

Watershed Conditions Statement – Flood Warning Bancroft District

NEWS**Friday, May 5, 2017
10:45 am**

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry - Bancroft District is advising area residents that a **Flood Warning** has been extended for all of the Bancroft District.

Residents of the 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 advises extreme caution when using forest access roads for outdoor activities. Many are seasonally inundated with water, prone to washouts, and may be impassable due to current water levels. The public should avoid crossing any submerged roads as there may be a risk to traveler safety. Barricades are erected at roads where known washouts or dangerous driving conditions have been observed.

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.

Precipitation from 50-60mm is forecast across the District for the next 3 days. Friday will likely see 25-30mm, with an additional 15-25mm on Saturday, and 5-10mm on Sunday as the system begins to recede into Monday and Tuesday when things are expected clear up.

Description of Current Conditions

The ground is saturated throughout the Bancroft District from previous rain events, which will increase the speed of run-off from precipitation into water bodies, and reduces the ground's ability to soak up rainfall. The precipitation expected over the next few days will continue to cause an increase in flows and levels in the rivers and lakes across the District. Flooding is expected in low-lying areas adjacent to the Gull, Burnt, York, Black, and Madawaska river watersheds.

Reservoirs across the District are elevated and smaller streams and creeks will continue to respond quickly to the additional precipitation. Larger water bodies, including the reservoir lakes, will take longer to react, but can expect to experience flooding. Additional water

accumulation in areas adjacent to watercourses, road ditches and areas with poor drainage may also occur.

The MNR and the Trent-Severn Waterway (TSW) continue to closely monitor local lakes and rivers.

The MNR 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 05/08/2017 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

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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