



# **FLOOD WARNING – Lake Nipissing Shoreline in North Bay and Callander and Parks Creek Subwatershed**

## **Water Safety – La Vase River downstream of Lakeshore Drive**

Message Number: 2024-12  
Issued: May 10, 2024, at 3:15 PM EDT  
From: NBMCA Flood Warning Coordinator, Chitra Gowda

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**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 – 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 and Forestry (MNRF) – North Bay District.

A **FLOOD WARNING** continues for the Lake Nipissing Shoreline in the City of North Bay and Municipality of Callander and Parks Creek subwatershed.

A **Watershed Conditions Statement – Water Safety** replaces the **Watershed Conditions Statement – Flood Outlook** for the La Vase River downstream of Lakeshore Drive.

This is an update to the previous Message Number 2024-11 dated May 1, 2024.

### **Current Conditions:**

The North Bay area has recorded 162 mm of precipitation through the month of April which is approximately 225% of normal.

The current water level on Lake Nipissing is just below its maximum "non-damage" level of 196.22, with only slight variability. This water level on Lake Nipissing is regulated by dams operated by the federal government.

High water levels on Lake Nipissing influence water level and flow in the lower reaches of tributaries. The Parks Creek Backflood Control Structure is in operation to maintain water level in Parks Creek lower than that of Lake Nipissing, protecting many local homes and businesses from flooding. The flow in the La Vase River has decreased over the past week and water level downstream of Lakeshore Drive remains high with Lake Nipissing's influence.

The water level on the Ottawa River at Mattawa has been stable for the past week and is normal for this time of year. Water levels on the Ottawa River are managed by upstream dams and reservoirs operated by provincial and federal governments through the Ottawa River Regulation Committee.

Water levels in the remainder of the watershed are near normal for this time of year. Water levels on Trout Lake, Turtle Lake, and Lake Talon are regulated by dams that are operated by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

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:**

Weather forecasts indicate 5-10 mm of rainfall is likely over the next five days, with the most expected on Saturday (May 11) and Sunday (May 12). This rainfall should have minimal impact to local watercourses.

The landscape condition has shifted from dormant vegetation to the start of flourishing growth, providing increased space to retain water. Consequently, local lakes and rivers may experience a decrease in flow.

According to Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC), with the latest observations and weather forecast, it is anticipated that the level on Lake Nipissing will continue to decline this week. PSPC has reduced discharge today (May 10). For water level and flow information, see <https://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/ontario/eaux-water/renseignement-information-eng.html>. 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.

The water level of the Ottawa River at Mattawa is forecast to remain stable or decrease over the next few days and remain normal for this time of year, 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:**

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 water level that is about 36 cm higher than yesterday's (May 9) daily average water level of 196.22 m. The water level was higher than current levels for the period between May 2 and June 22, 2019.

## **Risk:**

A Flood Warning continues for the Lake Nipissing shoreline in North Bay and Callander and the Parks Creek subwatershed. Water levels in the downstream reaches of Lake Nipissing tributaries (including Parks Creek, Jessup's Creek, and La Vase River) are impacted by high water levels on Lake Nipissing. The changes to water levels on Lake Nipissing depend on the amount of water flowing in from rivers, precipitation, wind, and the amount of water flowing out through the control dams to the downstream French River. Average water level on Lake Nipissing has stabilised and begun to recede. Local water levels can fluctuate rapidly, especially in response to strong winds. The North Bay and Callander shoreline is vulnerable to increased wave action, heightening the risk for shoreline erosion during high water levels on Lake Nipissing. NBMCA has initiated operations of the Parks Creek Backflood Control structure located at Eva Wardlaw Conservation Area in North Bay. For more information visit: <https://nbmca.ca/watershed-management/flood-forecasting/parks-creek-backflood-control-structure/>

The Watershed Conditions Statement - Flood Outlook for the La Vase River downstream of Lakeshore Drive has been revised to a Watershed Conditions Statement – Water Safety, indicating water levels are high but flooding is unlikely.

Water levels in the remainder of the watershed are near normal for this time of year. Landscape conditions have shifted from dormant vegetation and saturated soils to the start of flourishing growth allowing for the storage of additional moisture.

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 and 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 17, 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.


Local flood messages for outside the NBMCA jurisdiction (map below) are issued by the local District Office of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. All flood messages are posted on the Ontario Flood Forecasting and Warning Program website <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:


A diagram showing a yellow box labeled "Water Safety Statement" above a horizontal bar with four colored segments: green, yellow, orange, and red. The yellow segment is highlighted with a white arrow pointing to it.

**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 yellow box labeled "Flood Outlook Statement" above a horizontal bar with four colored segments: green, yellow, orange, and red. The yellow segment is highlighted with a white arrow pointing to it.


**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 an orange box labeled "Flood Watch" above a horizontal bar with four colored segments: green, yellow, orange, and red. The orange segment is highlighted with a white arrow pointing to it.

**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 red box labeled "Flood Warning" above a horizontal bar with four colored segments: green, yellow, orange, and red. The red segment is highlighted with a white arrow pointing to it.

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# MAP: North Bay – Mattawa Watershed

