







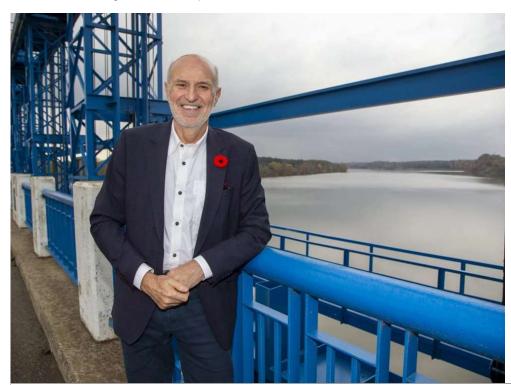
Local News

Climate change hits home: Western researcher projects grim flooding scenarios

What used to be called a 100-year-flood in London is now occurring every 30 years, says a Western University researcher who has just released the first flood-impact map of its kind in Canada.

Serena Marotta

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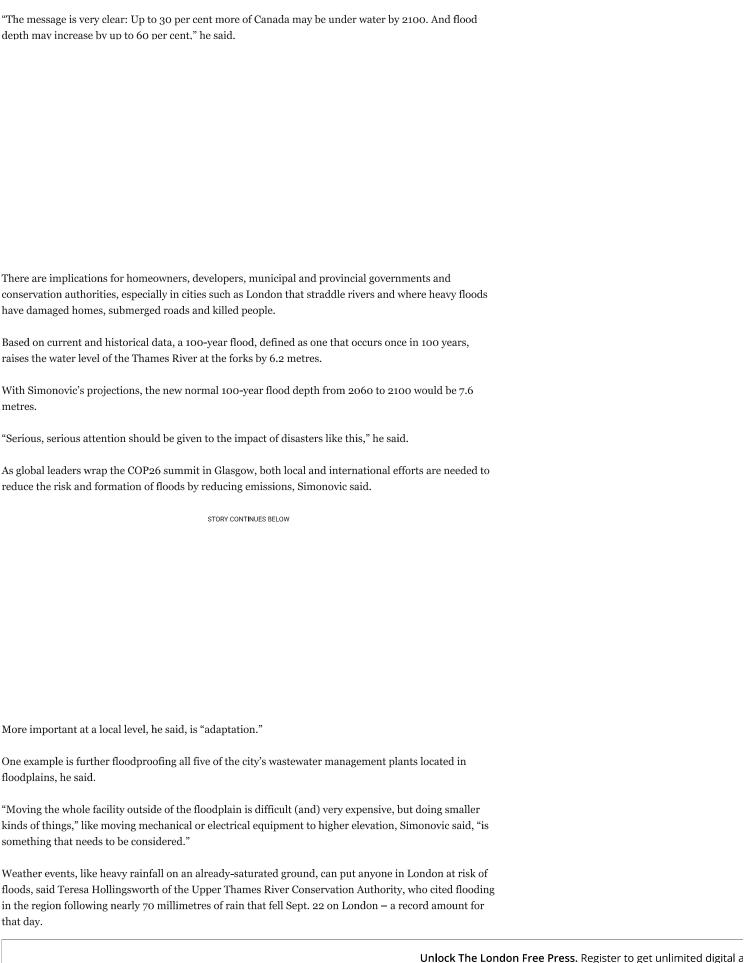
And the outlook is even more grim, for London and many parts of Canada, said Slobodan Simonovic, an engineering professor and flood risk expert who developed the map that projects flooding in the next 80 years using different climate change scenarios caused by global warming.



"Definitely, there is a potential for very large floods (in London)," he said.

Simonovic used 150,000 reference documents – including current and historical rainfall and snow-melt runoff data and a range of climate change projections – to create the interactive map that allows users to view predictions of the best, mid and worst-case scenario of flooding and inundation (water covering

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In the past, large floods typically happened in the spring when snow melt was worsened by rainfall, Hollingsworth said. Now, due to warming climate, there are "more midwinter melt flood events due to melting snow in January and February," she said, adding that big flood events can happen "right over Christmas."

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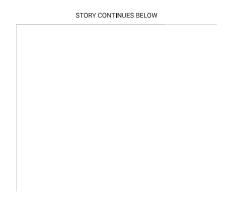


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said.

Going forward, Simonovic said regulations to restrict new development in high-risk areas are "essential for preventing future losses," citing the catastrophic 2013 floods in Calgary that caused \$5 billion in damage.



Though London doesn't face snow melt from mountains or the same precipitation as Calgary - and there are protective measures in place here, like the Fanshawe Dam - Simonovic warned, "the level of protection is not sufficient.

"Definitely, there is a potential for very large floods (in London)," he said.

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FACT BOX

- A "100-year-flood" is a flood that statistically has a one per cent chance of occurring in any given
- A flood plain is an area of land, generally flat and next to a river or stream, that is prone to flooding. This area gets covered in water when the river floods.
- Simonovic's map offers detailed information, like surface elevation and water depth. It can be accessed here: https://www.floodmapviewer.com/









