

Watershed Conditions Statement - Water Safety

Parry Sound District Georgian Bay Shoreline

Thursday, May 07, 2020
11:00am

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 **shoreline of Georgian Bay** until Friday, June 05, 2020.

Residents within the Parry Sound-Muskoka area on Georgian Bay should keep a close watch on conditions, regularly check for updated messages and exercise caution around the shoreline as water levels are expected to remain high through the coming weeks and months. Any storm surge and waves from wind and storm events is expected to worsen shoreline conditions as those events occur.

Heightened risks, while water levels remain at or above their current level, include shoreline flooding, beach submersion, crawl space and septic system inundation, and wave-driven erosion along some reaches of the shoreline. 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.

Banks and shorelines adjacent to water bodies may be slippery and unstable and water temperatures remain very cold. Residents and visitors should exercise caution while around water bodies and maintain close supervision of children and pets.

The ministry is closely monitoring the weather and developing watershed conditions. Further updates will be issued as appropriate.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Description of Weather System

Any storm surge or high wave events may increase the current, high water level along the Georgian Bay shoreline within Parry Sound District. Please continue to monitor the local

weather with special attention to wind and wave forecasts to anticipate additional impacts from the storm surge and high waves.

Description of Current Conditions

Forecasts by the National Hydrologic Services indicate that Lake Huron / Georgian Bay's level will likely exceed historical monthly mean water levels for at least the next 4 months.

This message will be updated as significant wind or storm events are forecast, that may result in higher water levels and shoreline impacts due to storm surge and waves.

The National Hydrological Services Great Lakes Water Levels Information Memorandum from May 4th, 2020 reports that:

- Water levels of all the Great Lakes remain near or above record highs, with the exception of Lake Ontario, which remains well above average.
- Lake Michigan-Huron's April monthly mean level was 91 cm above average last month, 34 cm higher than last year, the highest April mean level on record and 7 cm above the previous record high of 1986
- Lake Michigan-Huron rose 6 cm in April, less than its average rise of 11 cm.
- Lake Michigan-Huron's beginning-of-May level was 90 cm above average, 26 cm higher than last year, the highest on record and 9 cm higher than the previous record high set in 1986.
- Assuming average water supply conditions, Lake Michigan-Huron is expected to rise in May
- For more information refer the Canadian Hydrographic Service's Tides and Level Forecasts: Recent and Forecast Water Levels page.

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.

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ontario.ca/mnrf
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