

**Watershed Conditions Statement - Water Safety
Bancroft District****NEWS****Thursday, February 23, 2017
2:00pm**

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry - Bancroft District is advising area residents that a Watershed Conditions Statement - Water Safety is in effect in the 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. 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, Ontario Power Generation and Environment Canada.

On Friday an intensifying low pressure system is forecast to bring mixed precipitation across the Province. Central Ontario including Bancroft District may see mixed precipitation of about 10-20mm. Daytime and overnight temperatures are forecast to hover around the 0°C mark. On Saturday morning temperatures may reach 10°C. Following this a cold front associated with the system will sweep through Southeastern Ontario producing an additional 10-15mm of rain in its vicinity. By Sunday, patches of clouds and scattered flurries will prevail. The temperatures will drop to near seasonal values province wide.

Description of Current Conditions

Reservoirs in the district are at or below the target operating level for this time of year. Flows in area rivers and streams are about average for this time of year. The MNRF and the Trent-Severn Waterway (TSW) continue to closely monitor local lakes and rivers.

Much of Bancroft District is blanketed by a significant snow pack containing an above average water content. The forecasted warm temperatures and precipitation will result in

snow melt and increasing flows and water levels. Slippery and unstable banks and cold water temperatures can lead to hazardous conditions around water bodies.

The MNRF is in regular communication with partner agencies and water control structure operators, including Conservation Authorities, Ontario Power Generation (OPG), Bracebridge Generation and the TSW.

Expiry Date:

This message will expire on 03/03/2017 12:00 PM

Terminology: Notification Levels

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

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

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

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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