

Watershed Conditions Statement – Flood Warning Bancroft District

NEWSTuesday, May 2, 2017
12:00pm

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

There have been a number of smaller precipitation events over the past week. In addition, the past 24-48 hour accumulated precipitation totals ranged from approximately 60-75mm across the Bancroft District. More rainfall is expected across the Bancroft District with five day totals expected to be in the range of 45-55mm, with most of the precipitation expected Thursday through Saturday.

Description of Current Conditions

An intensifying low pressure system has soaked the southern portions of the province and is currently in the process of moving out of the area. Several rounds of rain have been experienced with heavier rains in some areas that experienced thunderstorms. Another storm system is currently forecasted to move through the province starting Thursday, May 4th.

Rainfall has caused an increase in flows and levels in the rivers and lakes across the District. This weather system will augment stream flows and levels and may result in continually high water conditions and possible flooding in streams that are already high due to spring melt conditions and vulnerable areas. Nuisance flooding is expected in low-lying areas adjacent to the Gull, Burnt, York and Madawaska Rivers.

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

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

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 05/05/2017 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