

Flood Watch

Bracebridge Minden Parry Sound District

Black, Burnt, Gull, Severn, Magnetawan and Muskoka River Watersheds

Thursday, April 25, 2024
5:00pm

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry – Bracebridge Minden Parry Sound District is advising area residents that a Flood Watch is in effect for the region. This message will remain in effect **until Friday May 3, 2024**.

This bulletin will impact residents within the MNRF Bracebridge Minden Parry Sound District for portions of the District of Parry Sound, District of Muskoka, and City of Kawartha Lakes within the Black, Burnt, Gull, Severn, Magnetawan, and Muskoka River Watersheds.

Residents and those visiting the area are advised to be aware of current watershed conditions. Higher than normal water levels and flow conditions exist throughout the area and residents are reminded to keep a close watch on weather conditions, regularly check for updated messages, and exercise caution near fast-moving rivers and streams.

Lower-lying portions of known flood-prone areas may be impacted to varying degrees as lake/river levels start to rise in response to significant precipitation. Residents and visitors should exercise caution while around waterbodies and maintain close supervision of children and pets.

MNRF also advises extreme caution when using forest access roads for outdoor activities as they may become seasonally inundated with water, are prone to washouts, and may become impassible due to localized flooding.

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

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

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Description of Weather System

Weather forecasts are predicting that the area will receive an additional 38 to 48mm of rain over the next 7 days. This could cause significant impacts to water levels and flows on the watersheds should the full amount of forecasted precipitation be received.

Description of Current Conditions

The Parry Sound-Muskoka area received approximately 145mm of precipitation so far this month. The historic average amount of precipitation at the Beatrice Climate station (near Bracebridge) is 76.8mm for the month of April. This precipitation has resulted in significant runoff into local rivers and lakes.

River flows and lake levels are expected to rise with additional inputs from anticipated precipitation over the weekend. Lake levels and river flows within the Black, Burnt, Gull, Severn and Magnetawan watersheds are high, but still within their normal operating ranges for spring. Lake water levels and river flows in certain areas could reach flood levels as a result of additional predicted rainfall.

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.
- **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](http://www.weather.gc.ca)
- A close watch on local conditions and weather forecasts from Environment Canada is recommended.
- Parks Canada Trent-Severn Waterway Updates - <https://parks.canada.ca/lhn-nhs/on/trentsevern/info/infonet/point-gestion-eau-water-management-updates>