



Watershed Conditions Statement – Flood Outlook – North Bay-Mattawa Watershed inland rivers

Watershed Conditions Statement – Water Safety – Lake Nipissing Shoreline in North Bay and Callander and the Mattawa River in Mattawa

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Issued: April 17, 2025, at 1:30 PM EDT
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Watershed Conditions Statement – 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.

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 – Flood Outlook** has been issued for the inland rivers within the North Bay-Mattawa Watershed.

A **Watershed Conditions Statement – Water Safety** has been issued for the Lake Nipissing Shoreline in the City of North Bay and Municipality of Callander and the lower reaches of the Mattawa River through the Town of Mattawa.

Current Conditions:

Water levels on area lakes and rivers are normal for this time of year, and area lakes remain ice-covered. As of April 15, the average moisture content in the snowpack is 26.3 mm, which is typical for mid-April. Snow persists in higher elevations, while forested areas show patchy coverage. Soils may still be frozen in some locations or have recently thawed and are near saturation, limiting their ability to absorb rainfall and snowmelt.

Water levels for Lake Nipissing and the Ottawa River at Mattawa remain within normal ranges 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

Forecasted Conditions:

Temperatures are forecast to be approaching 10 °C during the day and near freezing overnight over the coming week with approximately 15 to 25 mm of rain forecast on Friday (April 18) and an additional 10 mm Monday (April 21). Water levels and flows are expected to increase in response to the rainfall and melt of remaining snowpack.

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>

Historic Flood Conditions:

For comparison, in response to 34.5 mm of steady rain over 12 hours with frozen or saturated soil conditions and minimal remaining snowpack in March 2024, the water level on Chippewa Creek increased by 83 cm over 15 hours, peaking about 3 hours after rain ended.

Risk:

Forecasted mild daytime temperatures and rainfall, combined with continued snowmelt will increase runoff and raising water levels across the watershed. A Flood Outlook is in effect for inland rivers, as there is a risk of flooding in low-lying and flood-prone areas. Rainfall on frozen or saturated ground may cause rapid changes in water levels, particularly along urban creeks in the City of North Bay, during and after intense rainfall.

Increasing water levels and runoff are expected to impact shoreline ice stability. A Watershed Conditions Statement – Water Safety is in effect for the Lake Nipissing Shoreline and lower reaches of the Mattawa River in Mattawa, as fluctuating water levels and ice breakup are a hazard but water levels in these areas are well below flood thresholds and flooding is not expected in these areas.

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 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, April 25, 2025, at 4:00 PM EDT.


The general public is advised of these messages through the 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:


**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.

**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

**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

**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

