
Muskoka Parry Sound Freshet Water Conditions Update April 28th, 2019

MNRF Parry Sound District has issued a Flood Warning 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.

Snow

Parry Sound District MNRF carries out snow surveys twice monthly over the duration of the winter. The information collected is used to assess the potential for high water conditions or spring flooding. Snow stations are located near the Village of Rosseau, Arrowhead Provincial Park, Brooks Mills, Norway Point, Ouse Lake in Algonquin Park and near the Village of Sundridge.

Snow surveys were conducted today April 24th and no snow was recorded. Although no snow was recorded at District survey sites, there is still some snow present on the landscape in low lying conifer areas and north facing slopes within the Muskoka and Parry Sound regions as well as within Algonquin Park. Snow conditions in Algonquin Provincial Park, which is located in the top of the watershed are recording 57mm of snow water equivalence at their survey locations.

Weather Forecast and Implications

Water levels are remaining high and are still climbing in some cases after the additional 24-34mm rainfall event we received on Friday, April 26th. Lake levels and river flows are expected to remain high while this most recent rain and snow melts into the watershed, however, in most cases lake levels and river trends are starting to trend down. Areas that are experiencing flooding will not see levels start to recede until this water works its way out of the river systems.

The current weather forecast calls for daytime highs over the next week to range from 6°C to 12°C, and night time lows to range from -4°C to 6°C, depending on the weather service. Precipitation over the next 7 days has ~30mm of rain in the forecast, with ~25mm expected on Wednesday and the remainder to fall on Thursday.

The MNRF's primary role for flood preparation is flood forecasting and warning as early as possible. For flood emergencies the local Municipality is responsible for flood preparedness and response. Once a

local emergency is declared, MNRF will work directly with the municipality and provide support in accordance with the MNRF District Emergency Response Operations Plan.

MNRF dams are managed in accordance with Water Management Plans or dam operating manuals and will continue to be operated for optimal discharge just prior to the onset of the spring snow melt. More information about how lakes in the area are managed can be found at <http://www.muskokawaterweb.ca/water-101/water-quantity/mrwmp>.

Lake water levels and river flows are monitored on a daily basis and MNRF dams and other water control structures are operated when required throughout the spring as runoff from snow melt and rainfall pass through river systems and lakes.

MNRF dams are not designed as flood control structures therefore cannot prevent a flood event from occurring. Spring flooding is a natural event that occurs periodically and is caused by an extraordinary amount of runoff into a river system due to a rapid melt of the snow pack and/or any significant amount of rainfall. If our analysis of the watershed and weather conditions indicates there is a possibility of high water or flood conditions, MNRF will issue appropriate notifications such as a Flood Watch or Flood Warning. At this time of year, MNRF urges all residents to take precautionary steps to protect or secure any property in low lying flood prone areas.

Current status of water levels

Note: Doe Lake gauge is offline. EC will be on site today to install a satellite station on higher ground.

Waterbody	Municipality/Area	Average Summer Level (MASL)	Current Water Level (MASL)	Difference to Summer level (m)	Start of High Water Zone	Approximate rate of rise (cm/24h)
Tea Lake	Algonquin Park	417.7	418.45	0.75	418.2	1
Kawagama Lake	Algonquin Highlands	355.6	355.79	0.19	356.07	5
Lake of Bays	Lake of Bays	315.2	315.44	0.24	315.5	5
Wood Lake	Bracebridge	301.05	301.13	0.08	301.67	down 1
Tasso Lake	Lake of Bays	399.4	399.18	-0.22	399.85	down 6
Fox Lake	Huntsville	294.4	295.4	1	296	down 1
Huntsville Lakes	Huntsville	283.8	284.89	1.09	284.3	down 5
Mary Lake	Huntsville	280.75	281.57	0.82	281.15	down 2
Lake Rosseau/Joseph	Muskoka Lakes	226.05	226.35	0.3	226.37	3
Lake Muskoka	Bracebridge/Gravenhurst/Muskoka Lakes	225.4	226.33	0.93	226	7
Go Home Lake	Georgian Bay	185.18	184.86	-0.32	185.45	down 1
Perry Lake	Township of Perry	335.15	335.67	0.52	335.9	stable
Doe Lake	Armour Township	293.95			295.9	na
Bernard Lake	Sundridge/Strong Township	329.4	329.7	0.3	329.55	2
Cecebe Lake	Municipality of Magnetawan	282.7	283.17	0.47	283.36	down 1
Ahmic Lake	Municipality of Magnetawan	279.4	280.41	1.01	280.1	down 2
Forest Lake	South River	349.7	350.13	0.43	350.4	2
Dollars Lake	Unorganized	205.5	205.68	0.18	NA	down 6
Crane Lake	Archipelago	198.61			NA	na
Otter Lake	Seguin Township	207.19	207.39	0.2	NA	down 3
Oastler Lake	Seguin Township	204.51	204.59	0.08	NA	down 2

Current water flows

River	Municipality/Area	Current Flow (cms)	Early Flood Watch Flow (cms)	Approximate Rise over last 24h(cms)
Big East	Huntsville	110	50	down 3
North Muskoka	Huntsville/Bracebridge	222	75	down 27
South Muskoka (HH)	Lake of Bays/Bracebridge	163	50	6
Oxtongue	Lake of Bays	110	NA	2
Black	Bracebridge	44	35	3
North Magnetawan near Burks Falls	Armour, Ryerson & Village of Burk's Falls	52	NA	down 2
South Magnetawan near Emsdale	Perry/Armour, Ryerson & Village of Burk's Falls	71	NA	down 2
Magnetawan near Britt	Unorganized	344	NA	down 3
Moon River at Highway 400	Muskoka Lakes/Georgian Bay / Archipelago	344	NA	35
Musquash River at Highway 400	Muskoka Lakes/Georgian Bay / Archipelago	94	NA	down 2
Shawanaga River	Shawanaga FN	8	9	stable

Risks and Considerations

Ice Jams – have historically been preceded by rapid changes in weather and by colder than average winters. The *Ministry of Natural Resources Ice Management Manual* can be found on the Surface Water Monitoring Extranet site publications section or can be forwarded by one of the MNRF contacts at the end of this sheet. A One-key account is required to access the SWMC extranet site and can be requested at the following link:

<https://www.iaa.gov.on.ca/iaalogin/IAALogin.jsp>

Debris – accumulation of debris, natural and human made, can accumulate in rivers and streams at points of lower flow velocities or eddies or where natural and manmade obstacles or “choke-points” exist (bridge abutments, river constrictions etc.). MNRF monitors MNRF dams to ensure a significant amount of debris does not accumulate potentially causing upstream impacts. Municipalities are responsible for ensuring their infrastructure is not causing upstream impacts due to accumulation of debris.

Slippery and unstable banks – please keep in mind saturated areas adjacent to still and moving water can be unstable and /or slippery any time but most especially during the spring. Please continue to encourage residents to stay clear of these hazardous areas.

Changing and volatile weather

As forecasts change, MNRF monitoring and operational approaches for water management will be reviewed and may change as well. A weather forecast for significant precipitation and/or above normal temperatures may prompt local watershed/flood messages from the MNRF Parry Sound District.

High Water and Floods

High water and floods can occur any time but spring presents the highest risk. Significant precipitation and rapid melting of the snow pack can result in a flood event. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry uses snow pack, weather, water level and flow information to determine the type and timing of local flood messages.

Inquiries from the public should be directed to our Water Management Department Voicemail Box – 705-646-5531 or email at watermanagement.psdistrict@ontario.ca