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Publications mail agreement # 40063862 www.mindentimes.ca Thursday, May 11, 2017
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Flooding sends Minden Hills into emergency



Michael Bainbridge pulls his boat with daughters Naiomi and Clementine down a flooded Anson Street from his house to catch the school bus to Haliburton on Monday morning, May 8 in Minden. So far Bainbridge said his sump pump is doing its job. The Gull River overflowed its banks, flooding residential areas since Friday. The last time the area was flooded was only four years ago. /DARREN LUM Staff

by **CHAD INGRAM and SUE TIFFIN**
Times Staff

For the second time in just more than four years, flooding of the Gull River plunged Minden Hills township into a state of emergency last weekend.

Signs of an impending flood were evident last week, with road closures and washouts. On Friday, May 5, Minden Hills closed Anson, Orde and McKnight Streets, along

with Invergordon Avenue, as the river began to cover the streets of the village.

With heavy rainfall during the weekend, Minden Hills Reeve and Haliburton County Warden Brent Devolin declared a state of emergency in Minden Hills on Saturday, May 6.

The declaration of a state of emergency means the municipality can avail itself of provincial resources, such as disaster relief funding.

During the most intense period of flooding, the river rose nearly two metres in a span of six days.

Thronges of residents and volunteers came out to assist Minden Hills staff with the tying and transport of sandbags during the weekend and in the days following. A new, automated sandbagging machine the township just purchased in March for \$35,000 and which can fill four sandbags concurrently using a foot pump system was put to the test.

"It's the best money we've ever spent," Devolin said. "It's been a godsend."

Minden resident Micheon Hutchings was on hand with her pickup truck.

"I saw it online, that's how I came here," Hutchings said. "I'm just out here to help. I live here, I have a truck that can help people. You're called to help, so I'm here to help. I just saw town and it was insane. My husband came home and took my son and I said, I'm

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