

Watershed Conditions Statement - Water Safety
Bancroft-Peterborough District
Including Upper Madawaska River Watershed

Thursday, March 30, 2023
3:00 pm

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) – **Bancroft Work Centre** is advising area residents that a **Watershed Conditions Statement - Water Safety** is in effect until Thursday, April 06, 2023.

Residents should note flows through water control structures will be gradually increasing 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 snowmelt and rainfall. Due to the increased 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 MNRF's Surface Water Monitoring Centre and Environment Canada.

Rainfall is forecasted for the Bancroft area to be in the range of 20-30mm over Friday and Saturday.

This rainfall will be followed by cooling temperatures Saturday evening with lows forecasted to be around -10°C.

Description of Current Conditions

Recent daytime highs around 5°C and intermittent rain has condensed and ripened the snowpack. It is predicted that the forecasted rain will further reduce the snowpack.

The cold temperatures Saturday evening will slow the melt and allow runoff from Friday and Saturday to pass through the watershed.

Flows will increase at water control structures throughout the weekend and into early next week.

A close watch on local forecasts and conditions is recommended.

The MNRF continues 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), and Bracebridge Generation.

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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