



FOREST FIRE

News - July 27, 2018

Lady Evelyn Park Cluster Fire Update

The Lady Evelyn Park Cluster is managed by the Bob Hurley Incident Management Team (IMT) from Ontario. North Bay Fire 072 has not grown in size for a couple of days now and remains at 27,579 hectares and is listed as not under control.

North Bay Fire 072 was scanned from the air using infrared technology early in the morning of Friday, July 27, 2018. Infrared scanning identifies areas that are holding heat. These areas are commonly known as “hot spots”. Each hot spot is marked using GPS and then these locations are given to the FireRangers who walk the fire and extinguish the hot spots. This is the boots on the ground work!

The Hurley IMT continues to observe North Bay Fires 18, 19, 46, 59 and 61. These fires will also be scanned using infrared in the coming days. Currently they remain quiet with just a few smokes coming from North Bay Fire 19.

The Hurley IMT would like to send a big thank you to all the Conservation Officers and other staff from MNR's Enforcement Branch who have been helping with road blockades and monitoring traffic in and around the Implementation Order area. Your service is greatly appreciated.

North Bay 72

- There are 11 helicopters assigned to this cluster.
- Close to 200 staff are currently assigned including FireRangers and support staff.
- 12 pieces of heavy equipment are assigned to this fire (i.e. feller-bunchers, dozers, skidders, excavators). More will be hired as needed.



Above Photo: MNRF staff used a handheld infrared scanner to detect hot spots on North Bay Fire 072 early in the morning of Friday, July 27, 2018. This will help the FireRangers know which areas of the fire to focus their efforts on. Infrared scanning will occur as needed.

Forecast and weather information



Saturday's Forecast

For Saturday, July 28, 2018 the weather will be very similar to what we experienced the day before. We'll see mostly cloudy skies with scattered showers throughout the day and cool temperatures.



Outlook: We can expect to see unsettled weather passing through the area bringing scattered showers and moderate wind gusts over the weekend. By late Sunday afternoon we'll see some partial clearing with temperatures again in the low 20s.

Looking into Monday and Tuesday we anticipate sunny skies, high temperatures and low relative humidity. This may cause some hot spots to become active and create localized smoke.

Left Picture: A FireRanger from Mexico is all smiles even though his boots are wet! He is carrying hose that has been retrieved from the fireline – we call these hose melons as they resemble a watermelon shape.

Travel Restrictions

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry is advising the public that due to continued active forest fire activity in the River Valley, Elk Lake and Lady Evelyn area, an Implementation Order is in effect that restricts access to certain roads, parks and Crown lands. Access to these areas is restricted and road blocks have been set up to notify the public of the closures. Within the area, Crown land camping, boating, the landing of float planes, day-tripping, hiking, ATVing as well as accessing private or commercial camps and cottages are NOT permitted. Permits are required to travel through the restricted area.

Please visit [Ontario.ca/forestfire](https://www.ontario.ca/forestfire) to view the current restrictions and for more information on how to obtain a permit.

For inquiries about the travel restrictions, please call:

- North Bay MNRF 705-475-5546.
- Kirkland Lake MNRF 705-568-3201.

Restricted Fire Zone

A Fire Restriction remains in effect.

When a Restricted Fire Zone is declared, it is illegal to set a fire within the affected area. Failure to comply could result in a fine of up to \$25,000 and three months in jail, as well as the financial responsibility for any costs incurred in fighting a forest fire caused by the illegal act. If you need heat for cooking and warmth, you must use a portable gas or propane stove. Portable charcoal equipment (ex. BBQs, Hibachis, etc) are illegal for use during a Restricted Fire Zone, except close to a dwelling you legally own or occupy or in an organized campground.

Visit <https://www.ontario.ca/page/outdoor-fire-restrictions> for more information.

Smoke Concerns

Many Ontario residents have reported smoke drift in their communities. Smokey conditions are expected to continue when fires are active until weather patterns change.

We would like to remind the public that if they do see flames or smoke, please report it. Stay away from the area for public safety.

If you have questions or concerns about smoke and your health, please contact TeleHealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000.

Did You Know?

It's been a busy forest fire season in Ontario! To date, Ontario has had just over 3 times more fires this year than last year at this time and almost twice as many as the 10 year average.

Fires to Date – Current: 823 Hectares burned: 211 945

Fires to Date – Last Year: 243 Hectares burned: 78 088

Fires to Date – 10 Year Average: 496 Hectares burned: 106 753

The forest fire community from across Canada and the world are partners in the protection of people, property, and forests. So often, different jurisdictions come to the aid of those in need. Aviation, Forest Fire and Emergency Services (AFFES) are leaders in sharing resources when neighbours near and far request assistance.

Previous years Ontario has traveled across Canada, the United States, and in some instances internationally. In 2017

alone Ontario fire personnel provided assistance to British Columbia, Parks Canada in Alberta, Manitoba and aircraft with flight crew to Montana. The opportunity to help others in need always presents learning opportunities for AFFES to grow and improve upon operational practices.

So far in 2018, Ontario has received assistance from the Northwest Territories, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Parks Canada, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Mexico. The response to our call for assistance has been very generous.

It seems that by being a sharing neighbour, we have in return, received support from far and wide. Our appreciation for the forest fire colleges that join us from across Canada, the United States, and as far away as Mexico, is heartfelt and will be remembered by Ontario for many years to come.



Fire personnel from Mexico arrive in Sudbury. (Above)



Fire personnel from Minnesota arrive in Dryden. (Above)



Fire personnel from across Canada are briefed in Sudbury. (Above)

Contact Numbers and Online Information

For more information about travel restrictions:

- North Bay MNRF 705-475-5546.
- Kirkland Lake MNRF 705-568-3201.

For general information about the fire situation: 705-564-6165

For information about highway closures: 5-1-1

For inquiries regarding Ontario Parks closures and updates:

- Finlayson Point (including Lady Evelyn-Smoothwater, Obabika River, Makobe-Grays, Solace and Sturgeon River): 705-569-3205
- Marten River: 705-892-2200



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CALL: Fire Updates 1-705-564-6165 Travel Updates 705-475-5546