

**Watershed Conditions Statement - Water Safety  
Bancroft District**

**NEWS**

Friday, January 10, 2020  
**2:00pm**

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) - Bancroft District is advising area residents that a Watershed Conditions Statement – Water Safety is in effect for all of Bancroft District.

Residents of Bancroft District should keep a close watch on conditions, regularly check for updated messages and exercise caution near fast-moving rivers and streams. Please alert any children under your care to these dangers and supervise their activities. 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.

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 on the basis of information received from MNRF - Surface Water Monitoring Centre, MNRF - Aviation Forest Fire and Emergency Management Services, Trent Severn Waterway (TSW) and Environment Canada.

A low-pressure system is developing over Texas this morning, (Friday) and will begin to move towards Southern Ontario later today. By tonight, a conveyor belt of moisture will develop from the Gulf of Mexico and bring heavy rain into Southern Ontario by early Saturday morning. The current axis of the heaviest precipitation ranges from 50-75mm of total precipitation from Windsor through to the Greater Toronto Area and then Ottawa (almost all southern Ontario).

The heaviest precipitation will occur on Saturday, and forecasted amounts and type include:

- 15-25cm of snow from the eastern shores of Lake Superior to Sudbury and south to Algonquin Park
- 15-25mm of freezing rain along an axis from Goderich, Orangeville, Peterborough and Cornwall
- 40-65mm of rain for southwestern Ontario and along the north shore of Lake Ontario (south of the freezing rain).

Strong northerly winds on Lakes Huron and Georgian Bay arrive Sunday morning with even

stronger southwest winds on Lakes Erie and Ontario. Winds in the lower Great Lakes could gust over 100km/h along the maximum fetch of the lakes before veering to the northwest late Sunday afternoon.

The timing for this event is as follows:

- Light rain arrives in southwestern Ontario Friday morning spreading north to Algonquin and east to near Ottawa at sunset
- Heavy rain moves into southwestern Ontario on Friday night and continues all of Saturday
- Heavy snow starts near Parry Sound on Saturday morning
- Heavy freezing rain begins near Goderich Saturday morning and extends to southeastern Ontario by mid-afternoon
- A risk of isolated thunderstorms moves into extreme southwestern Ontario Saturday morning.
- Heavy snow moves in the Sault to North Bay corridor Saturday night
- Strong southwest winds gusting over 100km/h hit Lakes Erie and Ontario Sunday morning
- Freezing rain ends Sunday mid-morning
- All areas with rain see it change over to snow on Sunday at noon
- All of Southern Ontario will see a flash freeze to temperatures below freezing by late-afternoon Sunday.

### **Description of Current Conditions**

Levels and flows in watersheds across the District remain average for this time of year and are trending down. Forecasted heavy precipitation, warmer temperatures and associated snowmelt Friday and Saturday will reverse this trend and may result in higher than normal water levels and flows for most watersheds in Bancroft District.

Higher than normal water levels may be experienced in low lying areas and ditches. Water flows in smaller creeks and rivers may quickly increase.

The soil is not frozen in most area and the snowpack is expected to absorb a considerable amount of moisture before melting and running off. The potential exists for nuisance flooding of roadways, ditches, and low-lying flood-prone areas as the melt and run-off from this event progresses. A close watch on local forecasts and conditions is recommended.

The MNRF and TSW continue to closely monitor local lakes and rivers as this event progresses. The MNRF is in regular communication with partner agencies and water control structure operators, including Conservation Authorities, Ontario Power Generation (OPG), Bracebridge Generation and TSW.

### **Expiry Date:**

This message will expire on 01/13/2020 12:00 AM

### **Terminology: Notification Levels**

**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

**FLOOD WATCH:** potential for flooding exists within specific watercourses and municipalities

**FLOOD WARNING:** flooding is imminent or occurring within specific watercourses and municipalities

### **Contact Information**

MNRF Bancroft District Office

Luke Hillyer, IRM Technical Specialist, Bancroft District, 613-332-3940, x 216

MNRF Minden Field Office

Kris Windover, IRM Technical Specialist, Minden Field Office, Bancroft District, 705-286-5207

A close watch on local conditions and weather forecasts from Environment Canada is recommended. Environment Canada bulletins can be found at <http://weather.gc.ca/>

The Surface Water Monitoring Centre public webpage can be found here:

[www.ontario.ca/flooding](http://www.ontario.ca/flooding)

Parks Canada Water Management Updates can be found here: <https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/lhn-nhs/on/trentsevern/info/infonet>