

Watershed Conditions Statement - Water Safety Bancroft District

NEWS

Friday, April 13, 2018
3:30pm

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 significant weather system is forecast to cross the province over the weekend. Precipitation amounts over the next five days could reach 80 – 100 mm from Long Point to London to Barrie and Muskoka, Bancroft, and southwards to Kingston, including the GTA and Niagara Peninsula. The remainder of southern Ontario and the southern portions of northeastern Ontario will likely see upwards of 50 mm before the system moves out on Tuesday.

Temperatures over the weekend will play a large role in the mixture of precipitation type that can be expected. South central and north-eastern Ontario, including; Muskoka, Algonquin Park, Pembroke and the upper Ottawa River valley will likely see mostly snow with some freezing rain and ice pellets mixed in, while areas to the south of a line from Goderich to Barrie to Cornwall should see mostly rain. Areas to the north should see significant snowfall through the weekend.

Precipitation amounts are expected to be greatest on Sunday, with an area that could see upwards of 50 mm of rain on the north shore of Lake Ontario that includes the GTA to Port Hope and the Kawarthas. Eastern areas of the province are expected to continue to

experience significant precipitation on Monday, with 30 – 45 mm expected in Ottawa – Cornwall and eastward to Montreal.

The passage of the system will include strong northeasterly or easterly winds, sustained through the weekend before they swing around to north and northwesterly direction, on Monday.

Description of Current Conditions

A solid snowpack remains throughout much of our watersheds containing below average snow water equivalent ranging from 20mm in the southern reaches to 60mm in the northern reaches. Water levels and flows across the Bancroft District and the reservoir lakes are average or slightly below average for this time of year.

Forecast precipitation and associated snowmelt are likely to increase water levels. Due to frozen conditions, the ground's ability to absorb run-off and snowmelt is limited. The potential exists for nuisance flooding of roadways, ditches, and low lying flood prone areas. 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 04/20/2018 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