

Flood Warning Bancroft District

NEWS

Monday, April 04, 2016

2:00pm

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Bancroft District is advising all area residents and visitors that a **Flood Warning** remains in effect for all of Bancroft District MNRF.

Water levels and flows in local lakes and rivers will remain high following a significant rainfall event that moved across the area.

Residents should keep a close watch on conditions, regularly check for updated messages and stay away from fast-moving rivers and streams. Residents who have a historic susceptibility to flooding should take appropriate precautions to protect their property, such as ensuring sump pumps are functioning and securing items that may float away as water levels rise.

The Ministry 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. The public should avoid crossing any submerged roads as there may be a risk to traveler safety. Barricades are erected at roads where known washouts or dangerous driving conditions have been observed.

Residents and those visiting the area are advised to be aware of current watershed conditions, exercise caution while around water bodies and maintain close supervision of children and pets.

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

There is no precipitation expected through Monday and Tuesday with a system moving in Wednesday that will most likely bring mixed precipitation through to Friday. Temperature will be cold early in the week progressing to more seasonal values with daily highs in the low pluses and below zero at night.

Description of Current Conditions

Although the majority of the snowpack has melted over the past couple weeks, a significant amount of snow is still present in upper reaches of our watersheds. The water content in the snow varies across the district from below average to about average. Soil surfaces are mostly frozen and unable to absorb moisture. Last weekend's rainfall and snow melt has resulted in high water conditions for many of the rivers and streams in the Bancroft District. Flooding is possible or occurring in local watersheds, particularly the Gull, Black, Burnt, Irondale, Mississauga and York River watersheds. With the forecasted cold, dry weather early in the week, water levels should begin to gradually recede over the coming days. The forecasted precipitation later in the week, may prolong elevated water levels. Additional water accumulation in areas adjacent to watercourses, road ditches and areas with poor drainage may occur. With the combination of forecast precipitation and remaining ice cover on local lakes and rivers, there is the potential for ice jams to form and contribute to elevated water levels and flooding in some instances.

As a result of recent rainfalls, most reservoir lakes in the district are at or above the target operating levels for this time of year. The MNRF and the Trent-Severn Waterway (TSW) continue to closely monitor local lakes and rivers as the freshet progresses.

The MNRF is in regular communication with partner agencies and water control structure operators, including Conservation Authorities, Ontario Power Generation (OPG), Bracebridge Generation and the TSW.

Expiry Date:

This message will expire on 08/04/2016 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

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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