

Flood Watch

Pembroke District

NEWSThursday, April 18, 2019
12:00

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry – Pembroke District is advising area residents that a Flood Watch is in effect in the District until Thursday, April 25, 2019

Residents of Renfrew County should be advised that water levels are rising due to recent precipitation and will continue to rise as snow melts. For safety, all residents should keep a close watch on conditions, regularly check for updated messages and exercise caution near fast-moving rivers and streams. 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.

The ministry 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.

A Colorado low merging with a Texas low is forecast to move in Wednesday evening bringing significant precipitation, mostly in the form of rain, across the Province. The precipitation began Wednesday evening where 15 to 25 mm was forecasted along the shores of the upper Great Lakes. The system is forecast to slide south on Thursday and drop 15 to 30 mm of rain across a large swath of central and southcentral Ontario. Rainfall is forecast to persist into Friday with 15 to 30 mm forecast across a large swath of southcentral, south and southeastern Ontario. The system is forecast to die out on Saturday but may still produce up to 20 mm in southwestern Ontario. Thunderstorms associated with this event are possible and may produce an additional 5 to 10 mm in isolated areas.

Totals across a broad swath of south and central Ontario in the range of 30 to 50 mm

are forecasted over the three days with higher amounts possible in isolated areas.

High winds associated with system in the range of 30 to 35 km/hr with stronger gusts up to 45 km/hr are forecast across the lower Great Lakes.

Daytime high temperatures are forecast in the 0 to 10 degrees Celsius range across most of the north of the Province over the next five days with forecasted highs in the 5 to 15 degree Celsius in the south. Night-time low temperatures are largely forecast to stay at or below 0 degrees Celsius in the northern part of the Province and remain at or above 0 degrees Celsius in the southern parts of the Province.

Mid-April snow surveys show a continuing snowpack in central and northeastern Ontario ranging from 100 to 200 mm of snow water equivalent in central Ontario and 100 to 250 mm in northeastern Ontario. These values are above average to well above average for this time of year.

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 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 minor 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.

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