

**Watershed Conditions Statements – Bancroft District:**  
Flood Warning for the Burnt River Watershed,  
Flood Watch for the York and Black River Watersheds,  
Flood Outlook for the remainder of Bancroft District

**NEWS****Wednesday April 5, 2017  
2:00pm**

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry - Bancroft District is advising area residents that a **Flood Warning** is in effect for the **Burnt River Watershed** including the **Irondale River**, due to limited storage capacity and the responsive nature of these river systems.

A **Flood Watch** is in effect for the **York River Watershed** and **Black River Watershed**.

A **Watershed Conditions Statement – Flood Outlook** remains in effect for the rest of 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.

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.

Another low pressure system will progress into southern Ontario today and Thursday with more moderate to heavy rainfall expected. Another 20-40mm is expected through our region by Friday. Daytime highs will range between low to high single digit temperatures, and overnight temperatures will range between 2 and -6 degrees. A gradual warming trend is forecast for the weekend, with little precipitation expected. Five day rainfall totals are anticipated to be in the 40-55mm range. The majority of that rain will fall Wednesday night through Thursday. The forecast rain combined with mild temperatures will significantly increase water levels in local lakes, rivers, and streams.

## **Description of Current Conditions**

Much of Bancroft District remains blanketed by a snow pack, especially in the upper reaches of the watersheds. Snow water equivalent is close to average for this time of year. Continued snowmelt is expected over the coming week with milder temperatures and forecast precipitation.

With the recent rain and snow melt, reservoirs within the district are steadily rising. Smaller streams and creeks will respond quickly to the additional runoff. Larger water bodies, including the reservoir lakes, will take longer to react. This trend is expected to continue given the forecast. Additional water accumulation in areas adjacent to watercourses, road ditches and areas with poor drainage may occur.

Flood prone areas of the Burnt & Irondale Rivers are expected to be severely impacted should precipitation amounts currently forecast be realized or exceeded. 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 04/10/2017 12:00 AM

### **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](http://www.ontario.ca/flooding)