

Flood Warning Bancroft District

NEWS

Thursday, April 10, 2014
(5:00 pm)

The Ministry of Natural Resources - Bancroft District is advising area residents that a Flood Warning is in effect in 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.

Warmer temperatures are expected to continue over the next five days with daytime highs of +10 degrees C with the potential for 15mm of rain Thursday through Friday. We are monitoring a large weather system that is set to move in to the province Saturday evening and remain over the weekend and into early next week. If the storm hits our region as is currently forecasted, we could receive 50+mm of rain from Saturday night through Monday with a five day precipitation total of 80-100mm.

Description of Current Conditions

Although some of the snowpack has melted over the last week, a significant amount of snow is still present. There is a snow water equivalent in the snowpack of approximately 115-120mm. Mild temperatures combined with the significant forecasted rainfall will rapidly melt the remaining snow and will quickly increase water levels and flow velocities in local rivers and streams. Smaller streams and creeks are expected to respond quickly to the additional runoff, but larger water bodies, including the reservoir lakes, will take longer to react. **Municipalities and residents should closely monitor low lying and flood prone areas along the Burnt, Irondale, Gull, and Black Rivers as well as the York and Madawaska Rivers.** These water bodies are expected to respond quickly to the rapidly melting snow and forecast rainfall. Additional water accumulation in areas adjacent to watercourses, road

ditches and areas with poor drainage will occur. Road overtopping is possible in some locations. With the combination of double digit temperatures, forecasted precipitation and remaining ice cover on local lakes and rivers, there is the potential for ice jams to form which 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 Monday, April 14 2014, 12:00 PM

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