

**Watershed Conditions Statement - Water Safety
Bancroft District**

NEWS

Monday, May 06, 2019
3:15pm

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) - Bancroft District is advising area residents that a Watershed Conditions Statement – Water Safety is in effect for all of 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 advises extreme caution when using forest access roads for outdoor activities. Many are seasonally inundated with water, prone to washouts, and may be impassable due to current water levels. The public should avoid crossing any submerged roads as there may be a risk to traveler safety. Barricades are erected at roads where known washouts or dangerous driving conditions have been observed.

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 current weather forecast for the week is calling for daytime highs in the mid teens, and night time lows at or near 0°C.

The next significant weather system is projected to move into the area on Wednesday and Thursday, bringing significant rainfall, with embedded thunderstorms likely. Rainfall Wednesday will be later in the day, and concentrated in southwestern Ontario and the Bruce Peninsula, along with the Algoma area including Sault Ste Marie. Accumulations of 15 – 20 mm are expected before Thursday morning, with lesser amounts further east and north.

On Thursday, the system is forecast to move further into Ontario, with rain continuing over southwest Ontario and spreading eastward and northeastward to Timmins, Mattawa and eastward all the way to Montreal.

Rainfall amounts of 20 – 30 mm over most of southern and the southern half of northeast region are expected. Current forecasts also indicate the potential for moderate thunderstorms to be embedded in this weather system, increasing rainfall accumulations by 10 - 25 mm or more.

This system is expected to move out of the area on Friday.

Description of Current Conditions

Levels and flows in watersheds across the District remain elevated but are trending down. High water remains in some parts of the District: the Gull River through the Town of Minden; on Weslemkoon Lake; along the Little Mississippi River; and the Madawaska River downstream of the Bark Lake dam. Forecasted rainfall amounts are expected to slow the rate of decline but are not expected to raise water levels and flows significantly. Typical flood prone areas may continue to experience some flooding.

Although the soil is no longer frozen, rainfall and snowmelt over the past week have reduced the ground's ability to absorb additional runoff and snowmelt. 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 05/13/2019 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>