



WATERSHED CONDITIONS STATEMENT – WATER SAFETY

Date: March 24, 2021
From: NBMCA Duty Officer, Kurtis Romanchuk
Time: 2:00 PM
Message No: 1

WATERSHED CONDITIONS STATEMENT - Water Safety indicates that high flows, unsafe banks, melting ice or other factors could be dangerous for users such as anglers, boaters, swimmers, children or pets. Flooding is not anticipated at this time.

Current Conditions:

Water levels on watercourses within NBMCA jurisdiction are slightly above average for this time of year due to the early snowmelt, but remain below flood levels. As of the last NBMCA snow survey (March 22), there was an average of 93mm of snow-water-equivalence (SWE) at our three sites. More details on our snow survey can be found at our website: <https://www.nbmca.ca/news/snow-survey-readings-for-march-22-2021/>

The current forecast for the North Bay-Mattawa area is around 8mm of rain today, 1mm tomorrow (Thursday), and 17mm on Friday which is likely to come as snow. The high temperatures today is forecast around 14 degrees Celsius, and highs will be between 0 and 8 degrees for the following four days. The low temperature will be above zero tonight around 7 degrees Celsius, but will drop on Thursday and remain between -8 and 0 degrees for the following four days.

Risk:

The relatively warm temperatures combined with the anticipated rainfall will result in snowmelt and increased runoff to area lakes and watercourses. Flooding from rivers or lakes is not anticipated at this time, however, water is likely to accumulate on roadways, parking lots, and flat or low-lying areas.

Banks adjacent to rivers and creeks become very slippery with precipitation and melting conditions, and when combined with cold open and/or fast-moving water can pose a serious hazard. Parents are encouraged to keep their children and pets away from watercourses and water bodies.

All residents, especially those in low-lying areas, are encouraged to monitor the conditions that are developing. Municipalities are encouraged to monitor shorelines and water crossings, and respond to high water levels as necessary.


A close watch on local conditions and updated forecasts and warnings from Environment Canada is also recommended. Staff at the North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority will continue to monitor weather and watershed conditions and provide updates if conditions change.

The general public is advised of these messages through the www.nbmca.ca website with the flood status icon and a link to information about current conditions. NBMCA also circulates these messages to local media and social media, posting on Twitter (@theNBMCA), Instagram (nbmcainfo), and Facebook (theNBMCA).


The public is invited to share photos of watershed conditions on social media using #NBMCAFlood.


This message will be in effect until (or updated before) Monday, March 29, 12:00pm.

Terminology: Notification Levels

 **WATERSHED CONDITIONS STATEMENT:** general notice of potential flooding or other conditions that pose a safety risk. There are two kinds of statements:

- **Water Safety** indicates that high flows, unsafe banks, melting ice or other factors could be dangerous for users such as anglers, boaters, swimmers, children or pets. Flooding is not expected.
- **Flood Outlook** gives early notice of the potential for flooding based on weather forecasts calling for heavy rain, snow melt, high wind or other conditions that could lead to high runoff, cause ice jams, lakeshore flooding or erosion.

 **FLOOD WATCH** notifies that the potential for flooding exists within specific watercourses and municipalities. Municipalities, emergency services and individual landowners in flood-prone areas should prepare.

 **FLOOD WARNING:** Flooding is imminent or already occurring in specific watercourses or municipalities. Municipalities and individuals should take action to deal with flood conditions. This may include road closures and evacuations.