
Muskoka Parry Sound Freshet Water Conditions Update May 14, 2019

MNRF Parry Sound District updated flood messaging on May 9, 2019.

- **Flood Warning** is in effect for the Muskoka River, French River and Lower Pickerel River Watersheds
- **Flood Outlook** is in effect for the remainder of the MNRF Parry Sound District

Weather Forecast and Implications

Lake levels and river flows are continuing their downward trends. MNRF has continued to put stoplogs in at dams to help reduce flows to flood impacted areas. Areas that are experiencing flooding should continue to see levels recede as the effects of logging in the upper watersheds continue to take effect in the downstream watersheds.

Due to recent precipitation in the North Bay area, Lake Nipissing is continuing to rise and is expected to rise more in the coming days. Residents along the French River and lower Pickerel River watersheds may see a rise in water levels over the next week as a result from increased stormwater runoff or as a result of increased discharge from Lake Nipissing.

Daytime highs over the next week to range from 12°C to 28°C, and night time lows to range from 2°C to 12°C, depending on the weather service. Precipitation over the next 7 days has ~15mm of rain in the forecast scattered through the week.

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	0.3	418.2	-1
Kawagama Lake	Algonquin Highlands	355.6	355.58	-0.02	356.07	0
Lake of Bays	Lake of Bays	315.2	315.41	0.21	315.5	0
Wood Lake	Bracebridge	301.05	301.16	0.11	301.67	+1
Tasso Lake	Lake of Bays	399.4	399.55	0.15	399.85	+1
Fox Lake	Huntsville	294.4	294.54	0.14	296	0
Huntsville Lakes	Huntsville	283.8	283.94	0.14	284.3	-1
Mary Lake	Huntsville	280.75	281.05	0.3	281.15	-1
Lake Rosseau/Joseph	Muskoka Lakes	226.05	226.48	0.43	226.37	-2
Lake Muskoka	Bracebridge/Gravenhurst/Muskoka Lakes	225.4	225.88	0.48	226	-5
Go Home Lake	Georgian Bay	185.18	185	-0.18	185.45	+7
Perry Lake	Township of Perry	335.15	335.37	0.22	335.9	+1
Doe Lake	Armour Township	293.95	294.65	0.7	295.9	-13
Bernard Lake	Sundridge/Strong Township	329.4	329.63	0.23	329.55	-1
Cecebe Lake	Municipality of Magnetawan	282.7	282.76	0.06	283.36	-1
Ahmic Lake	Municipality of Magnetawan	279.4	279.64	0.24	280.1	-4
Forest Lake	South River	349.7	349.69	-0.01	350.4	-3
Dollars Lake	Unorganized	205.5	205.6	0.1	NA	+2
Crane Lake	Archipelago	198.48	198.49	0.01	NA	5
Otter Lake	Seguin Township	207.19	207.19	0	NA	+2
Oastler Lake	Seguin Township	204.51	204.54	0.03	NA	+6

Current water flows

River	Municipality/Area	Current Flow (cms)	Early Flood Watch Flow (cms)	Approximate Rise over last 24h(cms)
Big East	Huntsville	21	50	0
North Muskoka	Huntsville/Bracebridge	72	75	0
South Muskoka (HH)	Lake of Bays/Bracebridge	63	50	-18
Oxtongue	Lake of Bays	31	NA	-1
Black	Bracebridge	12	35	+1
North Magnetawan near Burks Falls	Armour, Ryerson & Village of Burk's Falls	13	NA	-1
South Magnetawan near Emsdale	Perry/Armour, Ryerson & Village of Burk's Falls	15	NA	-1
Magnetawan near Britt	Unorganized	132	NA	-7
Moon River at Highway 400	Muskoka Lakes/Georgian Bay / Archipelago	246	NA	-11
Musquash River at Highway 400	Muskoka Lakes/Georgian Bay / Archipelago	75	NA	0
Shawanaga River	Shawanaga FN	3	9	0

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 or email at watermanagement.psdistrict@ontario.ca