

Flood Warning Bancroft District

NEWS

Monday, April 14, 2014
(5:00 pm)

The Ministry of Natural Resources - Bancroft District is advising area residents that a Flood Warning continues to be in effect across the District.

Residents of Bancroft District should take necessary action to protect property and monitor developing conditions closely. People are asked to stay away from fast-moving rivers and streams.

MNR 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 MNR - Surface Water Monitoring Centre, MNR - Aviation Forest Fire and Emergency Management Services, Trent Severn Waterway and Environment Canada.

The forecast over the next few days is calling for 10-20mm of rain from Monday through to Tuesday morning, then switching to snow with possible accumulations of 5-10cm. As the week progresses, the temperature is anticipated to drop drastically on Tuesday with daytime highs ranging from -2 to 8 degrees Celsius. Overnight temperatures are expected to be below the freezing mark. Temperatures are expected to warm up again after Thursday.

Description of Current Conditions

Although some of the snowpack has melted over the last week, a significant amount of snow is still present. Mild temperatures over the weekend combined with the rainfall received is rapidly melting the remaining snow and quickly increasing water levels and flow velocities in local rivers and streams. Most streams, creeks, marshes and wetlands are at near full levels and have a limited ability to absorb additional runoff, but larger water bodies, including the reservoir lakes, are responding more slowly. **Municipalities and residents should closely monitor low lying and flood prone areas along the Burnt, Irondale, Gull, Black, York and Madawaska Rivers.** These water bodies continue to respond quickly to the melting snow and rainfall and this trend is expected to continue over the next 48 hours. Flooding is occurring along low lying and flood prone areas of the Burnt and Irondale Rivers. Ice jamming has been observed along these rivers.

Additionally, water accumulation in areas adjacent to watercourses, road ditches and areas with poor drainage is occurring. Road overtopping is possible and has been observed in some locations. With the combination of double digit temperatures and the precipitation received, there is the potential for more ice jams to form as the rivers and lakes break up. This could contribute to elevated water levels and flooding.

The water levels of the reservoir lakes are rising at a slow rate. Trent-Severn Waterway (TSW) officials advise that the winter drawdown of the lakes has created significant storage capacity and currently there are no flooding concerns for lake shoreline areas. TSW staff assess the situation daily and undertake dam operations as required. The MNR and the TSW continue to closely monitor local lakes and rivers as the freshet progresses.

The MNR is in regular communication with partner agencies, including Conservation Authorities, Ontario Power Generation (OPG) and the TSW.

Expiry Date:

This message will expire on Thursday, April 17 2014, 10:00 AM

Terminology: Notification Levels

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

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

FLOOD WATCH: potential for flooding exists within specific watercourses and municipalities

FLOOD WARNING: flooding is imminent or occurring within specific watercourses and municipalities.

Contact Information

For more information please contact:

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A close watch on local conditions and weather forecasts from Environment Canada is recommended. Environment Canada bulletins can be found at <http://weather.gc.ca/>

The Surface Water Monitoring Centre public webpage can be found here: www.ontario.ca/flooding