

Flood Watch Bancroft District

NEWS

Thursday, April 24, 2014
(5:00 pm)

The Ministry of Natural Resources - Bancroft District is advising area residents that the Watershed Conditions Statement - Flood Outlook issued April 21, 2014 has been upgraded to a **Flood Watch** for the **Gull River Watershed only**. No further updates will be issued for the Burnt, Irondale, Black, Mississagua, York or Madawaska Rivers.

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 5 day forecast is calling for 15-20mm of rain from Friday April 25 to Tuesday April 29. Temperatures are anticipated to range from 6-12° Celsius during the day and remain above freezing overnight with the exception of Monday April 28 and Tuesday April 29.

Description of Current Conditions

While most of the snowpack has melted, a moderate amount remains in the upper reaches of the watershed. Mild temperatures combined with rain and melting snow has caused increased water levels and flow velocities in local rivers and streams which are at near full levels and have limited ability to absorb additional runoff.

Municipalities and residents should continue to closely monitor low lying and flood prone areas along the Gull River. Although the Burnt and Irondale rivers have peaked and are declining, we caution that flow rates are high and may increase with precipitation and as water works its way through the system.

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. There is the potential for ice jams to form as the rivers and lakes break up. This could contribute to higher water levels and flooding.

Water levels on the reservoir lakes are rising slowly and as they fill, water levels will moderately rise on the Gull River including in the Village of Minden. The Gull River through the Village of Minden is slightly over bank full which is not unusual for spring conditions. TSW officials advise that there are currently no flooding concerns for reservoir lake shoreline areas under current conditions and inflows. The reservoirs are at approximately 85% of their storage capacity. The dams downstream of Minden are open and water continues to flow 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 regularly 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 29 2014, 01:00 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:

MNR Bancroft District Office

Paul Shalla, A/IRM Technical Specialist, Bancroft District, 613-332-3940 x208

MNR Minden Field Office

Kris Windover, IRM Technical Specialist, Minden Field Office, Bancroft District, 705-286-5207

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