
Muskoka Parry Sound Freshet Update April 25th 2014 at 12:00pm

Parry Sound District *Flood Warning* expires at 5:00 pm today

Watershed Conditions and Weather

Air temperatures have cooled significantly at this time since the recent mild spell and rains, with the forecast for the next few days predicting daytime highs of around 10 degrees with overnight lows at or near freezing. At this time, the forecast is indicating no significant rainfall amounts into early next week other than 10mm forecasted for today into tomorrow.

Water levels and flows within most lakes and rivers across the Parry Sound District are beginning to peak or have peaked. The Magnetawan River system and associated lakes have generally begun to decline.

Flows within the Big East River, Town of Huntsville has decreased approximately 17 cms over the last 24-hours and it's reported that flooding is no longer occurring in flood-prone areas and roads.

Water levels within the Huntsville Lakes; Vernon, Fairy and Peninsula have risen slightly since yesterday but are expected to crest over the next 24-hours as inflows from the Big East River continue to rapidly decline. Downstream within the north Muskoka River, Mary Lake water levels remained stable from yesterday.

The flow in the north branch Muskoka River is currently 136 cms with a decline of 6 cms since yesterday. Although this flow is still substantial, flows should continue to decline as they pass downstream through the Town of Bracebridge.

Flows and levels within the south branch Muskoka River continue to increase but at a reduced rate. The flow is currently 91 cms with a 24-hour rise of approximately 3 cms. It is expected that some flooding or high water concerns will continue until river flows and levels begin to decline which is expected to occur tomorrow or Sunday.

The rate-of-rise in Lake Muskoka water levels has begun to slow. The lake increased by 3cm as compared to an increase of 5cm yesterday. The daily rate-of-rise is expected to continue decreasing in the coming days as inflows from the north and south branches and other sources begin to recede. Given current conditions, it is expected that Lake Muskoka will crest by Monday or Tuesday.

Lake Muskoka water levels have risen above the Normal Operating Zone for this time of year. As Lake Muskoka continues to rise, flows into the Bala Reach, Moon River then downstream to Georgian Bay will increase as well. The Flow entering the Bala Reach is now at approximately 300-310 cms. Flooding typically begins within the Bala Reach when inflows surpass 280 cms. The start of the high

water zone or significant flooding typically begins at a Bala Reach water level elevation of approximately 220.75m. As of this morning, the Bala Reach water level elevation was reported to be 220.67m which is approximately 8cm higher than yesterday. The rise in Bala Reach water levels will slow over the next few days as the rate-of-rise in Lake Muskoka decreases through the weekend.

The Black River flow as measured at the Vankoughnet gauge station is currently at 35 cms, declining by 5 cms over the past 24-hours.

Flows and levels within other river systems such as the Magnetawan River and associated lakes are now beginning to decline and should continue to do so in the coming days unless significant rainfall is received.

Little snow remains across most of the watersheds and what remains is patchy. However, some of the snowpack remains within the western slopes of Algonquin Park. Forecasted temperatures and minimal rainfall over the next few days will slow the melt rate of the remaining snow. Another quick melt with runoff is not expected given the greatly reduced water content within the remaining snow and the favourable weather forecast.

Water levels within most lakes regulated by dams are currently within the respective Normal Operating Ranges and at this time. Where lake levels continue to rise, river flows downstream of the dams will continue to rise as well.

Snow

Parry Sound District MNR carries out snow surveys twice monthly over the duration of the winter or more frequently as required. 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.

On April 23rd the snow water content in the snow pack at Rosseau River was **24mm and 13mm** at Kiwanis snow station near Brooks Mills. Snow stations at Arrowhead, Norway Point and Sundridge had no snow remaining, although snow remains in Algonquin Park with snow water content somewhat higher than that measured at the Rosseau and Kiwanis stations.

Current status of lake levels

Lake	Municipality/Area	Average Summer Level (MASL)	Current Water Level (MASL)	Difference (m)	Start of High Water Zone	Approximate rate of rise (cm/24h)
Tea Lake	Algonquin Park	417.7	418.07	0.37	418.2	1
Kawagama Lake	Algonquin Highlands	355.6	355.41	-0.19	356.07	5
Lake of Bays	Lake of Bays	315.2	315.24	0.04	315.5	2
Wood Lake	Bracebridge	301.05	301.17	0.12	301.67	5
Fox Lake	Huntsville	294.4	296.06	1.66	296	-6
Huntsville Lakes	Huntsville	283.8	284.1	0.3	284.3	3
Mary Lake	Huntsville	280.75	281	0.25	281.15	0
Lake Rosseau/Joseph	Muskoka Lakes	226.05	226.21	0.16	226.37	3
Lake Muskoka	Bracebridge/Muskoka Lakes	225.4	225.8	0.4	226	3
Go Home Lake	Georgian Bay	185.18	184.72	-0.46	184.45	-4
Perry Lake	Township of Perry	335.15	335.48	0.33	335.9	0
Doe Lake	Armour Township	293.95	295.26	1.31	295.9	3
Bernard Lake	Sundridge/Strong Township	329.4	329.4	0	329.55	0
Cecebe Lake	Municipality of Magnetawan	282.7	282.89	0.19	283.36	0
Ahmic Lake	Municipality of Magnetawan	279.4	279.97	0.57	280.1	-1
Forest Lake	South River	349.7	348.96	-0.74	350.4	-4
Dollars Lake	Unorganized	205.5	205.52	0.02	NA	1
Crane Lake	Archipelago	198.58	NA		NA	
Otter Lake	Seguin Township	207.17	207.4	0.23	NA	-2
Oastler Lake	Seguin Township	204.5	204.54	0.04	NA	-3

Current status of river flows

River	Municipality/Area	Current Flow (cms)	Early Flood Watch Flow (cms)	Approximate Rise over 24h(cms)
Big East	Huntsville	61	50	-17
North Muskoka	Huntsville/Bracebridge	136	75	-6
South Muskoka (HH)	Lake of Bays/Bracebridge	91	50	-3
Oxtongue	Lake of Bays	57	NA	-4
Black	Bracebridge	35	35	-5
North Magnetawan near Burks Falls	Armour, Ryerson & Village of Burk's Falls	40	NA	-2
South Magnetawan near Emsdale	Armour, Ryerson & Village of Burk's Falls	41	NA	-2
Magnetawan near Britt	Unorganized	224	NA	-6
Moon River at Highway 400	Georgian Bay / Archipelago	228	NA	11
Musquash River at Highway 400	Georgian Bay	85	NA	0
Shawanaga River	Shawanaga FN	9	9	-1

Changing and volatile weather

As forecasts change, MNR 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 MNR 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 causing significant impacts. The Ministry of Natural Resources uses snow pack, weather, water level and flow information to determine the type and timing of local flood messages.

Any questions regarding watershed conditions such as water levels, flows and snow water content should be directed to either:

Parry Sound District
Bracebridge Field Office
705-646-5531

Parry Sound District
Bracebridge Field Office
705-646-5509