



MEDIA RELEASE

January 27, 2024

Two Male Kayakers Rescued from the Otter Creek

On Saturday January 27th, 2024, at about 4:03 p.m., the Municipality of Bayham Fire Department, Elgin County OPP and St. Thomas/Elgin EMS all responded to a report of two people in the Otter Creek holding to a branch in the area of Dennis Road and Calton Line in the Municipality of Bayham. Upon arrival, fire crews prepared for the water rescue. The first task was locating the parties involved as they were reported some 200 – 300 meters down river. As crews were heading down to locate the parties a third party yelled from the other side of the bank advising he just left the two people in the water.

The Bayham Water Rescue team were able to locate the two people who were meters from the bank holding onto a branch. The current was extremely swift. It should be noted that the Long Point Conservation Authority had issued a flood warning in the area noting the dangers of the Otter Creek.

The water rescue team was able to use an inflatable rescue craft tethered to the shore and make their way to the two parties. Both parties were pulled into the rescue craft and brought back to shore. All parties returned to where the emergency vehicles were located.

The two males in the 30's were treated by the paramedics on scene.

It was learnt that all three parties had been kayaking down the Otter Creek, however due to the swift current two kayaks capsized while the other party made it to the river bank on the other side. This was the male who was yelling from across the bank when Fire Department originally arrived.

Fire Chief Baranik cannot emphasize enough for people to heed the warning issued by the Long Point Conservation Authority and for people to stay away from the banks and rivers. He added that by these parties kayaking down the Otter Creek under these conditions, not only do they risk their lives, but they also risk the lives of the first responders who had to go out in those dangerous conditions and rescue them. The Fire Department was grateful that they were wearing their PFD's which no doubt saved their lives.

For further information, please contact:

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