

Watershed Conditions Statement - Flood Outlook

North Bay District

Thursday, April 25, 2024
5:00pm

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry – North Bay District, is advising area residents that a Watershed Conditions Statement - Flood Outlook is in effect in the district until 4pm Thursday, May 02, 2024 unless it's updated or replaced by this time.

Residents in the North Bay District area (**excluding the Lake Temagami, Sturgeon River, Lake Nipissing and Upper French River areas, as a specific flood bulletin has been issued for these areas**) should keep a close watch on conditions and exercise caution around rivers and streams. Please alert and monitor any children under your care to possible dangers and supervise their activities. Recent rain events in addition to a new weather system arriving on Saturday and persisting into next week could cause local flooding in low lying areas.

The ministry is closely monitoring the weather and developing watershed conditions. Further updates will be issued as appropriate.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Description of Weather System

A Colorado Low is tracking into the province and is forecast to bring widespread rain to the Northeast Region this weekend and into next week. Heavier precipitation is forecast to begin Saturday with 20-30mm of rain forecast. Sunday is forecast to bring 5mm of rain and Monday is forecast to bring 10-20mm of rain.

Description of Current Conditions

Water levels and flows in local watercourses continue to be elevated due to runoff generated by weather systems over the past few weeks. Recent rain events combined with dormant vegetation and saturated soils has resulted in seasonal water levels increasing significantly.

District watercourses are in their maximum ranges for this time of year. Although no widespread flooding is expected at this time, water levels and flows have increased, and flooding in low-lying areas and areas with poor drainage is possible.

Municipalities, residents and visitors, especially those in low-lying areas and along shorelines, are encouraged to monitor conditions and prepare accordingly. Shorelines and banks adjacent to waterbodies are very slippery and unstable at this time and when combined with cold, fast flowing water, pose a serious hazard.

DEFINITIONS

- **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.
- **SHORELINE CONDITIONS STATEMENT – WATER SAFETY:** indicates that **along the Great Lakes shorelines high water**, melting ice or other factors could be dangerous but flooding is not expected.
- **SHORELINE CONDITIONS STATEMENT – FLOOD OUTLOOK:** gives early notice of the potential for flooding **along the Great Lakes shorelines** based on weather and lake conditions, and water safety information.
- **FLOOD WATCH:** potential for flooding exists within specific watercourses and municipalities.
- **FLOOD WARNING:** flooding is imminent or occurring within specific watercourses and municipalities.

LEARN MORE

- Surface Water Monitoring Centre public webpage www.ontario.ca/page/surface-water-monitoring-centre
- Environment Canada bulletins: www.weather.gc.ca
- A close watch on local conditions and weather forecasts from Environment Canada is recommended.