

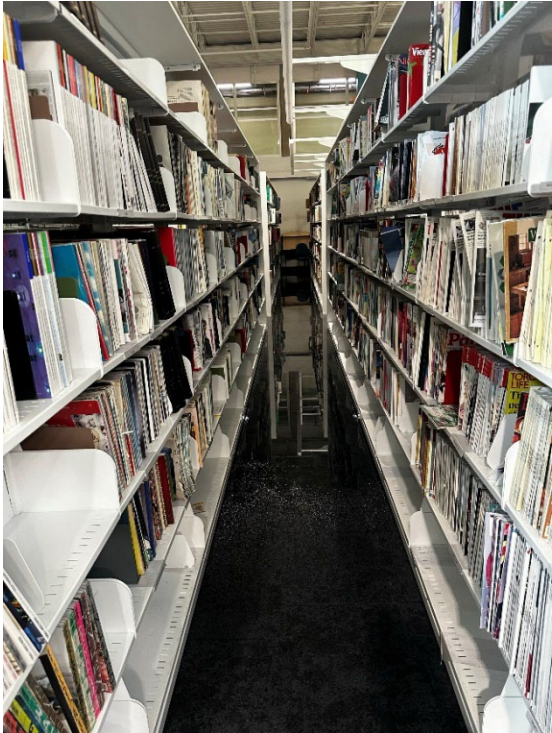
# FLASH FLOODING HITS SHERIDAN COLLEGE, PROMPTING SWIFT RESPONSE AND RECOVERY



**Oakville, ON** – On July 15 and 16, 2024, Southern Ontario experienced severe flash flooding with over 120mm of rain causing significant disruptions across the Greater Toronto Area. Sheridan College was among the institutions affected by this extreme weather event. As a result of coordinated efforts between Sheridan’s team and their contractors, the impacted areas were restored and operational by the start of the September academic term.

The torrential rain began on the evening of July 15, leading to the overflow of the Morrison drainage creek, which runs through the center of Sheridan’s Oakville campus. The overflow caused severe flooding in the C-Wing basement which houses the District Energy Center. As the basement filled with overflowing rain, the catch basins at ground level became overwhelmed by the sheer volume of water, causing the excess to infiltrate and spread through the college’s library.

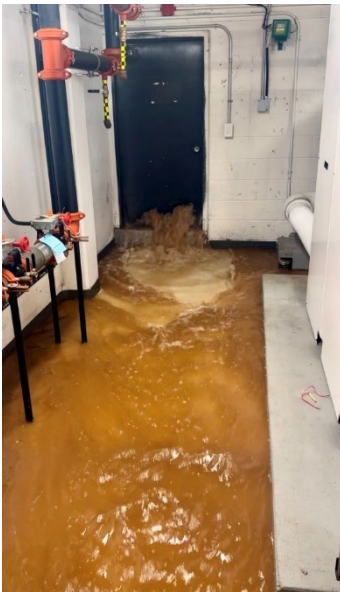
Both the Library & Learning Services and the Facilities & Sustainable Infrastructure teams acted swiftly to activate control measures to mitigate flooding impacts. Library Services staff worked through the evening to catalogue and store physical books, protecting them from moisture damage caused by increased humidity in the space. The



Facilities team redirected incoming water by fortifying doorways and clearing drains of debris that was overflowing from the creek. During the evening, a restoration contractor was engaged to deploy industrial fans and dehumidifiers to support in drying efforts. By the end of the night, critical books and literature had been safely stored, and dozens of mechanical devices and control measures were in place to promote airflow and reduce moisture. It appeared that our goal moving forward was to assess the damage and begin a remediation plan, or so we thought.



The situation worsened on July 16 with another massive rain event, exacerbating the previous days' flooding. Despite ongoing remediation efforts, the additional rain caused further damage. The



teams were prepared and quickly took action to minimize the impact. Library Services continued their efforts to catalogue, sort, and store books. Sheridan's IT Department removed all electronics from the affected areas to prevent damage and facilitate expedited building repairs. The Faculty of Arts, Animation, & Design sorted their extensive list of technology equipment and took it upon themselves to mop hallways and ensure a safe passageway for students and staff. Meanwhile, the Facilities team was outside sandbagging doors, digging water runoff trenches, building retaining walls, installing sump pumps, and clearing overgrown brush in the creek to promote water flow. After four hours of emergency corrective measures, the rain stopped, and the creek began to recede and flow at a reasonable rate. We were now able to solely focus on our remediation efforts and prioritize getting the library and surrounding areas back online to service our students.

Thanks to the strong will, positive mindset, and incredible workforce at Sheridan, the library underwent a full flooring replacement, partial asbestos remediation, shelving reconstruction, as well as furniture repairs, drywall installation and painting. All these items were done within a

remarkable six-week timeline. Almost all functions were restored and ready for students by the start of the September term.

This event highlighted the camaraderie, professionalism and collective determination of Sheridan's staff and truly showed our commitment to protecting our learning environment and its resources, while ultimately ensuring we remain one of the best places for students to learn and thrive.