

Watershed Conditions Statement - Water Safety

Pembroke District

Thursday, April 24, 2025
4:00pm

The Ministry of Natural Resources – Pembroke District is advising area residents that a Watershed Conditions Statement - Water Safety is in effect throughout the district until Friday, May 02, 2025

Residents in Renfrew County / Pembroke District should consider the following:

Recent warm weather has resulted in the melting of the snowpack and lake ice. This combined with forecasted precipitation and continued warm temperatures, will result in high water conditions as the freshet runoff moves through the system.

Residents in flood-prone areas are encouraged to closely follow changing conditions and to take necessary measures. Residents are advised to stay away from watercourses where flows are high and where banks might be unstable.

Lower-lying portions of known flood-prone areas may be impacted to various degrees as lake/river levels rise over the next week. Areas around Lac Coulonge and Chats Lake along the Ottawa River should take additional precautions as water levels in that area are expected to rise over the next few days.

MNR also advises 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.

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

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Description of Weather System

The forecast shows Daily high temperatures around ten degrees and night time lows close to the freezing mark. Varying levels of precipitation may be seen across the district.

Description of Current Conditions

The MNR continues to closely monitor local lakes, rivers and weather conditions.

Rainfall and warming temperatures have resulted in a significant reduction in the snowpack across the county. Forecasted precipitation has the potential to further reduce the snowpack and ice on lakes and rivers.

Lakes and Rivers in the area are still at or below seasonal levels. Lake levels and flows in creeks and rivers will slowly rise as a result of the warm weather and forecasted rains. Water may accumulate in low lying areas that are prone to flooding or areas with poor drainage. Water levels are not expected to reach flood thresholds.

A close watch on local forecasts and conditions is recommended.

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
- **SHORELINE CONDITIONS STATEMENT – WATER SAFETY:** indicates that **along the Great Lakes shorelines high water**, melting ice or other factors could be dangerous but flooding is not expected.
- **SHORELINE CONDITIONS STATEMENT – FLOOD OUTLOOK:** gives early notice of the potential for flooding **along the Great Lakes shorelines** based on weather and lake conditions, and water safety information.
- **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
- A close watch on local conditions and weather forecasts from Environment Canada is recommended.

Aaron Foss, Pembroke District Supervisor, 613-291-3613

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