

## **Watershed Conditions Statement - Water Safety**

### **North Bay District – Upper Ottawa River Area**

Thursday, May 18, 2023  
3:30pm

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry – North Bay District, is advising residents in the Ottawa River area, from the City of Temiskaming Shores south to Papineau-Cameron Township (Harris, Dymond, New Liskeard, Temiskaming Shores, North Cobalt, Cobalt, Lorrain, South Lorrain, Hebert, Burnaby, Parkman, Wyse, Town of Thorne, Eldee, Poitras, Eddy, Antoine, Mattawan, Papineau-Cameron) that a Watershed Conditions statement is in effect until Tuesday, May 23, 2023.

Recreationalists in these areas should keep a close watch on conditions and exercise caution around waterbodies as shorelines can be extremely slippery and unstable. Surface water temperatures are cold, as such residents and visitors should exercise caution while on and around waterbodies. Please monitor children and pets under your care.

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

#### **TECHNICAL INFORMATION**

##### **Description of Weather System**

Seasonal daytime and nighttime temperatures are expected Friday and throughout the long weekend. Minimal rainfall is forecast for tomorrow with less than 5mm expected throughout the area. For southern reaches of the watershed, significant rainfall is currently forecast throughout Saturday day and night. These areas could receive up to 30-40mm of rain while northern reaches of the watershed could receive 2-4mm.

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

Water levels and flows throughout the Upper Ottawa River area remain higher than normal but are slowly declining in most areas. If maximum precipitation amounts are received over the weekend, water systems are expected to react causing an increase in levels and flows. No flooding is expected at this time.

## 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](http://www.ontario.ca/page/surface-water-monitoring-centre)
- Environment Canada bulletins: [www.weather.gc.ca](http://www.weather.gc.ca)
- A close watch on local conditions and weather forecasts from Environment Canada is recommended.