

Watershed Conditions Statement - Water Safety Bancroft District

NEWS

Friday, April 20, 2018
2:00pm

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 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 and Environment Canada.

A broad ridge of high pressure will move into the Province today (Friday April 20th) and remain until next Monday April 23rd bringing clear skies and seasonal temperatures. On Tuesday April 24th a system is forecast to move into the Province bringing 0 to 3mm of precipitation across south and central Ontario.

Daytime high temperatures are forecast around 5 to 10 °C across south and central Ontario Friday and Saturday and are forecast to rise into the 10 to 15 °C range Sunday through Tuesday. Nighttime lows across south and central Ontario are forecast in the range of 0 to -5 °C Friday through Sunday then are forecast to rise to approximately 0 to +5 °C by next Monday and Tuesday.

Description of Current Conditions

A solid snowpack remains throughout our watersheds containing snow water equivalent ranging from 50-100mm. Reservoirs throughout Bancroft District, which includes those in the Haliburton's are below average and lake levels are increasing or levelling off. The snowpack increased as a result of the recent lower than normal seasonal temperatures and solid

precipitation events. Lake levels are monitored daily and assessed in relation to estimated runoff amounts; however they are susceptible to changes in response to the future precipitation amounts. The flows on Gull River are average, and on Burnt River they are below the average for this time of the year.

Forecast precipitation and associated snowmelt will increase water levels. Due to frozen conditions, the grounds ability to absorb run-off 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 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 04/27/2018 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