

**Watershed Conditions Statement - Flood Outlook
Bancroft District****NEWS**

Monday, March 28, 2016

1:00pm

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

Water levels and flows are expected to rise following significant rainfall forecasted across the area.

Residents of 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 is closely monitoring the weather and developing watershed conditions. Further updates will be issued as appropriate.

The Watershed Conditions Statement – Flood Watch – is also in effect for the Gull and Burnt River watersheds.

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.

A system carrying significant amounts of rainfall moved into the area overnight on the 27th and is expected to drop 25-50mm of precipitation before exiting on the 28th. Daily high temperatures will range from 3 to 15°C with nightly lows of -10° to 5°C. Another system is expected move into the area later this week bringing more precipitation. As of this morning, five-day total precipitation amounts are forecasted to range from 30-45mm.

Description of Current Conditions

Although some of the snowpack has melted over the past couple weeks, a significant amount of snow is still present in upper reaches of our watersheds. Snow depth and the water content contained in the snow pack increases the further north you get within Bancroft

district. It is expected that the forecasted rain will cause an increased rate of rise in lake levels and river flows over the next few days as melting of the now pack accelerates with forecasted rainfall.

Reservoirs in the district are at or below the target operating level 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 03/30/2016 12:00 PM

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