

Flood Warning

North Bay District

Tuesday, May 12, 2026
4:00 PM

The Ministry of Natural Resources – North Bay District, is advising area residents in the **Lake Temagami area (updated), along the Upper Ottawa River (between Lake Timiskaming and the east boundary of Papineau-Cameron Township, including the Town of Mattawa) (updated), and the shoreline of Lake Nipissing (updated)** that a Flood Warning bulletin has been extended to Friday, May 15, 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 continues and water levels and flows remain high as snowmelt and runoff moves through watercourses. 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

More seasonal temperatures return this week with the forecast calling for daytime temperatures to climb up to 20°C in some areas by the weekend and overnight temperatures to remain above the freezing mark throughout the district. Rainfall amounts over the next five (5) days are forecast to range between 10-30mm in the southern reaches of the district and 5-15mm in the northern reaches. Most of the rainfall is expected to be received today and tomorrow (Wednesday). Beyond the five (5) day forecast, a rain event next Monday is being monitored.

Description of Current Conditions

Lake Temagami: On May 12, the average water level of the lake is 294.15m which continues to remain within the flood allowance (294.00m to 294.20m). Water levels are expected to remain high for one to two weeks.

Town of Mattawa area: On May 12, the Upper Ottawa River level at Mattawa is 154.32m and is forecast to continue slowly trending down reaching the start of flooding level (154.23m) by May 14. Discharge out of the Timiskaming dam is planned to be slowly reduced by 300m³/s from today until May 15 which will see discharge levels at approximately 2200 m³/s by Friday. Water levels are forecasted to continue to slowly trend down as snowmelt and runoff slow down in the northern part of the basin.

Lake Nipissing (Updated): On May 12 the average water level on the lake was measured at 196.25m and continues to exceed the maximum “non-damage” level (196.22m). Inflows into the lake have slowly declined but remain high. Over the next two days, winds are expected to range between 10-15km/hr with gusts up to 35km/hr. Wind directions will be from the S today (May 12) NNE tomorrow (May 13), NNE (May 14), and SW (May 15&16).

Warming temperatures, decreased amounts of snow in the north and no significant rain events have allowed inflows and runoff to slowly decline in most areas. Warming ground conditions and the emergence of vegetation is providing an increased ability for rainfall to be absorbed in central and southern areas of the district. Water levels and flows remain high in the impacted areas and are expected to react to future rainfall events accordingly.

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-laying 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 Friday May 15 at 4 PM, 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
- Environment Canada bulletins: www.weather.gc.ca
- A close watch on local conditions and weather forecasts from Environment Canada is recommended.