



FLOOD WARNING

Date: May 7, 2019
From: NBMCA Duty Officer, Kurtis Romanchuk
Time: 4:00 PM
Message No: 7

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.

If you have a flood emergency, please contact your municipality. If you live in an unincorporated township, please contact Graham Mewett at the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry – North Bay District at (705) 475-5529.

This Flood Warning updates the previous Flood Warning.

Current Conditions:

Water levels on Lake Nipissing and the Ottawa River continue to rise, and the forecasted peak levels continue to develop in response to the conditions and weather forecast. Substantial additional precipitation is currently forecasted for this week, with 35-40mm possible over Wednesday and Thursday.

Flooding is imminent or occurring in low-lying areas in the Town of Mattawa and along the lower Mattawa River, due to backwater from the Ottawa River. Substantial flow is being passed downstream from Temiskaming, due to the warm weather last weekend causing snowmelt in the north, and the forecasted precipitation. Otto Holden dam is passing through the flow it receives from Temiskaming, which has a strong effect on the Ottawa River downstream.

The current forecast peak water level for the Ottawa River at the Town of Mattawa is 155.50m, which is approximately 35cm above its current level, and 5cm above the NBMCA Flood Warning level. Information about the most current forecasted peak water levels for the Ottawa River may be found at the Ottawa River Regulation Planning Board website:

<http://www.ottawariver.ca/Forecast-2019.pdf>

The current Ottawa River water level may be viewed at the Water Survey of Canada (WSC) website (note that there is a delay of several hours, and 100m should be added to the gauge reading for metres above sea level):

https://wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/report/real_time_e.html?stn=02JE013

(continued on next page)

Lake Nipissing is currently at elevation 196.35m near North Bay, and is forecasted to continue to rise until its peak in approximately two weeks. Strong wind and storm surge may increase local water levels substantially, as well as wave action. This may pose a threat to properties along the Lake Nipissing and Callander Bay shoreline, as well as along the lower La Vase River, particularly if there are strong winds or waves. The Parks Creek Backflood Control Structure has been operating on Red Alert and pumping since May 2, to mitigate flooding in the Parks Creek neighbourhood.

Information about the current status of Lake Nipissing may be found at the PWGSC website:
<https://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/ontario/eaux-water/renseignement-information-eng.html>

The current Lake Nipissing water level may be viewed at the WSC website (note that there is a delay of several hours, and 190m should be added to the gauge reading for metres above sea level):
https://wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/report/real_time_e.html?stn=02DD006

Risk:

Water levels within local watercourses and waterbodies are elevated due to the past rain combined with snowmelt. Water levels remain high in area lakes, and access to nearshore properties and roads may be restricted.

The Parks Creek Backflood Control Structure is currently operating, to mitigate flooding in the Parks Creek neighbourhood. Boat traffic is neither permitted nor possible through the structure while it is in operation. Eva Wardlaw Conservation Area has been closed to the public.

All residents, especially those in low-lying areas, are encouraged to monitor the conditions that are developing. Parents are encouraged to keep their children and pets away from watercourses and waterbodies.

Municipalities are encouraged to monitor water crossings and respond to high water levels. 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 provide updates if conditions change.

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.

This message will be in effect until (or updated before) Monday, May 13, 4:00pm.

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, ice jams, lakeshore flooding, or erosion.

 **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.

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