



Muskoka Parry Sound Freshet Water Conditions Update April 20th, 2017

MNRF Parry Sound District has issued a **Flood Warning** for the North Branch Muskoka River Sub-Watershed, Moon River/ Bala Reach and the South Branch of the Muskoka River

A **Flood Watch** has been issued for the remaining area in the District including District Municipality of Muskoka, the Territorial District of Parry Sound and a north-west portion in the County of Haliburton. This Warning/Watch will be in effect until Monday April 24, 2017.

Snow

Parry Sound District MNRF carries out snow surveys twice monthly over the duration of the winter. The information collected is used to assess the potential for high water conditions or spring flooding. Snow stations are located near the Village of Rosseau, Arrowhead Provincial Park, Brooks Mills, Norway Point, Ouse Lake in Algonquin Park and near the Village of Sundridge.

The snow water content in the Parry Sound District as of April 13th was 0mm, which is below the historical average for this time of year. Approximately 106mm of snow water content still remains in the upper reaches of the Muskoka and Magnetawan River watersheds in Algonquin Park, as of measurement conducted on April 13th.

Weather Forecast and Implications

The forecasted low pressure system is currently moving across the Province and is expected to bring 25mm to 30mm of general rainfall across southern and southcentral Ontario with 15mm to 20mm forecast for the French River north to Wawa and across to Timmins. Thunderstorms are possible in southwestern Ontario which may result in localized areas seeing higher amounts.

The forecasted precipitation across south and central Ontario, in combination with warm temperatures will continue to erode the remaining snow, where it exists, maintaining or continuing to increase levels and flows within the Parry Sound District.

The system is forecast to move out of the Province by Friday, with relatively clear skies forecast for both Friday and Saturday. The current weather forecast calls for daytime highs over the next week to range from 5°C to 15°C, and night time lows to range from -2°C to 7°C, depending on the weather service.

The MNRF's primary role for flood preparation is flood forecasting and warning as early as possible. For flood emergencies the local Municipality is responsible for flood preparedness and response. Once a local emergency is declared MNRF will work directly with the municipality and provide support in accordance with the MNRF District Emergency Response Operations Plan.

MNRF dams are managed in accordance with Water Management Plans or dam operating manuals and will continue to be operated for optimal discharge just prior to the onset of the spring snow melt. More information about how lakes in the area are managed can be found at <http://www.muskokawaterweb.ca/water-101/water-quantity/mrwmp>.

Lake water levels and river flows are monitored on a daily basis and MNRF dams and other water control structures are operated when required throughout the spring as runoff from snow melt and rainfall pass through river systems and lakes.

MNRF dams are not designed as flood control structures therefore cannot prevent a flood event from occurring. Spring flooding is a natural event that occurs periodically and is caused by an extraordinary amount of runoff into a river system due to a rapid melt of the snow pack and/or any significant amount of rainfall. If our analysis of the watershed and weather conditions indicates there is a possibility of high water or flood conditions, MNRF will issue appropriate notifications such as a Flood Watch or Flood Warning. At this time of year, MNRF urges all residents to take precautionary steps to protect or secure any property in low lying flood prone areas.

Current status of water levels

Waterbody	Municipality/Area	Average Summer Level (MASL)	Current Water Level (MASL)	Difference to Summer level (m)	Start of High Water Zone	Approximate rate of rise (cm/24h)
Tea Lake	Algonquin Park	417.7	418.28	0.58	418.2	Down 5
Kawagama Lake	Algonquin Highlands	355.6	355.61	0.01	356.07	Stable
Lake of Bays	Lake of Bays	315.2	315.39	0.19	315.5	2
Wood Lake	Bracebridge	301.05	301.05	0	301.67	Stable
Fox Lake	Huntsville	294.4	294.83	0.43	296	Down 12
Huntsville Lakes	Huntsville	283.8	284.25	0.45	284.3	Stable
Mary Lake	Huntsville	280.75	281.08	0.33	281.15	Stable
Lake Rosseau/Joseph	Muskoka Lakes	226.05	226.29	0.24	226.37	1
Lake Muskoka	Bracebridge/Gravenhurst/Muskoka Lakes	225.4	225.88	0.48	226	1
Go Home Lake	Georgian Bay	185.18	185.01	-0.17	185.45	10
Perry Lake	Township of Perry	335.15	335.59	0.44	335.9	Down 6
Doe Lake	Armour Township	293.95	295.43	1.48	295.9	1
Bernard Lake	Sundridge/Strong Township	329.4	329.58	0.18	329.55	Down 1
Cecebe Lake	Municipality of Magnetawan	282.7	282.91	0.21	283.36	Down 3
Ahmic Lake	Municipality of Magnetawan	279.4	279.9	0.5	280.1	Stable
Forest Lake	South River	349.7	349.99	0.29	350.4	Down 13
Dollars Lake	Unorganized	205.5	205.49	-0.01	NA	Down 3
Crane Lake	Archipelago	198.58	198.42	-0.16	NA	Down 2
Otter Lake	Seguin Township	207.17	207.24	0.07	NA	Down 2
Oastler Lake	Seguin Township	204.5	204.53	0.03	NA	Down 3

Current water flows

River	Municipality/Area	Current Flow (cms)	Early Flood Watch Flow (cms)	Approximate Rise over last 24h(cms)
Big East	Huntsville	57	50	Down 13
North Muskoka	Huntsville/Bracebridge	144	75	Down 1
South Muskoka (HH)	Lake of Bays/Bracebridge	118	50	3
Oxtongue	Lake of Bays	72	NA	Down 9
Black	Bracebridge	20	35	Down 2
North Magnetawan near Burks Falls	Armour, Ryerson & Village of Burk's Falls	32	NA	Down 10
South Magnetawan near Emsdale	Perry/Armour, Ryerson & Village of Burk's Falls	44	NA	Down 6
Magnetawan near Britt	Unorganized	181	NA	Down 6
Moon River at Highway 400	Muskoka Lakes/Georgian Bay / Archipelago	240	NA	4
Musquash River at Highway 400	Muskoka Lakes/Georgian Bay / Archipelago	91	NA	Down 1
Shawanaga River	Shawanaga FN	6	9	Stable

Risks and Considerations

Ice Jams – have historically been preceded by rapid changes in weather and by colder than average winters. The *Ministry of Natural Resources Ice Management Manual* can be found on the Surface Water Monitoring Extranet site publications section or can be forwarded by one of the MNRF contacts at the end of this sheet. A One-key account is required to access the SWMC extranet site and can be requested at the following link: <https://www.iaa.gov.on.ca/iaalogin/IAALogin.jsp>

Debris – accumulation of debris, natural and human made, can accumulate in rivers and streams at points of lower flow velocities or eddies or where natural and manmade obstacles or “choke-points” exist (bridge abutments, river constrictions etc.). MNRF monitors MNRF dams to ensure a significant amount of debris does not accumulate potentially causing upstream impacts. Municipalities are responsible for ensuring their infrastructure is not causing upstream impacts due to accumulation of debris.

Slippery and unstable banks – please keep in mind saturated areas adjacent to still and moving water can be unstable and /or slippery any time but most especially during the spring. Please continue to encourage residents to stay clear of these hazardous areas.

Changing and volatile weather

As forecasts change, MNRF monitoring and operational approaches for water management will be reviewed and may change as well. A weather forecast for significant precipitation and/or above normal temperatures may prompt local watershed/flood messages from the MNRF Parry Sound District.

High Water and Floods

High water and floods can occur any time but spring presents the highest risk. Significant precipitation and rapid melting of the snow pack can result in a flood event. The Ministry of Natural Resources and

Forestry uses snow pack, weather, water level and flow information to determine the type and timing of local flood messages.

**Inquiries from the public should be directed to our Water Management Department
Voicemail Box – 705-646-5531**