

Flood Warning Bancroft District

NEWS

Thursday, April 17, 2014
(4:00 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 is calling for 10-20mm of rain from Friday April 18 through to Tuesday April 22. As we progress into the weekend, the temperatures are anticipated to range from 10-12 degrees Celsius during the day and remain above freezing overnight.

Description of Current Conditions

A dense snowpack remains in the upper reaches of the watershed with a water equivalent of about 95mm. Mild temperatures from last weekend combined with rain have rapidly melted most of the snow, causing increased water levels and flow velocities in local rivers and streams. Most streams, creeks, marshes and wetlands are at near full levels and have limited ability to absorb additional runoff.

Larger water bodies, including reservoir lakes, are rising but responding more slowly. **Municipalities and residents should closely monitor low lying and flood prone areas along the Burnt, Irondale, Black, Head, Mississagua, York and Madawaska Rivers.** Flooding is occurring along low lying and flood prone areas of the Burnt and Irondale Rivers; water levels on these two rivers appear to have peaked and are declining, however, we caution that flow rates may increase as mild temperatures return and the remaining

snowpack continues to melt. Flooding is also being reported on **Young Lake** in the City of Kawartha Lakes as a result of high flows on the **Head River**.

In the Municipality of Trent Lakes, the Trent-Severn Waterway (TSW) advises that the **Mississagua River** may experience its highest flows on record as a result of the inflow upstream. The Municipality of Trent Lakes is advised to closely monitor areas known for flooding and be prepared to respond to flooding emergencies as they occur.

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 forecasted precipitation received, there is the potential for more ice jams to form as the rivers and lakes break up. This could contribute to higher water levels and flooding.

The water levels of the reservoir lakes are rising slowly. TSW officials advise that the winter drawdown of the lakes has created adequate storage capacity and there are currently no flooding concerns for reservoir lake shoreline areas. The Gull River through the Village of Minden is bank full which is not unusual for spring conditions. The dams downstream of Minden are open and water is flowing through the system. TSW officials assess the situation daily and adjust flows through water control structures to manage the water as it works its way through the system of reservoir lakes and rivers. The MNR and TSW are communicating daily throughout the freshet to closely monitor conditions across the watershed.

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

Expiry Date:

This message will expire on Tuesday, April 22 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