

## Flood Warning Bancroft District – Black & Burnt River Watersheds

### NEWS

Wednesday, March 30, 2016

1:30pm

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Bancroft District is advising area residents that a Flood Warning is in effect for the Black and Burnt River watersheds.

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.

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.

A Flood Watch is also in effect for all of the MNRF Bancroft District.

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.

Environment Canada has issued a rainfall warning for areas within Bancroft District. Starting overnight tonight (Wednesday) and through the day tomorrow (Thursday) a system is expected to bring rain, at times heavy, with potential totals of 25-50mm. There is also the risk of an isolated thunderstorm. Daily high temperatures are forecast to range from 9°C to 12°C through Friday before returning to colder temperatures on the weekend.

#### **Description of Current Conditions**

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. The water content in the snow varies across the district from below average to about average. Soil surfaces are mostly frozen and unable to absorb moisture. Last weekend's rainfall and snow melt has

resulted in high water conditions for much of the rivers and streams in the Bancroft District. Incoming rainfall will result in exacerbating the already high water conditions and is likely to lead to minor flooding in vulnerable areas. Snowmelt due to warm temperatures could cause flooding in local watersheds, particularly the Black River, Burnt River and Irondale River watersheds. Smaller streams and creeks will respond quickly to the additional runoff. 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. With the combination of forecast precipitation and remaining ice cover on local lakes and rivers, there is the potential for ice jams to form and contribute to elevated water levels and flooding in some instances.

Reservoirs in the district are at or below the target operating level for this time of year. The MNR and the Trent-Severn Waterway (TSW) continue to closely monitor local lakes and rivers as the freshet progresses.

The MNR 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 04/04/2016 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](http://www.ontario.ca/flooding)