

**Flood Warning - Bancroft District
Flood Watch – Gull River****NEWS**

Friday, April 19, 2019

7:30pm

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) - Bancroft District is advising area residents that a Flood Warning is in effect for most of Bancroft District (Burnt, Irondale, Madawaska, York and Little Mississippi River watersheds), while a Flood Watch remains in effect for the Gull River watershed.

Residents of Bancroft District should keep a close watch on conditions, regularly check for updated messages and exercise caution near fast-moving rivers and streams. Please alert any children under your care to these dangers and supervise their activities. 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. Motorists in the area should remain vigilant for flooding over roadways and the potential for washed out culverts.

MNRF advises extreme caution when using forest access roads for outdoor activities. Many are seasonally inundated with water, prone to washouts, and may be impassable 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.

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 (TSW) and Environment Canada.

Gauging stations have measured approximately 50mm of rainfall since the arrival of a low pressure system yesterday afternoon. A rainfall warning issued by Environment Canada remains in effect for parts of Bancroft District with the potential for an additional 25-30mm of rainfall by Saturday night. Air temperatures are forecasted to rise for the remainder of the weekend and reach daytime highs of 15°C with nighttime temperatures above 0°C across the entire district.

Description of Current Conditions

With the onset of the snowmelt, water levels and flows are rising rapidly in northern areas. Snow amounts are above average for this time of the year in the most northern areas of the Gull River system. Most lakes on the Gull River and Burnt River systems remain below average but are rising due to the onset of the melt. Lake levels are monitored daily and assessed in relation to estimated runoff amounts. The flows on Gull River and Burnt remain above average due to the snowmelt and operational activities. Flows on both rivers are anticipated to increase with increased runoff from the forecasted precipitation. The reservoirs on the Gull River system are expected to adequately absorb the precipitation and snowmelt from the forecast event. **Flooding is imminent or occurring on the Burnt and Irondale Rivers. The flows on the York River are rising rapidly and will likely start to impact flood susceptible properties tomorrow and through the weekend. Flows on the Madawaska River downstream of Galeairy Lake are rising rapidly. Flooding has been observed and is continuing on the Little Mississippi River. Flooding has been observed on many of the small watersheds on the eastern half of Bancroft District.** The peak of this event is unlikely to be realized until early next week.

Due to mostly frozen conditions, the ground's ability to absorb runoff and snowmelt is limited. The potential exists for nuisance flooding of roadways, ditches, and low-lying flood-prone areas as the melt progresses. There may be potential for minor ice jam related flooding on some rivers. A close watch on local forecasts and conditions is recommended.

The MNR and TSW continue to closely monitor local lakes and rivers as the freshet progresses. The MNR is in regular communication with partner agencies and water control structure operators, including Conservation Authorities, Ontario Power Generation (OPG), Bracebridge Generation and TSW.

Expiry Date:

This message will expire on 04/23/2019 11:59 PM

Terminology: Notification Levels

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

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

Parks Canada Water Management Updates can be found here: <https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/lhn-nhs/on/trentsevern/info/infonet>