

## **Flood Warning**

### **North Bay District**

Tuesday, April 28, 2026  
11:00am

The Ministry of Natural Resources – North Bay District, is advising area residents along the **Upper Ottawa River (between Lake Timiskaming and the east boundary of Papineau-Cameron Township, including the Town of Mattawa) and the shoreline of Lake Nipissing** that a Flood Warning bulletin is in effect until Tuesday, May 05, 2026 at 4:00pm.

Residents in these areas should keep a close watch on conditions and exercise caution around lakes, rivers, creeks and streams. Spring freshet is under way and water levels and flows remain high as snow in the north continues to melt and a significant rainfall event has been forecast for today. Flooding persists in some areas and could occur in others. Please alert and or monitor any children and pets under your care to possible dangers and supervise their activities around waterbodies.

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

#### **TECHNICAL INFORMATION**

##### **Description of Weather System**

The current forecast for the next five (5) days is calling for up to 20mm of rain for the effected areas with most of the rainfall forecast to arrive today. An additional 5-10mm of rain is possible in areas that receive thunderstorms. Daytime temperatures remain in the low double digits today before cooling off into early next week. Nighttime temperatures are expected to hover or drop below the freezing mark starting tonight and remain in that range into early next week.

##### **Description of Current Conditions**

**Town of Mattawa area:** Water levels on the Upper Ottawa River are expected to increase as discharge is increased out of the Timiskaming Dam to accommodate outflows from the watershed's northern reservoirs. Water levels in the Mattawa area are forecast to reach the start of damage level of 154.8m in the coming days.

**Lake Nipissing:** On April 26 the average water level on the lake was measured at 196.24m and has now exceeded the maximum “non-damage” level (196.22m).

Above seasonal temperatures late last week and over the weekend has accelerated snow melt in the north and contributed to inflows and runoff. The risk of rising water levels and flows remains high as remaining snowpack has a high moisture content and reduced ability to absorb any rain events. If the rain forecasted for today is received, watercourses throughout the impacted areas are expected to react accordingly.

The ground in some of the effected areas remains saturated and has very little capacity to absorb moisture from rainfall or runoff.

Structures such as homes, boat houses and docks could be at risk of flooding if located near lake/river level or are in other low-lying flood prone areas that have a history of flooding. Residents in these areas are encouraged to monitor conditions and prepare accordingly.

Municipalities, residents and visitors, especially those in low-lying areas and along shorelines, are encouraged to monitor conditions and prepare accordingly. Shorelines and banks adjacent to waterbodies are very slippery and unstable at this time and when combined with cold, fast flowing water, pose a serious hazard.

Everyone is encouraged to prepare accordingly and keep a close watch of local weather forecasts, special weather statements and warnings as weather systems can be dynamic, and paths of travel and amount and type of precipitation may change.

**This message remains in effect until Tuesday May 5 at 4pm, or until it's updated.**

## **DEFINITIONS**

- **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.
- **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
- **SHORELINE CONDITIONS STATEMENT – WATER SAFETY:** indicates that **along the Great Lakes shorelines high water**, melting ice or other factors could be dangerous but flooding is not expected.
- **SHORELINE CONDITIONS STATEMENT – FLOOD OUTLOOK:** gives early notice of the potential for flooding **along the Great Lakes shorelines** based on weather and lake conditions, and water safety information.
- **FLOOD WATCH:** potential for flooding exists within specific watercourses and municipalities.

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

## LEARN MORE

- Surface Water Monitoring Centre public webpage [www.ontario.ca/page/surface-water-monitoring-centre](http://www.ontario.ca/page/surface-water-monitoring-centre)
- Environment Canada bulletins: [www.weather.gc.ca](http://www.weather.gc.ca)
- A close watch on local conditions and weather forecasts from Environment Canada is recommended.

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