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## **Watershed Conditions Statement - Water Safety Parry Sound District**

### **NEWS**

**Thursday, April 26, 2018**

11:00am

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry – Parry Sound District is advising area residents that a Watershed Conditions Statement - Water Safety is in effect for the District which includes the District Municipality of Muskoka, the Territorial District of Parry Sound and a north-west portion of the County of Haliburton.

Residents within the Parry Sound-Muskoka area should keep a close watch on conditions, regularly check for updated messages and exercise caution around water bodies as flows and levels within rivers and streams are anticipated to rise in the coming days. Although flooding is not expected at this time, residents may wish to consider taking action to secure or protect any property in flood-prone or vulnerable areas.

It is expected that lower-lying portions of known flood-prone roads along river courses will be impacted to various degrees as river levels remain start to increase over the next week.

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

MNRF also advises extreme caution when using forest access roads for outdoor activities as many are seasonally inundated with water, prone to washouts and may be impassible due to current water levels.

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 based on information received from MNRF - Surface Water Monitoring Centre, MNRF - Aviation Forest Fire and Emergency Management Services and Environment Canada.

A low-pressure system passed through the area and brought along with it rainfall and continuous warm weather. Cumulative rainfall was approximately 20 to 25 mm over the last two days in the district. Daytime temperatures are expected to remain between 4 to 20 °C, with overnight lows ranging from -3 to 11°C over the next week.

#### **Description of Current Conditions**

Water levels have started to rise over the last few days and it is anticipated that they will continue to rise over the next couple weeks as the rapid snow melt and precipitation flow through the watershed. Snow conditions in Muskoka and Parry Sound, are changing rapidly as the warm weather and precipitation melt the snow.

Combined runoff from the rainfall and snowmelt might result in high water levels and localised flooding in low lying areas. Residents should be cautious as ice conditions on lakes and rivers may change rapidly as a result of rising flows and water levels.

**Expiry Date:**

This message will expire on Friday, May 04 2018, 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**

For more information please contact:

Parry Sound District MNR Water Management Department  
By calling 705-646-5531 or by email at [watermanagement.psdistrict@ontario.ca](mailto:watermanagement.psdistrict@ontario.ca)

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: <http://www.ontario.ca/flooding>