

Watershed Conditions Statement - Water Safety

Flood Watch

Bracebridge Minden Parry Sound District

Black, Burnt, Gull, Severn, Magnetawan and Muskoka River Watersheds

Wednesday, April 17, 2024
12:00pm

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry – Bracebridge Minden Parry Sound District is advising area residents that:

Watershed Conditions Statement – Water Safety Bulletin is in effect for the Black, Burnt, Gull and Magnetawan River Watersheds.

Flood Watch is in effect for the Muskoka River Watershed and the Severn River Watershed.

These messages will remain in effect until Friday, April 26, 2024.

This message will impact residents within the MNRF Bracebridge Minden Parry Sound District for portions of the District of Parry Sound, District of Muskoka, and City of Kawartha Lakes within the Black, Burnt, Gull, Severn, Magnetawan and Muskoka River Watersheds.

Residents and those visiting the area are advised to be aware of current watershed conditions. Higher than normal water levels and flow conditions exist throughout the area and residents are reminded to keep a close watch on weather conditions, regularly check for updated messages, and exercise caution near fast-moving rivers and streams.

The Parry Sound-Muskoka area received approximately 50 to 60mm of precipitation between Friday April 12 and Sunday April 14 producing significant runoff into local rivers and lakes. It may be possible that lake water levels and river flows in certain areas could reach flood levels with more rainfall expected in the coming week. Areas that are most impacted by elevated flows and water levels are the Muskoka River Watershed and the Severn River Watershed.

Lower-lying portions of known flood-prone areas may be impacted to varying degrees as lake/river levels start to rise in response to significant precipitation. Residents and visitors should exercise caution while around waterbodies and maintain close supervision of children and pets.

MNRF also advises extreme caution when using forest access roads for outdoor activities as they may become seasonally inundated with water, are prone to washouts, and may become impassible due to localized flooding.

Residents that have been affected by high water and flow conditions in the past should continue take necessary action to protect/secure any vulnerable property in proximity to rivers and lakes and closely monitor developing conditions and regularly check for updated messages.

The ministry is closely monitoring the weather and developing watershed conditions. Further updates will be issued as appropriate.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Description of Weather System

The weather forecast is calling for daytime highs of 5°C to 13°C, and overnight lows are forecasted between -1°C and 6°C for the next 7 days. Forecasts are also predicting that the area will receive 10-15mm of rain on April 17, with the potential for an additional 20 to 28mm of rain over the next 7 days.

Description of Current Conditions

Lake water levels are high from recent precipitation and runoff. River flows and lake levels are expected to continue to rise with additional inputs later this week. Lake levels and river flows within the Black, Burnt, Gull and Magnetawan watersheds are high, but still within their normal operating ranges for spring.

Flooding is possible within the Muskoka River Watershed and Severn River Watershed if forecasted rainfall materializes as these systems are currently above their normal operating ranges as a result of significant precipitation received within the Muskoka area.

DEFINITIONS

- **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.
- **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.
- **FLOOD WATCH:** potential for flooding exists within specific watercourses and municipalities.
- **FLOOD WARNING:** flooding is imminent or occurring within specific watercourses and municipalities.

LEARN MORE

- Surface Water Monitoring Centre public webpage: www.ontario.ca/page/surface-water-monitoring-centre
- Environment Canada bulletins: www.weather.gc.ca
- A close watch on local conditions and weather forecasts from Environment Canada is recommended.