

Watershed Conditions Statement - Water Safety

Pembroke District

Friday, April 08, 2022
12:00pm

The Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry – Pembroke District is advising area residents that a Watershed Conditions Statement - Water Safety is in effect for the NDMNRF Pembroke District and Renfrew County. This Condition Statement is in effect until Thursday April 14, 2022 unless updated prior.

Residents in Renfrew County should be aware that ice on area lakes is now unsafe and water levels and flows in lakes and rivers are gradually increasing due to warmer temperatures, precipitation and remaining snow melting. Ice break up and an increase in water levels on the Ottawa River are expected over the next several days. It is advised to exercise caution near lakes and rivers and to keep a close watch on children and pets at all times.

The ministry is closely monitoring the weather and developing watershed conditions. Further updates will be issued as appropriate.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Description of Weather System

A low pressure system is bringing chance of rain today and through to Sunday for portions of the Ottawa River watershed and Renfrew County. Daytime temperatures are forecast to be near seasonal, around 10C. A clearing trend is forecast for Monday and the early part of next week with temperatures increasing to the mid teens.

Description of Current Conditions

Over the past several weeks, cooler than normal temperatures, lower than average precipitation levels, and gradually melting of snowpack have resulted in below average lake and river levels. Flow rates through lake systems are similarly below average. Some snowpack remains in the northern portion of the district at higher elevations, but is limited and below average. The south-eastern portion of the district is largely snow free. Lake ice

thickness this winter was significant. While all rivers are now open and free of ice, most lakes are now beginning to break up and current rain events are accelerating the rate of decay. Lake ice conditions are now unsafe across the district. Based on the current forecast and remaining snowpack conditions in the northern portions of the watershed, some increase in flow level is expected for the Ottawa River over the coming week.

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.