

Flood Warning - Gull River Watershed

Watershed Conditions Statement: Water Safety - Bancroft District

NEWSFriday, May 12, 2017
3:30 pm

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry - Bancroft District is advising area residents that a **Flood Warning** remains in effect for the Gull River Watershed.

A **Watershed Conditions Statement: Water Safety** is in effect for the remainder of Bancroft District.

Residents of the Gull River watershed 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.

Residents within Bancroft District should keep a close watch on conditions, regularly check for updated messages and exercise caution near fast-moving rivers and streams.

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, Ontario Power Generation and Environment Canada.

Through the coming weekend, central to eastern Ontario is expected to be impacted by a low pressure system skirting the province and travelling northeastward along the eastern seaboard. The risk for precipitation continues to be greatest from early Saturday morning through Sunday morning, and with more showers developing for the afternoon and evening on Sunday. Rainfall amounts are not expected to exceed 10-15mm.

After this system exits southeastern Ontario this weekend there is a lesser chance for widespread precipitation up to the Victoria Day long weekend, but the risk of scattered thunderstorms increases by midweek.

Description of Current Conditions

The ground across Bancroft District is currently saturated with water. These conditions will cause run-off from any precipitation to move quickly into water bodies, and the ability for the ground to soak up rainfall is reduced. Flooding is occurring and expected to continue in low-lying areas within the Gull River watershed.

Water levels and flows in riverine systems remain elevated due to spring freshet and recent heavy rains, and appear to be peaking or close to peaking.

Near record levels have been recorded throughout the region on many lakes and rivers. A state of emergency has been declared by the Municipality of Minden Hills.

The forecast precipitation is not expected to have significant effect on levels and flows.

The MNRF and the Trent-Severn Waterway (TSW) continue to closely monitor local lakes and rivers.

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 05/19/2017 11:59 AM

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