

Parry Sound District**Flood Warning – North Branch Muskoka River Sub-Watershed,
Moon River/ Bala Reach and the South Branch of the Muskoka River.****Flood Watch - District Municipality of Muskoka, the Territorial District of Parry
Sound and a portion of the County of Haliburton.****NEWS**

Wednesday, April 19, 2017

1:00 PM

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry – Parry Sound District is advising area residents that a **Flood Watch is in effect for the District, which includes the District Municipality of Muskoka, the Territorial District of Parry Sound and a north-west portion in the County of Haliburton.**

A Flood Warning is currently in effect for the Moon River/Bala Reach, the North Branch of the Muskoka River sub-watershed and the South Branch of the Muskoka River

Flows out of Lake Muskoka into the Bala Reach have surpassed the flood warning levels of 280cms and flows will continue to increase as the Lake Muskoka water level rises.

Flows in the North and South Branches of the Muskoka River have surpassed the lower flooding thresholds and are expected to continue to rise with the forecasted precipitation over the next couple days.

All rivers in the District are currently experiencing high flows resulting from thunderstorms and rainfall received last week and over the weekend. The upper watershed is experiencing significant snow melt which is contributing to high levels of water throughout the watershed.

It is expected that lower-lying portions of known flood-prone roads along river courses will be impacted to various degrees as river levels remain high. High water levels in the Huntsville Lakes (Lake Vernon, Fairy Lake and Peninsula Lake) and Mary Lake, typical during the spring, are expected to build and remain high as runoff from rain and continuing snow melt makes its way through the watercourse.

Residents within the Parry Sound-Muskoka area should keep a close watch on conditions, regularly check for updated messages and exercise caution around water bodies as flows and levels within lakes, rivers and streams remain high. Residents who have a historic susceptibility to flooding should consider taking action to secure or protect any property in flood-prone or vulnerable areas. This may include ensuring sump pumps are functioning and/or securing items along the shore line as water levels rise.

Banks and shorelines adjacent to water bodies are extremely slippery and unstable. Residents and visitors should exercise caution while around water bodies and maintain close supervision of children and pets.

MNRF also 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.

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 based on information received from MNRF - Surface Water Monitoring Centre, MNRF - Aviation Forest Fire and Emergency Management Services and Environment Canada.

An intense low pressure system will continue to move eastwards on Wednesday April 19th, bringing up to 5mm of rain across central Ontario. On Thursday, the low pressure system is forecasted to move north-easterly bringing 20 to 25mm of rainfall east of Georgian Bay across to North Bay and Sudbury. Risk of thunderstorms exists for areas south of the French River which may result in localized higher amounts of precipitation.

The system is forecast to move out of the Province by Friday, with relatively clear skies forecast for both Friday and Saturday.

Description of Current Conditions

Current water levels and flows are high, due to previous precipitation accumulation and sustained snow melt. The district snow stations have melted, with zero snow at the monitoring stations, however there is still 106mm of snow water content in the upper part of the watershed in Algonquin Park. Snow in the District and in the Park has been melting at a steady rate over the past month, and 80-105mm of rain has been received in various parts of the District since the beginning of the month. These factors have contributed to the river and lake levels increasing steadily.

The current weather forecast calls for daytime highs over the next week to range from 5°C to 15°C, and night time lows to range from -1°C to 5°C, depending on the weather service. Today's forecast has an expected precipitation range of 5-8mm. Thursdays' forecast has an expected precipitation range of 15-20mm. Lake and river levels will be expected to continue to increase due to runoff from forecasted rain over the rest of the week and over the weekend.

Expiry Date:

This message will expire on Monday, April 24 2017, 12:00 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

For more information please contact:

Parry Sound District MNRF Water Management Department
705-646-5531

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: <http://www.ontario.ca/flooding>