

Flood Watch Bancroft District – Gull & Burnt River Watersheds

NEWS

Monday, March 28, 2016

1:00pm

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

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

The majority of snowpack has melted over the past couple weeks, however, new snow has been received and a snow pack 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. The cold weather of the past week has slowed the flow of rivers and creeks but many are still flowing quite quickly and the water is extremely cold. Seasonal mild temperatures combined with the precipitation forecasted will continue to melt snow and will increase water levels and flow velocities in local rivers and streams. 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 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