

FLOOD WATCH – Chippewa Creek in North Bay

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

Message Number: 2025-08
Issued: April 25, 2025, at 11:30 AM EDT
From: NBMCA Duty Officer, Githan Kattera

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.

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.

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 **FLOOD WATCH** has been issued for **Chippewa Creek**. A **Watershed Conditions Statement – Flood Outlook** remains in effect for the **remainder of the North Bay–Mattawa watershed**.

This is an update to the previous Message Number 2025-07 dated April 17, 2025.

Current Conditions:

Water levels on area lakes and rivers remain within the normal range for this time of year. Snow survey observations as of April 23, indicate that the snowpack has largely melted, with only isolated patches remaining in shaded or elevated areas. However, ground conditions remain saturated, limiting the soil's ability to absorb any additional precipitation or snowmelt.

Water levels on Lake Nipissing and the Ottawa River at Mattawa are normal and well below established flood thresholds. Flooding is not anticipated for these areas.

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:

Environment Canada has issued a Rainfall Warning for the North Bay-Powassan-Mattawa area. Significant rainfall is forecast for today (April 25) into tomorrow, with 30 mm to 40 mm possible. Temperatures are forecast to remain above freezing with daytime highs between 15 and 17 °C for Sunday (April 27) and Monday, which will accelerate melt of remaining snow and lake ice. Another rain event is forecast for late Monday into Tuesday. Total precipitation over the next five days could be as high as 45 mm to 60 mm.

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:

A considerable rain event is forecast for this weekend. Rain on frozen or saturated soils quickly becomes runoff. Any remaining snow and ice will contribute additional flow. Water levels in urban areas respond rapidly, especially during and after periods of intense precipitation. The forecast rain has the potential to trigger flooding particularly in the urban areas in the City of North Bay, where a Flood Watch has been issued for Chippewa Creek.

A Watershed Conditions Statement – Flood Outlook remains in effect for the remainder of the North Bay–Mattawa Watershed, where localized flooding in low-lying and flood-prone areas is possible.

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 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, May 2, 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:


A diagram for a Water Safety Statement. It features a yellow callout box with the text "Water Safety Statement" pointing to a horizontal bar. The bar is divided into four colored segments: green, yellow, orange, and red. The yellow segment is the largest and is highlighted with a white arrow pointing to it from the callout box.

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 for a Flood Outlook Statement. It features a yellow callout box with the text "Flood Outlook Statement" pointing to a horizontal bar. The bar is divided into four colored segments: green, yellow, orange, and red. The yellow segment is the largest and is highlighted with a white arrow pointing to it from the callout box.


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 for Flood Watch. It features an orange callout box with the text "Flood Watch" pointing to a horizontal bar. The bar is divided into four colored segments: green, yellow, orange, and red. The orange segment is the largest and is highlighted with a white arrow pointing to it from the callout box.

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 for Flood Warning. It features a red callout box with the text "Flood Warning" pointing to a horizontal bar. The bar is divided into four colored segments: green, yellow, orange, and red. The red segment is the largest and is highlighted with a white arrow pointing to it from the callout box.

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

