

Watershed Conditions Statement - Flood Outlook
Bancroft-Peterborough District
Including Upper Madawaska River Watershed

Wednesday, April 05, 2023
3:00 pm

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) – **Bancroft Work Centre** is advising area residents that a **Watershed Conditions Statement – Flood Outlook** is in effect until Thursday, April 13, 2023.

Residents should note flows through water control structures will increase 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.

Lower-lying portions of known flood-prone areas may be impacted to various degrees as lake/river levels rise over the next week.

With rain, warmer temperatures and melting snow, banks and shorelines adjacent to water bodies can be extremely slippery and unstable. Residents and visitors should exercise caution while around waterbodies and maintain close supervision of children and pets.

Residents that may be affected by high water and flow conditions should take necessary action to protect/secure any vulnerable property in proximity to rivers and lakes and closely monitor developing conditions and regularly check for updated messages.

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.

The Bancroft area received significant rainfall Wednesday morning (April 5th) and is forecasted to receive more rainfall in the afternoon, evening and overnight.

This rainfall will be followed by warming daytime temperatures over the weekend. Evening temperatures throughout the weekend are forecasted to remain below 0°C.

Description of Current Conditions

Recent daytime highs around 8°C and intermittent rain has condensed and ripened the snowpack. It is predicted that the forecasted rain and warming temperatures will further reduce the snowpack.

The cold temperatures during the evenings of Thursday to Saturday will slow the melt and allow some of the runoff from Wednesday to pass through the watershed.

Flows will increase at water control structures throughout the weekend and into next week. Early next week, evening lows are forecasted to be above freezing and daytime highs forecasted as high as 19°C. These temperatures will melt the remaining snowpack.

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.

Nathan Hack, IRM Technical Specialist, Bancroft Work Centre, 613-202-1620

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