

Watershed Conditions Statement - Water Safety

Bancroft District

Friday, April 03, 2020
3:00 pm

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 District until Wednesday, April 08, 2020

Residents in Bancroft District should note there are increasingly high flows through water control structures to keep water levels within targets for this time of year. These flows are being managed to mitigate, as much as possible, the impacts from the expected melt and rainfall. Due to the high flows and recent warm temperatures, ice formation on lakes can be very unsafe.

The ministry 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 (TSW) and Environment Canada.

The next five days will see seasonal daytime temperatures around 10 °C and nighttime temperatures around 0. There is very little precipitation forecast.

Description of Current Conditions

Rainfall and warm temperatures over the past week have caused water levels in lakes and flows in rivers and streams to increase. Warm daytime temperatures over the coming five days will sustain or increase flows in rivers and streams and cause lake levels to continue to rise and there is the possibility of flooding in low lying areas.

The impact of recent warm temperatures and rainfall has reduced the snow pack throughout Bancroft District but substantial snow pack with above average snow water content remains in the northern half of the District. Above freezing temperatures and precipitation are likely to further degrade the snowpack.

Ice cover in the rivers and streams may breakup as a result of warm temperatures and higher flows, increasing the risk of ice jams and associated overbank flooding.

We are experiencing an earlier start to the spring freshet in 2020. Almost exactly a month sooner than the spring freshet in 2019.

A close watch on local forecasts and conditions is recommended.

The MNRF and TSW continue to closely monitor local lakes and rivers as this event 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 TSW.

DEFINITIONS

- **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.

LEARN MORE

- Surface Water Monitoring Centre public webpage www.ontario.ca/flooding
- Environment Canada bulletins: www.weather.gc.ca
- A close watch on local conditions and weather forecasts from Environment Canada is recommended.

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