

Watershed Conditions Statement - Flood Outlook Bancroft District

NEWS

Friday, April 15, 2016

2:00pm

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Bancroft District is advising all area residents and visitors that a **Watershed Conditions Statement - Flood Outlook** is in effect for the Bancroft District MNRF.

Water levels and flows in lakes and rivers will remain high across the watershed.

Residents should keep a close watch on conditions, regularly check for updated messages and stay away from 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.

The Ministry continues to advise caution when using forest access roads for outdoor activities as many are seasonally inundated with water, prone to washouts, and may be impassible 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.

Residents and those visiting the area are advised to be aware of current watershed conditions, exercise caution while around water bodies and maintain close supervision of children and pets. Even though air temperatures are warming, water temperatures remain very cold.

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 and Environment Canada.

Stable high pressure ridges are holding over southern Ontario to the end of the weekend, leading to clear skies, warm dry air, and temperatures in the seasonal or above seasonal range. There is a chance of a small amount of rain in the 1-5 mm range for Monday.

Description of Current Conditions

Water levels and flows in lakes and rivers across the District are expected to remain elevated through the coming weekend from past precipitation and snow melt. Although the majority of the snowpack has melted over the past couple weeks, a significant amount of snow is still present in upper reaches of our watersheds. **Where there is a snowpack remaining, the water content is above average for this time of year.** Runoff from the remaining snow pack may increase through the weekend and coming week as temperatures increase and contribute to or maintain existing high water levels.

Most reservoir lakes in the area are at or above the target operating levels for this time of year. The MNRF and the Trent-Severn Waterway (TSW) continue to closely monitor local lakes and rivers as the freshet progresses.

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 Monday, April 18, 2016 at 12:00pm.

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