

Flood Watch - Bancroft District Flood Warning - Burnt, Irondale, and York Rivers

NEWS

Thursday, April 18, 2019

1:30pm

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) - Bancroft District is advising area residents that a Flood Watch and a Flood Warning for specific watercourses are in effect for Bancroft District.

Residents of Bancroft District should keep a close watch on conditions, regularly check for updated messages and exercise caution near fast-moving rivers and streams. Please alert any children under your care to these dangers and supervise their activities. Residents who have a historic susceptibility to flooding should take appropriate precautions to protect their property, such as ensuring sump pumps are functioning and securing items that may float away as water levels rise.

MNRF is closely monitoring the weather and developing watershed conditions. Further updates will be issued as appropriate.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Description of Weather System

This message is being sent on the basis of information received from MNRF - Surface Water Monitoring Centre, MNRF - Aviation Forest Fire and Emergency Management Services, Trent Severn Waterway (TSW) and Environment Canada.

The 5-day forecast suggests 50-65 mm of rainfall with most of the precipitation falling from today through to Saturday. Air temperatures are forecasted to reach 15°C with nighttime temperatures above 0°C across the entire district.

Description of Current Conditions

With the onset of the snowmelt, water levels and flows are rising rapidly in northern areas. Snow amounts are above average for this time of the year in the most northern areas of the Gull River system. Most lakes on the Gull River and Burnt River systems remain below average but are rising due to the onset of the melt. Lake levels are monitored daily and assessed in relation to estimated runoff amounts. The flows on Gull River and Burnt remain above average due to the snowmelt and operational activities. Flows on both rivers are anticipated to increase with increased runoff from the forecasted precipitation. The reservoirs on the Gull River system are expected to adequately absorb the precipitation and snowmelt from the forecast event. **There is a strong likelihood that typical flood prone areas on the**

Burnt River and Irondale will experience flooding. The flows on the York River are rising rapidly and will likely start to impact flood susceptible properties tomorrow and through the weekend. The peak of this event is unlikely to be realized until early next week.

Due to mostly frozen conditions, the ground's ability to absorb runoff and snowmelt is limited. The potential exists for nuisance flooding of roadways, ditches, and low-lying flood-prone areas as the melt progresses. There may be potential for minor ice jam related flooding on some rivers. A close watch on local forecasts and conditions is recommended.

The MNR and TSW continue to closely monitor local lakes and rivers as the freshet progresses. The MNR is in regular communication with partner agencies and water control structure operators, including Conservation Authorities, Ontario Power Generation (OPG), Bracebridge Generation and TSW.

Expiry Date:

This message will expire on 04/23/2019 11:59 PM

Terminology: Notification Levels

WATERSHED CONDITIONS STATEMENT – WATER SAFETY: indicates that high flows, melting ice or other factors could be dangerous for such users as boaters, anglers and swimmers but flooding is not expected

WATERSHED CONDITIONS STATEMENT – FLOOD OUTLOOK: gives early notice of the potential for flooding based on weather forecasts calling for heavy rain, snow melt, high winds or other conditions

FLOOD WATCH: potential for flooding exists within specific watercourses and municipalities

FLOOD WARNING: flooding is imminent or occurring within specific watercourses and municipalities

Contact Information

MNR Bancroft District Office
Luke Hillyer, IRM Technical Specialist, Bancroft District, 613-332-3940, x 216

MNR Minden Field Office
Kris Windover, IRM Technical Specialist, Minden Field Office, Bancroft District, 705-286-5207

A close watch on local conditions and weather forecasts from Environment Canada is recommended. Environment Canada bulletins can be found at <http://weather.gc.ca/>

The Surface Water Monitoring Centre public webpage can be found here:
www.ontario.ca/flooding

Parks Canada Water Management Updates can be found here: <https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/lhn-nhs/on/trentsevern/info/infonet>