

Flood Warning

Bracebridge-Minden-Parry Sound District

Thursday, April 17, 2025
12:00 pm

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) – Bracebridge-Minden-Parry Sound District is advising area residents that a **Flood Warning** remains in effect for the **Severn River** within the district until Friday, April 25, 2025.

The Flood Warning will affect residents within the MNR Bracebridge-Minden-Parry Sound District, which includes the southern portion of the District Municipality of Muskoka and Town of Gravenhurst along the Severn River and Sparrow Lake.

Residents should expect water levels to rise and river flows to increase through the April 18-20 long-weekend and into the week of April 21-25.

Runoff into local lakes and rivers is anticipated to increase with forecasted rainfall, snow melt and warm weather.

MNR advises residents to exercise extreme caution concerning ice conditions. No ice is safe ice. High water levels combined with a forecast for high winds has the potential to damage shoreline infrastructure due to moving ice.

MNR also advises extreme caution when using forest access roads for outdoor activities as many are seasonally inundated with water, prone to washouts and may be impassible due to current water levels.

Lower-lying portions of known flood-prone areas will be impacted to varying degrees as lake and river water levels remain high in response to recent and forecast precipitation and melting snow in the coming week. 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 to take necessary action to protect and 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

Temperatures over the next 7 days are expected to remain near seasonal with daytime highs up to +13°C and nighttime lows down to -1°C. There is up to 38 mm of rainfall forecasted. High flows are expected to persist as water continues to move through the system. Flooding along the Severn River and Sparrow Lake within the District Municipality of Muskoka and Town of Gravenhurst is expected.

Description of Current Conditions

Lake water levels remain high from recent precipitation and runoff and are expected to remain high through the week of April 21. High and fast water flows are expected within areas of the Severn River as well as Sparrow Lake as water moves through the system.

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