) to approve and execute necessary purchases and expenditures required to mitigate impacts and damages associated with the Pinkerton flooding event, notwithstanding that a formal emergency has not been declared;

And further that these purchases be funded, where applicable, from the Emergency Measures Reserve Fund;

And further that staff report back to Council on expenditures and funding recovery opportunities as information becomes available.

Report:

Background:

The Municipality is currently responding to active flooding conditions in the Pinkerton area due to the breach of a privately-owned dyke and dam following an intense natural rainfall event and snowmelt, which has partially redirected the Teeswater River toward three occupied households. Based on data collected this has been reported as a 1:100-year flood event in Pinkerton.

Bruce County has also closed Bruce Road 15 between Bruce Road 3 and Bruce Road 20 due to flooding conditions from the Teeswater River in Pinkerton and Emergency responders are using alternate routes to provide services when needed. A [detour route](#) is also in place for the closure of Bruce Road 15 between Sideroad 5 Greenock and Greenock-Brant Townline.

While the situation has not met the threshold for a formally declared emergency, immediate action is required to mitigate ongoing and potential damage to municipal infrastructure, private property, and public safety.

Financial Implications:

Under the Municipality's Purchasing and Procurement Policy adopted through By-Law 2025-061, expenditures are generally required to follow approved procurement processes and budget authorizations. However, urgent situations—particularly those involving risk to property or service disruption—may require expedited decision-making and are permitted under the policy.

Analysis:

The Municipality became aware of some flooding in this area on the evening of Thursday, March 13th, 2026. Since that time the breach of the dyke was confirmed resulting in a formal Municipal and agency response to coordinate efforts. Formal communications and wellness checks were conducted with affected households with information sharing. The Walkerton and Hanover Fire Departments conducted sandbagging efforts to minimize further damage to certain households on Saturday March 14th, 2026, diverting water away from household foundations.

The Municipality's Emergency Control Group regularly meets with Bruce County, Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority, the Ministry of Natural Resources, and the Ministry of Emergency Preparedness to discuss updates on the situation, including water monitoring levels and appropriate measures to take to mitigate the impact to affected households. Staff from B.M. Ross and Associates Limited have been retained on behalf of the Municipality.

The Municipality has also engaged various agencies including the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre Deputy Commander, Victim Services Grey-Bruce, and Canadian Red Cross. The Municipality is continuing discussions and providing required information to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing on possible Disaster Funding Assistance Programs and opportunities for the Municipality and homeowners should this event meet the Minister's eligibility criteria.

Under the advice of the Municipality's Engineer, B.M. Ross and Associates Limited, and in consultation with Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority and the Ministry of Natural Resources, an emergency cofferdam which is a temporary watertight enclosure was constructed on March 19th and 20th to help protect affected households, mitigate risks from further establishment of the Teeswater River flowing in this direction, and protect further degradation of the County Road due to the long-term nature of this event. This is a coordinated effort between local contractors, Hydro One, and staff to install meter bags with a crane to mitigate risks associated with the high velocity water flow.

The Residents:

The Municipality continues to maintain regular communication with affected property owners.

Mayor Peabody has issued two (3) statements so far on March 14th, 17th and 20th providing updates to the public on the ongoing flooding situation in Pinkerton.

A dedicated webpage, Brockton.ca/PinkertonFlooding, was created to serve as a resource for related flooding information.

The Municipality will continue to post information related to this matter on our Pinkerton Flooding webpage and distribute notices to residents through the website News email subscription service, and social media.

Financial Expenses:

The current flooding conditions present an urgent and evolving situation requiring immediate procurement of goods and services, including but not limited to:

- Flood mitigation materials (e.g., sandbags, pumps, barriers)
- Equipment rentals and contractor services
- Road and infrastructure protection measures
- Emergency response support services

While a formal emergency declaration has not been made, the circumstances align with the intent of urgent procurement provisions within the policy, particularly where delays could result in increased damage or service disruption.

The Purchasing and Procurement Policy allows for flexibility in urgent situations and recognizes that Department Heads may proceed with emergency-related purchases, with reporting to Council as soon as possible. This report seeks to formalize and extend that authority to the CAO and CFO to ensure timely and coordinated decision-making.

Providing this authorization ensures:

- Rapid response to mitigate damages
- Reduced administrative delays
- Consistent oversight and financial accountability
- Alignment with policy intent while maintaining transparency

Funding Recovery:

Staff are actively working with the Province of Ontario to determine eligibility for financial assistance programs, including potential disaster recovery funding.

Any eligible costs incurred through response and mitigation efforts will be documented and submitted for reimbursement where applicable.

Next Steps:

The Municipality will continue to coordinate with external agencies on navigating the best path forward to remediate this issue while prioritizing the safety of affected homeowners.

Municipal crews continue to attend the area daily, conduct site inspections, ongoing monitoring, and maintain communications with the affected residents. Bruce County and Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority also conduct daily site inspections twice a day and communicate any changes in water levels with the Municipality.

The Municipality remains in an **Enhanced Monitoring State**, with the Municipal Emergency Control Group meeting regularly to assess conditions and coordinate response efforts. At this time, a State of Emergency has **not** been declared and is not required to access Provincial funds if eligible. The safety and well-being of residents remain the Municipality's highest priority.

Due to elevated water levels and limited access to the site, it is expected that repairs will take time.

Brockton's Community Goals:

The content and recommendations in this report support advancing the priorities to **Build a Better Brockton** in one or more of the following areas: **Heritage, Culture, and Community, Quality of Life, Municipal Governance, Land Use Planning and the Natural Environment**, and/or **Economic Development**.

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective? Yes

At present there is **\$95,286 available in the Emergency Measures Reserve Fund**.

As noted earlier, expenditures related to the flooding response will be drawn from this reserve as required.

Staff will continue to:

- Monitor expenditures closely
- Report back to Council on financial impacts
- Identify any budget pressures

Respectfully Submitted by:



Sarah Johnson, Deputy Clerk



Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer



Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer