

Watershed Conditions Statement - Water Safety

Bancroft District

Friday, March 20, 2020
4:00 pm

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry – Bancroft District is advising area residents that a **Watershed Conditions Statement - Water Safety** is in effect in the District until Thursday, March 26, 2020

Residents in Bancroft District should note increasing high flows through water control structures to keep water levels within targets for this time of year. These flows are being managed to mitigate, as much as possible, the impacts from the expected melt and rainfall. Due to the high flows and recent warm temperatures, ice formation on lakes can be very unsafe.

The ministry 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 MNRFS-Surface Water Monitoring Centre, MNRFS-Aviation Forest Fire and Emergency Management Services, Trent Severn Waterway (TSW) and Environment Canada.

Most of Bancroft District received 10 to 15 mm of rain over the past 24 hours, with isolated areas possibly receiving 20 mm. Minimal precipitation and temperatures below 0C are forecast across most of Province Saturday through Monday.

Description of Current Conditions

Warmer temperatures and precipitation over the past couple of weeks have melted some of the snowpack resulting in increased water levels and flows across the forecast area. Mid-March snow surveys indicate that approximately 30 to 130 mm of water equivalent remains across the District with values increasing from South to North.

The snowpack has ripened in some areas making it less capable to absorb the rainfall received. Where snowpack no longer exists ground may still be frozen, leading to increased runoff potential. Continued melt is expected to occur, with enhanced runoff from the rain. An increase in levels and flows in local lakes and rivers is expected.

A close watch on local forecasts and conditions is recommended

The MNRF and TSW continue to closely monitor local lakes and rivers as this event 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.

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
- **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/flooding
- Environment Canada bulletins: www.weather.gc.ca
- A close watch on local conditions and weather forecasts from Environment Canada is recommended.