



FLOOD WARNING for North Bay-Mattawa watershed and Lake Nipissing Shoreline (Callander and North Bay)

Flood Watch for Mattawa River downstream of Hurdman Dam

Message Number: 2026-11

Issued: April 21, 2026, at 4:00 PM EDT

From: NBMCA Duty Officer, Angela Mills

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.

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.

If you need assistance responding to a flood emergency, please contact your municipality. If you live in an unincorporated township, please contact the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) – North Bay District.

A **FLOOD WARNING** has been issued for the Lake Nipissing Shoreline in North Bay and Callander. A **Flood Watch** has been issued for the Mattawa River downstream of Hurdman Dam. A **FLOOD WARNING** remains in effect for the remainder of the North Bay – Mattawa watershed.

This Message is an update to the previous Message Number 2026-10 dated April 17, 2026.

Current Conditions:

More than 220% of normal April precipitation has been recorded at the North Bay Airport in the first two weeks of April. Water levels and flows have increased significantly as this rain and snowmelt drains through the watershed. Area lakes remain ice-covered.

Ongoing flooding is occurring along the La Vase River, Wasi River, and Mattawa River upstream of Hurdman Dam and its tributaries, including Trout Lake, Turtle Lake, Lake Talon. Water levels in local watersheds have plateaued and have begun to recede in most areas. Corbeil Conservation Area and Mattawa Island Conservation Area remain closed due to flooding.

Water levels on Lake Nipissing and the Ottawa River, which directly influences water level in the lower reaches of the Mattawa River, have been rising in response to last week's rain and ongoing snowmelt in northern areas of their watersheds.

The snowpack has had significant melt in the last week. Corbeil and North Bay are now classified as snow-free, while some snow remains in forested areas and areas of higher elevation and areas north of the Hwy 11 corridor. As of April 15, 48 mm of snow water equivalent remained in Chisholm.

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:

Minimal precipitation is forecast for the coming week, which will allow floodwaters to continue to drain through the watershed. Temperatures are forecast to be above freezing for the coming week.

Water levels and flows on local creeks and rivers will begin or continue to decline as water drains through the watershed.

The water level of Lake Nipissing has been rising rapidly and is expected to continue to rise as snowmelt continues in tributary headwaters. Significant snowpack remains in the northern areas of the Lake Nipissing watershed. Public Services and Procurement Canada is forecasting Water level on Lake Nipissing to exceed non-damage levels in the next couple of days. Conditions through the

coming weeks may be comparable to 2019's flooding levels. 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. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-services-procurement/services/infrastructure-buildings/bridges-docks-dams/frenchriver-dam.html>

Water levels and flows are above normal for this time of year in Mattawa. Water level is expected to reach minor flood thresholds in the coming days. Risk of further increase in levels over coming weeks is higher from Mattawa and downstream given the high snowpack remaining in the northern part of the basin, 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:

For comparison, when historic lake-based flooding occurred on Lake Nipissing in May 2019, the water level on Lake Nipissing at North Bay reached a maximum daily average level that is about 43 cm higher than the present level and was higher than current levels between April 30 and Jun 26. More recently, water levels were higher than current water levels between April 18 and May 14, 2024 with water level peaking 11 cm higher than current water levels.

For comparison, when river-based flooding occurred at Mattawa in May 2023, the water level on the Ottawa River at Mattawa reached a maximum level that is 114 cm higher than the present level.

Risk:

A Flood Warning has been issued for the Lake Nipissing shoreline in North Bay and Callander. Water levels have been rapidly rising in response to recent rain and snowmelt and are expected to continue to rise. Start of flooding is expected in the next couple of days. Operations have begun with the Parks Creek Backflood Control Structure to prevent forecasted high water levels on Lake Nipissing from impeding drainage from Parks Creek and surrounding urban area. Eva Wardlaw Conservation Area is closed to the public while operations remain ongoing. Lake ice cover combined with high water level poses a significant risk for shoreline damage.

A Flood Watch has been issued for the Mattawa River downstream of Hurdman Dam. Water levels are rapidly rising as snowmelt continues in the Upper Ottawa River. High water on the Ottawa River impacts water level of the downstream reaches of the Mattawa River watershed and may approach flood conditions within the next few weeks.

A Flood Warning continues for the remainder of the North Bay-Mattawa watershed, including the Wasi River, La Vase River, and Mattawa River upstream of Hurdman Dam and its tributaries. Water levels remain high as the recent rain and snow melt moves through the watershed. Water levels on smaller creeks and rivers have been receding. With soils near saturation, water levels could respond rapidly to any additional rain.

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 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) Tuesday, April 28, 2026 at 4:00 PM EDT.

See also the Ministry of Natural Resources – North Bay District local bulletins for areas outside the North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority, including for the Ottawa River <https://www.liaapplications.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:


**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, cause ice jams, lakeshore flooding or erosion.

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MAP: North Bay – Mattawa Watershed

