

Watershed Conditions Statement - Water Safety

Pembroke District

Thursday, March 25, 2021
10:00am

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry – Pembroke District is advising area residents that a Watershed Conditions Statement - Water Safety is in effect in the District until Thursday, April 01, 2021.

Residents in Renfrew County should be aware that ice on area lakes is becoming unsafe and water levels and flows in rivers are increasing due to warmer temperatures, forecast precipitation and the remaining snow melting. It is advised to exercise caution near lakes and rivers and to keep a close watch on children and pets at all times to ensure that everyone stays safe.

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

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Description of Weather System

Temperatures recently have been unseasonably warm and are forecast to stay above freezing both during the day and at night until the end of the week, changing over to more seasonal temperatures of above zero during the day and below zero at night by the weekend. Over the next 5 days varying amounts of rain are forecast each day with the majority expected on Friday.

Description of Current Conditions

Warmer than normal temperatures throughout the month of March brought an early start to spring and as a result most of the snow is gone from open areas around the County and areas that do still have snow are melting quickly. Due to the extended melt and very little precipitation recently, area lakes and rivers are at average levels and flood thresholds are not expected to be reached at this time based on current forecasts.

The ice is thinning on large lakes throughout the County and rivers and streams are opening as the ice melts. As the ice on lakes and rivers melts, it can be expected that water levels will respond accordingly.

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.