



FLOOD WARNING

Date: June 11, 2019
From: NBMCA Duty Officer, Kurtis Romanchuk
Time: 1:15 PM
Message No: 15

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. This Flood Warning for Lake Nipissing updates the previous Flood Warning for Lake Nipissing.

For areas other than Lake Nipissing within the North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority area, including the Mattawa River, a Watershed Conditions Statement – Water Safety remains in effect due to high water levels.

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.

Current Conditions:

Approximately 46.3mm of rain fell yesterday in the North Bay area, causing a rise in local water levels. Water levels on Lake Nipissing remain very high, affecting the lower reaches of the La Vase River and Jessups Creek. Other watercourses in the NBMCA area of jurisdiction continue to show a response to yesterdays rainfall.

Up to 35mm of precipitation is forecasted over the next five days, with the majority on Thursday and Friday. Highs will be around 16-20 degrees Celsius, with lows around 9-15 degrees Celsius. There are currently westerly winds, which are causing an increase in levels on the east side of Lake Nipissing.

Lake Nipissing is currently at elevation 196.34m near North Bay, rising approximately 3cm over the last 24 hours due to the received rainfall and shift in wind direction. Lake Nipissing continues to remain vulnerable to wind and rain effects, and strong westerly winds may drive up water levels on the east side of Lake Nipissing including the City of North Bay and the Municipality of Callander. This may pose a threat to properties along the Lake Nipissing and Callander Bay shoreline, as well as along the lower La Vase River and Jessups Creek. The outflow from the Dams is being reassessed on a continuous basis to balance flooding on Lake Nipissing and the French River.

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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

The Ottawa River at the Town of Mattawa is currently at elevation 153.23m, and is fluctuating somewhat as dam outflows are adjusted upstream, but remains far below its peak earlier this spring. As mentioned above, a Watershed Conditions Statement – Water Safety remains in effect for the Mattawa River, and residents are reminded to exercise caution around high water levels.

The water level at Mattawa peaked this year at 155.64m on May 11. 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

Risk:

Water levels within local watercourses and waterbodies remain high in some areas. Water levels remain very high near Lake Nipissing, and access to nearshore properties and roads may be restricted.

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. Boat traffic is neither permitted nor possible through the structure while it is in operation. Eva Wardlaw Conservation Area remains 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 shorelines and 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) Friday, June 14, 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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