

Flood Warning – Bancroft District

NEWS

Tuesday, April 23, 2019

1:30pm

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) - Bancroft District is advising area residents that a Flood Warning 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 5-day forecast suggests an additional 15-20mm mm of rainfall. Air temperatures are forecasted to reach 15°C -18C with nighttime temperatures above 0°C across the entire district.

Description of Current Conditions

Snow remains in the upper reaches of northern watersheds and with the onset of snowmelt, water levels and flows are rising rapidly. Most lakes on the Gull River and Burnt River systems are full or approaching full levels and storage capacity for additional melt and precipitation is limited. The flows on Gull River and Burnt remain above average. Flows on the Burnt River have peaked and are declining; however, the Gull River through the Village of Minden continues to rise and is expected to do so over the coming days. **There is a strong likelihood**

that typical flood prone areas on the Gull River will experience flooding. The peak of this event on the Gull system is unlikely to be realized until early next week. The flows and levels on the York, Madawaska and Little Mississippi Rivers are elevated and due to ongoing snowmelt will remain high for the next few days. These watersheds remain extremely sensitive and any additional precipitation may cause levels to increase again.

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 04/26/2019 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>