

**Watershed Conditions Statement - Water Safety  
Bancroft District****NEWS**Thursday, March 24, 2016  
**3:00pm**

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry - Bancroft District is advising area residents that a Watershed Conditions Statement - Water Safety has been extended for 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. 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.

The Watershed Conditions Statement – Flood Outlook – is in effect for the Gull and Burnt River Watersheds.

**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 low pressure system entered southern and central Ontario on Thursday March 23<sup>rd</sup> and is expected to exit the province by Friday March 25<sup>th</sup>. The system is forecast to drop a mix of rain, freezing rain, ice pellets and snow. Areas within Bancroft District are forecast to receive a combination of 20-30 mm of freezing rain or centimetres of snow. From Thursday through the weekend, daily high temperatures should range from -2°C to 9°C with nightly lows of 1°C to -8°C. Five day precipitation amounts range from 25-45mm.

**Description of Current Conditions**

Although some of the snowpack has melted over the past couple weeks, a significant amount of snow is still present in upper reaches of our watersheds. Snow depth and the water content contained in the snow pack increases the further north you get within Bancroft district. The current system passing through the province will likely lead to an increase in water content of the snow pack for the northern parts of the District but will not likely result in significant runoff at this time.

The cold weather of the past week has slowed the flow of small rivers and creeks but many are still flowing quite quickly and the water is extremely cold.

Reservoirs in the district are at or below the target operating level for this time of year. 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 03/30/2016 12:00 PM

**Terminology: Notification Levels**

**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

**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

**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](http://www.ontario.ca/flooding)