



## Watershed Conditions Statement – Water Safety

Message Number: 2025-04  
Issued: March 21, 2025, at 12:00 PM EDT  
From: NBMCA Duty Officer, Angela Mills

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**Watershed Conditions Statement – Water Safety:** indicates that high flows, unsafe banks, melting ice or other factors could be dangerous for users such as anglers, boaters, swimmers, children, or pets. Flooding is not expected.

If you have a flood emergency, please contact your municipality. If you live in an unincorporated township, please contact the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) – North Bay District.

A **Watershed Conditions Statement – Water Safety** is in place for the North Bay-Mattawa watershed. The previously issued **Flood Watch** has ended.

This is an update to the previous Message Number 2025-03 dated March 18, 2025.

### **Current Conditions:**

Water levels on area lakes and rivers are generally high for this time of year in response to recent snowmelt and rain. Current water levels are normal for spring freshet in April. Much of the snow has melted since the last snow survey on March 14. The next snow survey is scheduled for March 24.

Water level for Lake Nipissing and the Ottawa River at Mattawa are normal for this time of year and are well below flood thresholds.

Current water levels can be viewed by searching Station Names “Ottawa River”, “Mattawa River”, “Chippewa Creek”, “La Vase River”, “Wasi River”, and “Lake Nipissing” at [https://wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/search/real\\_time\\_e.html](https://wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/search/real_time_e.html)

### **Forecasted Conditions:**

Temperatures are forecast to be cooler for the coming week, with daytime highs near or slightly above freezing, and lows below freezing. Any precipitation is forecast to be in the form of snow. This will slow the movement of water through the watershed. Water levels and flows on rivers are expected to continue to decrease with these cooler temperatures.

Water levels on the Ottawa River are managed by upstream dams and reservoirs operated by provincial and federal governments. Forecasts are available at <https://ottawariver.ca/>

The water level on Lake Nipissing is regulated by dams operated by the federal government. Forecasts are available at <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-services-procurement/services/infrastructure-buildings/bridges-docks-dams/frenchriver-dam.html>

**Risk:**

Water levels have increased across the watershed with recent snowmelt. Ice is breaking up along these rivers with faster flows. Changing water levels and recent warmth and rain are deteriorating ice conditions on local lakes.

All residents, especially those in low lying areas, are encouraged to monitor the conditions that are developing. Banks adjacent to rivers and creeks are very slippery at this time and when combined with faster flows and cold open water, pose a serious hazard. The public is encouraged to keep children and pets away from watercourses and off waterbodies.

Municipalities are encouraged to monitor water crossings for debris that may affect the movement of water through culverts and bridges. A close watch on local conditions and updated forecasts and warnings from Environment Canada is also recommended.

Staff at the North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority will continue to monitor weather and watershed conditions and update this message based on the changing weather and streamflow conditions.


**This message will be in effect until (or updated before) Friday, March 28, 2025 at 4:00 PM EDT.**

The general public is advised of these messages through the [www.nbmca.ca](http://www.nbmca.ca) website with the flood status icon and a link to information about current conditions. NBMCA also circulates these messages to local media and social media, posting on Twitter (@theNBMCA), Instagram (nbmcainfo), and Facebook (NBMCA).


The public is invited to share photos of watershed conditions on social media using #NBMCAFlood.

## Terminology: Notification Levels

**WATERSHED CONDITIONS STATEMENT:** general notices of potential flooding or other conditions that pose a safety risk. There are two kinds of statements:

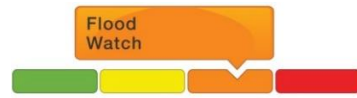
A diagram showing a horizontal bar divided into four colored segments: green, yellow, orange, and red. A yellow callout box labeled "Water Safety Statement" points to the yellow segment.

**Water Safety:** indicates that high flows, unsafe banks, melting ice or other factors could be dangerous for users such as anglers, boaters, swimmers, children, or pets. Flooding is not expected.

A diagram showing a horizontal bar divided into four colored segments: green, yellow, orange, and red. A yellow callout box labeled "Flood Outlook Statement" points to the yellow segment.

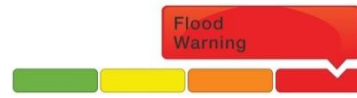
**Flood Outlook:** gives early notice of the potential for flooding based on weather forecasts calling for heavy rain, snow melt, high wind or other conditions that could lead to high runoff, cause ice jams, lakeshore flooding or erosion.

### FLOOD WATCH

A diagram showing a horizontal bar divided into four colored segments: green, yellow, orange, and red. An orange callout box labeled "Flood Watch" points to the orange segment.

**FLOOD WATCH:** notifies that the potential for flooding exists within specific watercourses and municipalities. Municipalities, emergency services and individual landowners in flood-prone areas should prepare.

### FLOOD WARNING

A diagram showing a horizontal bar divided into four colored segments: green, yellow, orange, and red. A red callout box labeled "Flood Warning" points to the red segment.

**FLOOD WARNING:** notifies that flooding is imminent or already occurring in specific watercourses or municipalities. Municipalities and individuals should take action to deal with flood conditions. This may include road closures and evacuations.

# MAP: North Bay – Mattawa Watershed

