Ontario

BULLETIN

Ministry of Natural Resources

Flood Watch
Parry Sound District

NEWS

Monday, April 20, 2015
1:00pm

The Ministry of Natural Resources - Parry Sound District is advising area residents that a Flood Watch is in effect for all watersheds within the District which includes the District Municipality of Muskoka, the Territorial District of Parry Sound and a north-west portion in the County of Haliburton.

Water levels and flows in lakes and rivers continue to increase as a result of rainfall received over the past 12 hours and continued melting of the snow pack at higher elevations in the watersheds.

It is expected that lower-lying portions of known flood-prone roads along river courses will be impacted to various degrees as river levels continue to rise. Vulnerable, low-lying roads and properties along the Big East River within the Town of Huntsville may begin to be impacted as river flows again increase. High water levels in the Huntsville Lakes (Lake Vernon, Fairy Lake and Peninsula Lake), typical during the spring, are expected to build and remain high as runoff from recent rain makes its way through the watercourse.

Flows in the North Branch Muskoka River within the Town of Bracebridge have surpassed early flood-watch levels. North Branch flows are expected to continue to rise over the next few days. Flow in the South Branch Muskoka River is also expected to climb above early watch levels within the next 24 to 48 hours.

Flows out of Lake Muskoka into the Bala Reach are expected to climb to early watch levels of 200cms within the next 24 to 48 hours.

Water levels in lakes are expected to continue to rise to typical spring levels over the next week.

Residents affected by high water conditions in the past should take necessary action to secure any vulnerable property in close proximity to rivers and lakes and closely monitor developing conditions.

Residents and those visiting the area are advised to be aware of current watershed conditions, exercise caution while around waterbodies and maintain close supervision of children and pets.

MNR is closely monitoring the weather and developing watershed conditions. Further updates will be issued as appropriate.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Description of Weather System
Rainfall amounts between 15 – 23mm were recorded within the area over the past 24 hours. An additional 10-15mm of rain is possible by this evening.

Description of Current Conditions

Levels and flows have increased significantly over the past few days as the remainder of the snow pack continues to melt across area watersheds. It is expected that rain forecasted will cause an increased rate of rise in lake levels and river flows over the next few days.

During this time of year we can expect higher and faster flowing water in most watercourses. Slippery and unstable banks and extremely cold water temperatures can lead to very hazardous conditions around any water body.

Expiry Date:

This message will expire on Friday, April 25 2014, 05:00 PM

Terminology: Notification Levels

FLOOD WATCH: potential for flooding exists within specific watercourses and municipalities

WATERSHED CONDITIONS STATEMENT - FLOOD OUTLOOK: gives early notice of the potential for flooding based on weather forecasts calling for heavy rain, snow melt, high winds or other conditions

WATERSHED CONDITIONS STATEMENT – WATER SAFETY: indicates that high flows, melting ice or other factors could be dangerous for such users as boaters, anglers and swimmers but flooding is not expected.

FLOOD WARNING: flooding is imminent or occurring within specific watercourses and municipalities.

Contact Information

For more information please contact:

705-646-5531

705-646-5509

705-773-4226

A close watch on local conditions and weather forecasts from Environment Canada is recommended.
Environment Canada bulletins can be found at http://weather.gc.ca/
The Surface Water Monitoring Centre public webpage can be found here: http://www.ontario.ca/flooding