

## **Watershed Conditions Statement - Water Safety**

### **Bracebridge Minden Parry Sound District**

#### **Muskoka River Watershed**

Tuesday, December 03, 2024  
5:00pm

The Ministry of Natural Resources – Bracebridge Minden Parry Sound District is advising area residents that a Watershed Conditions Statement - Water Safety Bulletin is in effect in the District until Tuesday, December 10, 2024.

This message will affect residents within the MNR Bracebridge Minden Parry Sound District for portions of the District Municipality of Muskoka in the Muskoka River Watershed.

As a result of a recent winter storm, Lake Muskoka water levels are higher than normal at this time.

Lower-lying portions of known flood-prone areas may be impacted to various degrees.

Residents and visitors should exercise caution while around waterbodies and maintain close supervision of children and pets.

Residents that have been affected by high water and flow conditions in the past should continue 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**

Over the past weekend, significant snowfall occurred, with some areas receiving more than 140 cm of snow. This precipitation resulted in higher water levels and caused power outages at some hydroelectric generating facilities. Weather forecasts also suggest the potential for an additional 35 cm of snow in the area over the next 7 days.

##### **Description of Current Conditions**

There is no flooding is anticipated at this time.

Most lake water levels are within their normal ranges for this time of year. However, some lakes that received heavy snowfall may experience elevated water levels. In particular, Lake Muskoka water levels are higher than normal at this time.

As the additional water moves through the watershed, some rivers may see increased flows and higher water levels. It is anticipated that lake high water levels and increased river flows will decrease over the next week, returning closer to normal for this time of year.

## 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/page/surface-water-monitoring-centre](http://www.ontario.ca/page/surface-water-monitoring-centre)
- Environment Canada bulletins: [www. weather.gc.ca](http://www.weather.gc.ca)
- A close watch on local conditions and weather forecasts from Environment Canada is recommended.