

Watershed Conditions Statement - Flood Outlook Bancroft District

NEWS

Friday, April 12, 2019

3:00pm

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

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. Please alert any children under your care to these dangers and supervise their activities. 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.

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 5-day forecast suggests 40-50 mm of rainfall with most of the precipitation falling mainly today and Sunday. Air temperatures are forecasted to be near double digits. Night temperatures will tend to stay above 0°C across the entire district. Another system is expected to move in next week that may increase precipitation amounts.

Description of Current Conditions

Most reservoirs have water levels below average for this time of year due to the delayed snow melt. The snow pack is higher than average for this time of year with an above average amount of snow water equivalent. This is the first significant melt and precipitation event of the season and the snow is ready to release water. Lake levels are monitored daily and assessed in relation to estimated runoff amounts. With the recent rain-on-snow event, water levels and flows are rising rapidly in northern areas. Most lakes on the Gull River and Burnt River systems remain below average but are rising due to the onset of the melt. Lake levels are monitored daily and assessed in relation to estimated runoff amounts. The flows on Gull River and Burnt

River remain above average due to the recent rain-on-snow event. Flows on both rivers are anticipated to increase. The flows on the York River are below average for this time of year but will continue to rise in response to snowmelt.

Due to mostly frozen conditions, the ground's ability to absorb runoff and snowmelt is limited. The potential exists for nuisance flooding of roadways, ditches, and low-lying flood-prone areas as the melt progresses. There may be potential for minor ice jam related flooding on some rivers. A close watch on local forecasts and conditions is recommended.

The MNRF and 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 TSW.

Expiry Date:

This message will expire on 04/15/2019 11:59 PM

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

Parks Canada Water Management Updates can be found here: <https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/lhn-nhs/on/trentsevern/info/infonet>