

Flood Warning

Pembroke District

NEWSSaturday, April 20, 2019
12:00

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) – Pembroke District is advising area residents that a Flood Warning is in effect for all of Renfrew County until Thursday, April 25, 2019

Residents should keep a close watch on conditions, regularly check for updated messages and exercise caution near fast-moving rivers and streams. Water levels are rising due to recent precipitation and will continue to rise as snow melts and more rain is received. Residents who have a historic susceptibility to flooding should take appropriate precautions to protect their property, such as ensuring sump pumps are functioning and securing items that may float away as water levels rise. Motorists in the area should remain vigilant for flooding over roadways and the potential for washed out culverts.

MNRF advises extreme caution when using forest access roads for outdoor activities. Many are seasonally inundated with water, prone to washouts, and may be impassable due to current water levels. The public should avoid crossing any submerged roads as there may be a risk to traveler safety.

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

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Description of Weather System

This message is being sent based on information received from MNRF - Surface Water Monitoring Centre, MNRF - Aviation Forest Fire and Emergency Management Services and Environment Canada.

Low pressure systems that moved into our area on Wednesday evening brought significant precipitation, mostly in the form of rain. Amounts of 20-40 mm have already been reported and an additional 5-10 mm of rain is expected within the next 24 hours.

Forecasts indicate rain is possible for much of the coming week with total accumulation

expected to be up to 20 mm with many watersheds already full to their maximum.

Daytime high temperatures in the teens will increase the melt and amount of runoff.

Description of Current Conditions

Water levels and stream flows across southern and central Ontario are elevated from ongoing spring snow melt and past precipitation events.

The impact of recent warm temperatures and rainfall have compacted and ripened the significant snow pack reducing its ability to absorb rainfall. The forecast warm temperatures and precipitation are likely to further degrade the snowpack and river/stream ice, produce significant runoff and further increase levels and flows.

Risks may include degradation of river ice and ice jam related flooding from increasing temperatures and flows, fast moving cold water with rapidly changing conditions, and flooding of low-lying areas.

The Ottawa River Regulating Committee forecast that flows are expected to exceed major flood levels over the Easter Weekend. Refer to links below for more information.

A close watch on local forecasts and conditions is recommended.

DEFINITIONS

- **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
- **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.
- **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/flooding
- Environment Canada bulletins: www.weather.gc.ca

- A close watch on local conditions and weather forecasts from Environment Canada is recommended.

Carl Thompson, Pembroke District Office, 613-732-5584

ontario.ca/mnrf
Disponible en français