



BULLETIN

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

Watershed Conditions Statement - Water Safety Parry Sound District

NEWS

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

12:00pm

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry – Parry Sound District is advising area residents that a Watershed Conditions Statement - Water Safety is in effect for the District which includes the District Municipality of Muskoka, the Territorial District of Parry Sound and a north-west portion of the County of Haliburton.

Residents within the Parry Sound-Muskoka area should keep a close watch on conditions, regularly check for updated messages and exercise caution around water bodies as flows and levels within rivers and streams are anticipated to rise in the coming days. Although flooding is not expected at this time, residents may wish to consider taking action to ensure their sump pumps are working properly and to secure or protect any property in flood-prone or vulnerable areas.

It is expected that lower-lying portions of known flood-prone roads along river courses will be impacted to various degrees as river levels start to increase over the next week.

With cooler temperatures, banks and shorelines adjacent to water bodies are extremely slippery and unstable. Residents and visitors should exercise caution while around water bodies and maintain close supervision of children and pets.

MNRF also advises extreme caution when using forest access roads for outdoor activities as many are seasonally inundated with water, prone to washouts and may be impassible due to current water levels.

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 based on information received from MNRF - Surface Water Monitoring Centre, MNRF - Aviation Forest Fire and Emergency Management Services and Environment Canada.

An approaching Colorado Low weather system is expected to pass through Northeastern Ontario over the next 3 days, bringing warm air into southern, southcentral, and the southern portions of the northeast region on Thursday and Friday.

This warm air mass will bring significant moisture mainly to the central portions of northeastern Ontario including Wawa, Chapleau and Timmins Districts, with 25 – 40 mm of mixed precipitation consisting of snow, freezing rain, ice pellets on Thursday and Friday. The southern portions of northeastern region are expected to receive 15 –

25 mm, with the phase of the precipitation more on the rain side, rather than snow or ice pellets over the same period.

Southern Ontario is expected to receive 5 -10 mm of precipitation over the next few days, with temperatures reaching +10 deg C as far north as the French River and North Bay on Friday and staying above freezing overnight Thursday, before dropping back down to more seasonal temperatures Friday night and into the weekend.

Description of Current Conditions

Currently water levels on water bodies with control structure are generally low due to drawdown efforts prior to the spring melt. Flows are normal for this time of year, but are anticipated to rise due to warm temperatures, rain and rapid snow melt. Current snow conditions in the Muskoka and Parry Sound region have average of 30-60cm of snow depth containing 120-200mm of snow water equivalent, which is above the typical average for this time of year.

Snowmelt and runoff due to forecasted warm temperatures and precipitation will result in flows and levels rising depending on local conditions. Combined runoff from the rainfall and snowmelt might result in high water levels and localised flooding in low lying areas. Residents should be cautious as ice conditions on lakes and rivers may change rapidly as a result of rising flows and water levels.

Expiry Date:

This message will expire on Thursday, April 18 2019, 12:00 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

For more information please contact:

Parry Sound District MNR Water Management Department
By calling 705-646-5531 or by email at watermanagement.psdistrict@ontario.ca

The Surface Water Monitoring Centre public webpage can be found here: <http://www.ontario.ca/flooding>

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/>