

Flood Watch

North Bay District

Tuesday, May 13, 2025
3:00pm

The Ministry of Natural Resources – North Bay District, is advising area residents that a **Flood Watch** is in effect for the **Upper Ottawa River at the Town of Mattawa**. Unless the bulletin is updated or extended, it will expire on May 20, 2025, at 4:00pm.

Residents in the Mattawa area should keep a close watch on conditions and exercise caution around lakes, rivers and streams. Water levels remain high in these areas because of previous rainfall events and high inflows from the northern watersheds. Please alert and/or monitor any children and pets under your care to the possible dangers and supervise their activities around waterbodies.

Residents that have been affected by high water levels and flow conditions in the past should continue to take necessary action to protect and secure any vulnerable property in proximity to rivers, streams, creeks and lakes, and closely monitor developing conditions and regularly check for updated messaging.

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 Upper Ottawa River at Mattawa area is not forecast to receive significant precipitation over the next five days. Current forecasts show a maximum of 10mm falling during this period. Temperatures over the next five days are expected to remain above seasonal for the remainder of the week before cooling off to more seasonal temperatures.

Description of Current Conditions

Water levels remain high on the Upper Ottawa River at Mattawa after previous rainfall events combined with high inflows (snowmelt and rainfall) from the northern reservoirs. The Ottawa River's current level at Mattawa is 154.23m. The water level is forecast to drop

below the start of flooding level (154.23m) over the weekend with levels expected to continue a slow decline. Peak spring inflows have been reached for the area.

Thawing ground conditions and emerging/green-up of vegetation will assist future precipitation and runoff to be absorbed more readily.

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.

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.