



Watershed Conditions Statement – Flood Outlook

Message Number: 2024-01
Issued: February 27, 2024, at 1:00 PM EST
From: NBMCA Duty Officer, Angela Mills

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 and Forestry (MNRF) – North Bay District.

A **Watershed Conditions Statement – Flood Outlook** is in place for the North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority watershed, **EXCEPT** for the Lake Nipissing shoreline and Ottawa River at Mattawa areas.

Current Conditions:

Water levels on area lakes and rivers are at or below normal for this time of year. Moisture content in the snowpack is 56 mm (as of Feb 15), which is well below normal for this time of year.

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:

Weather forecasts are predicting 10 to 20 mm of rain Tuesday (Feb 27) to Wednesday with daytime highs between 7 and 9 °C for Tuesday and Wednesday. Thunderstorms may produce localized periods of intense rainfall. Tuesday’s overnight low temperature is forecast to be 6 to 8 °C. Temperatures will plummet late Wednesday to near -20 °C and are expected to return to above freezing by Friday.

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.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/ontario/eaux-water/renseignement-information-eng.html>

Historic Flood Conditions:

For comparison, when flooding occurred in the watershed around April 18, 2019, the snowpack water content was 123 mm (measured April 15, 2019). Daytime temperatures were between 3 and 12 °C, with overnight temperatures above freezing. Actual precipitation measured on April 18, 2019, was 31.8 mm. When combined with snowmelt, the daily average water level on Chippewa Creek, in North Bay, increased by 57.6 cm in that one day.

Risk:

Forecasted warm temperatures and rain will trigger snow melt and increase hazardous conditions around lakes, rivers and streams. Rain on frozen conditions may result in rapid changes in water levels on urban creeks in the City of North Bay, especially during and after periods of intense precipitation. Water levels in the watershed will increase and localized flooding is possible in low-lying areas. Widespread flooding is not expected at this time.

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) Thursday, February 29, 2024 at 12:00 PM EST.

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 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.

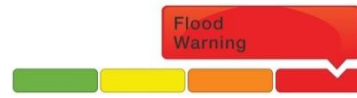
Flood Outlook: gives early notice of the potential for flooding based on weather forecasts calling for heavy rain, snow melt, high wind or other conditions that could lead to high runoff, cause ice jams, lakeshore flooding, or erosion.

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

