

Watershed Conditions Statement - Flood Outlook

Chapleau Wawa District

Friday, April 14, 2023
11:00 a.m.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry – Chapleau Wawa District, is advising area residents that a Flood Watch has been issued for the district until Monday, April 24, 2023.

Residents in the Chapleau Wawa District area should keep a close watch on conditions and exercise caution around rivers and streams. Please alert and monitor any children under your care to possible dangers and supervise their activities. The warming temperatures could cause local flooding in low lying areas.

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 high-pressure system over the mid-west US states that has brought unseasonably warm temperatures to most of the province over the last 4 days is being slowly pushed into Quebec by a strong Colorado Low that has moved into northwestern Ontario and Wisconsin.

Northeastern Region can expect to see continued warm temperatures for the next 3 days with rain and showers starting Sunday and continuing into next week. Areas close to Lake Superior may see up to 30mm with the bulk falling on Sunday, while areas inland can expect accumulations of 5 – 15mm over the Sunday – Tuesday period.

The slow-moving Colorado low has shown embedded convective cells and thunderstorms in Northwestern Ontario, and this expected to continue as the system moves through Ontario. Where these thunderstorm occur, an additional 5 – 10 mm of rainfall accumulations can be expected.

Description of Current Conditions

A large proportion of the snowpack has melted in Southern Ontario, and warm temperatures through the southern portions of Northeast and Northwest Region has started

the release of water from the snowpack. This is expected to continue northward through the Northeast and Northwest Regions, as the weekend progresses.

The melt of the snowpack in the southern portions of both Northeast and Northwest Regions has commenced and will continue through the weekend. Some areas are experiencing a rapid melt of the accumulated snow which is causing moderate to rapid increases in water levels and flows in the drainage network in both regions.

The public should be advised of the danger around the fast-flowing and cold rivers and streams and unstable ice cover. In addition, milder temperatures will weaken and cause the breakup of the remaining ice cover where it exists, causing localized water level increases and flooding should ice jamming occur.

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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