

Watershed Conditions Statement - Water Safety

Pembroke District

Monday, April 06, 2020
5:00pm

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry – Pembroke District is advising area residents that the Watershed Conditions Statement - Water Safety that is in effect in the District has been extended until Tuesday, April 14, 2020.

Residents in Renfrew County should keep a close watch on conditions, regularly check for updated messages and exercise caution near fast-moving rivers and streams. 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.

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 weather situation over the next week is favourable, pointing to a continued gentle spring melt for the County. The five-day forecast includes 10-15mm of precipitation with mild temperatures over the next several days which should provide for continued, yet slow melt.

Description of Current Conditions

Over the past week the snow has continued to gradually melt due to warmer temperatures. Snow remains in forested and low-lying areas however fields and open spaces are now snow free. Above freezing temperatures and precipitation are likely to further degrade the snowpack and produce continued runoff, increasing levels and flows.

Lake levels and flows continue to increase but are still within normal ranges for this time of year. Large lakes remain ice covered, and most rivers and streams are ice-free.

Current risks may include degradation of ice and ice jams related to flooding from increasing temperatures and flows, fast moving cold water with rapidly changing conditions, and flooding of low-lying areas with a history of flooding.

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
- **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/floodforecast
- Environment Canada bulletins: www.weather.gc.ca
- A close watch on local conditions and weather forecasts from Environment Canada is recommended.