

Watershed Conditions Statement - Flood Outlook

Chapleau Wawa District

Wednesday, April 19, 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 ministry is closely monitoring the weather and developing watershed conditions. Further updates will be issued as appropriate.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Description of Weather System

An approaching slow moving low-pressure system from the southwest US will move to the west of Lake Michigan on Thursday bringing with it a mix of rain and snow. By Friday the low moves over Lake Superior and another low moves to the northeast of Lake Huron bringing widespread flurries for the Northwest Region for the day and widespread rain with embedded showers for the Northeast and the Southern Regions. Both the low-pressure systems will move into the Southern Region on Saturday bringing a mix of rain/snow areas east of Wawa and into the Southern Region with a chance of embedded showers. The Southern Region will see temperatures climb to above normal on Friday, then drop to below seasonal after the passage of the system on Sunday.

Rainfall in the range of 10 to 15 mm is likely on Thursday to areas east of Wawa covering most of the watersheds in the southern sectors of the Northeast Region.

On Friday, less than 10 mm forecast for northeast.

On Saturday, with the intensification of the system, much of northeast will see widespread rainfall in the amounts of 15 to 25 mm anywhere east of Wawa, Sault Ste. Marie to as far north as Cochrane District where it is likely to be mixed precipitation.

Clearing conditions should be seen on Sunday as the system moves out of the province.

Description of Current Conditions

The melt of the snowpack in the southern portions of the Northeast with moderate rainfall has caused moderate to rapid increases in water levels and flows in the drainage network in the region. Forecast cumulative rainfall of 20 to 40 mm from Thursday to Saturday in the region will likely result in exacerbating the already high level and flows they are currently experiencing.

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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