

Watershed Conditions Statement - Water Safety

Pembroke District

Friday, April 04, 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, April 11, 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 continue to result in an increase to water levels on lakes and rivers.

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 Chats Lake should take additional precautions as water levels in that area are expected to rise over the next few days.**

Please remember, no ice is safe ice. Ice conditions on local lakes may start to deteriorate with warmer temperatures and changing water levels and flows.

Residents and visitors should exercise caution while around waterbodies and maintain close supervision of children and pets.

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

This message is based on information received from MNR's Surface Water Monitoring Centre and Environment Canada.

A low-pressure system is forecast to move across the lower Great Lakes, later in the day Friday April 4 and continuing on Saturday April 5, bringing significant rain to areas close to the north shores of Lake Erie and Lake Ontario.

Expected rainfall amounts range from 20 – 40 mm for the area from Sarnia – Wiarton – Muskoka – Pembroke – Montreal over the two days.

Most of these areas are expected to remain above freezing overnight Friday, enhancing the continued melt of the remaining snowpack.

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.

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