



FLOOD WARNING for Lake Nipissing Shoreline (Callander and North Bay), La Vase River downstream of Lakeshore Dr, Parks Creek, and Mattawa River downstream from Hurdman Dam

Watershed Conditions Statement – Flood Outlook for the remainder of the watershed.

Message Number: 2026-12

Issued: April 28, 2026, at 10:30 AM EDT

From: NBMCA Duty Officer, Angela Mills

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.

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 need assistance responding to 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 WARNING** has been issued for the Mattawa River downstream of Hurdman Dam. A **FLOOD WARNING** remains in effect for the Lake Nipissing Shoreline, La Vase River downstream of Lakeshore Dr, and Parks Creek. The

Flood warning in the remainder of the watershed has been downgraded to Watershed Conditions Statement- Flood Outlook.

This Message is an update to the previous Message Number 2026-11 dated April 21, 2026.

Current Conditions:

More than 220% of normal April precipitation has been recorded at the North Bay Airport in the first two weeks of April.

Water level on Lake Nipissing is 6 cm above the maximum non-damage elevation. Snowmelt continues in northern parts of the Lake Nipissing watershed. Lake Nipissing directly impacts water level in the La Vase River downstream of Lakeshore Dr and Parks Creek. The Parks Creek Backflood Control Structure is operational, keeping water levels lowered in the Parks Creek watershed. Eva Wardlaw Conservation Area is closed to the public while operations remain ongoing.

Water level on the Ottawa River, which directly influences water level in the lower reaches of the Mattawa River, has been rising in response to rain and ongoing snowmelt in northern areas of its watershed. Mattawa Island Conservation Area remains closed due to flooding.

Water level in local watersheds have receded to normal for this time of year. Corbeil Conservation Area remains closed until staff can assess the safety of the pedestrian bridge that was damaged during flooding.

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:

There is 10 to 25 mm of rain forecast for today. Winds will increase through today, initially from the southeast before becoming southwest. Winds could be 20 km/h, gusting to 70 km/h over Lake Nipissing.

The water level of Lake Nipissing continues to slowly rise as snowmelt continues in northern tributary headwaters. Significant snowpack remains in the northern areas of the Lake Nipissing watershed. Public Services and Procurement Canada

is forecasting Water level on Lake Nipissing to continue to stabilize in the coming week. The changes to water levels on Lake Nipissing depend on the amount of water flowing in from rivers, precipitation, and the amount of water flowing out through the control dams to the downstream French River.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-services-procurement/services/infrastructure-buildings/bridges-docks-dams/frenchriver-dam.html>

Increased flows on the Ottawa River are anticipated as snowmelt continues in the northern areas of its watershed, sending more spring runoff downstream. In Mattawa, water levels may exceed the major flood level over the next few days, per the Ottawa River Regulating Committee. The Ottawa River water levels are managed by dams and reservoirs operated by provincial and federal governments. The Ottawa River Regulation Planning Board posts current data and forecasts on their website <https://ottawariver.ca/>

Historic Flood Conditions:

For comparison, when river-based flooding occurred at Mattawa in May 2019, the water level on the Ottawa River at Mattawa reached a maximum level that is 95 cm higher than the present level. Flows from the Otto Holden dam in May 2019 were around 27% greater at their maximum than present.

Additionally, when lake-based flooding occurred on Lake Nipissing in May 2019, the water level on Lake Nipissing at North Bay reached a maximum daily average level that is about 29 cm higher than the present level. The water level was higher than current levels for the period between May 4 and June 19, 2019. Water level is currently 3 cm higher than the 2024 peak elevation.

Risk:

A Flood Warning has been issued for the Mattawa River downstream of Hurdman Dam. Water levels are rapidly rising as snowmelt continues in the Upper Ottawa River. High flow on the Ottawa River impacts water level of the Mattawa River and may exceed major damage elevation in the coming days.

A Flood Warning has been issued for the Lake Nipissing shoreline in North Bay and Callander and includes the La Vase river downstream of Lakeshore Dr and Parks Creek. Water levels continue to slowly rise in response to recent rain and snowmelt and may stabilize in the next week. Ice is breaking up on Lake Nipissing. High winds over open water combined with high water level water will

increase wave action and increase risk for shoreline erosion and damage. Operations are ongoing with the Parks Creek Backflood Control Structure to prevent high water levels on Lake Nipissing from impeding drainage from Parks Creek and surrounding urban areas.

A Watershed Conditions Statement – Flood Outlook is now in place for the remainder of the watershed. Water levels have receded to seasonal normal in local watersheds but remain high in some areas. With soils near saturation, water levels could respond rapidly to any additional rain.

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 fast moving 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) Tuesday, May 5, 2026, at 4:00 PM EDT.

See also the Ministry of Natural Resources – North Bay District local bulletins for areas outside the North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority, including for the Ottawa River <https://www.lioapplications.lrc.gov.on.ca/webapps/swmc/flood-forecasting-and-warning-program/>

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

