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## **Muskoka Parry Sound Freshet Update April 21<sup>st</sup> 2014 at 10:30am**

The Ministry of Natural Resources Parry Sound District **Flood Warning remains in effect**

### Watershed Conditions and Weather

Daytime high temperatures of 18 and 9 degrees are forecasted for Monday and Tuesday. Environment Canada has issued a Special Weather Statement current as of 4:30am calling for possible thunderstorms with 10-20mm of rain likely and up to 25mm in areas where thunderstorms develop.

Warmer temperatures and forecasted rainfall amounts are expected to increase the rate of snow pack melt and resulting runoff.

Flows within the Big East River, Town of Huntsville have slightly increased from yesterday at 51.8 cms as of 6:00 am. Water levels within the Huntsville Lakes; Vernon, Fairy and Peninsula are currently stable but are expected to increase with precipitation and runoff.

Currently the flow in the north branch is at 128.8 cms as measured at the data logger below the Mary Lake Dam which may cause some additional or more prolonged flooding in locations currently affected as increasing flows reach flood-prone locations downstream within the Town of Bracebridge.

The rate-of-rise in flows and levels within the south branch of the Muskoka River continues to increase at a very slow rate and is currently at 77.4 cms. Significant flooding along the south branch typically occurs when flows approach 85 cms.

The Black River flow as measured at the Vankoughnet gauge station is very slightly up from yesterday. River flow is currently at 34.4 cms.

The Magnetawan River system flows within the north and south branches over the last 24-hours are down approximately 4 cms. The lower portion of the Magnetawan River appears to have stabilized for the time being. Lake Cecebe and Ahmic Lake water levels have declined over the last 24-hours. Ahmic Lake still remains above the Normal Operating Zone for this time of year.

Water levels and flows continue to trend down in the South and Pickerel River systems.

Some localized flooding has been reported and there have been some road closures within low-lying areas within a number of municipalities and some roads continue to be closed with others reopened.

A significant snow pack still remains in many areas of local watersheds including the western slopes of Algonquin Park which are the headwaters for the Magnetawan and Muskoka river systems.

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.

Above normal snow water content has been measured across the region since early January 2014. The average snow water content in the snow pack as of **April 15<sup>th</sup> was 44mm** although higher amounts were measured in some areas such as at the Ouse Lake station in Algonquin Park and the station near the Village of Rosseau. In past years, the snow pack has often melted by mid-April with little snow remaining across watersheds. MNR dams have been prepared for optimal discharge through the spring melt.

## 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	417.91	0.21	418.2	-2
Kawagama Lake	Algonquin Highlands	355.6	355.22	-0.38	356.07	2
Lake of Bays	Lake of Bays	315.2	315.12	-0.08	315.5	2
Wood Lake	Bracebridge	301.05	301.06	0.01	301.67	-3
Fox Lake	Huntsville	294.4	294.87	0.47	296	-1
Huntsville Lakes	Huntsville	283.8	283.99	0.19	284.3	1
Mary Lake	Huntsville	280.75	280.9	0.15	281.15	-4
Lake Rosseau/Joseph	Muskoka Lakes	226.05	226.03	-0.02	226.37	1
Lake Muskoka	Bracebridge/Muskoka Lakes	225.4	225.61	0.21	226	5
Go Home Lake	Georgian Bay	185.18	184.84	-0.34	184.45	-3
Perry Lake	Township of Perry	335.15	335.37	0.22	335.9	-1
Doe Lake	Armour Township	293.95	295.06	1.11	295.9	0
Bernard Lake	Sundridge/Strong Township	329.4	329.33	-0.07	329.55	1
Cecebe Lake	Municipality of Magnetawan	282.7	282.84	0.14	283.36	-1
Ahmic Lake	Municipality of Magnetawan	279.4	279.95	0.55	280.1	-7
Forest Lake	South River	349.7	349.53	-0.17	350.4	-1
Dollars Lake	Unorganized	205.5	205.69	0.19	NA	-10
Crane Lake	Archipelago	198.58	NA			
Otter Lake	Seguin Township	207.17	207.36	0.19	NA	1
Oastler Lake	Seguin Township	204.5	204.47	-0.03	NA	-1

## **Current status of river flows**

River	Municipality/Area	Current Flow (cms)	Early Flood Watch Flow (cms)	Approximate Rise over last 24h(cms)
Big East	Huntsville	51.8	50	3.1
North Muskoka	Huntsville/Bracebridge	128.8	75	-6.7
South Muskoka (HH)	Lake of Bays/Bracebridge	77.4	50	3.2
Oxtongue	Lake of Bays	48.1	NA	0.4
Black	Bracebridge	34.4	35	0.3
North Magnetawan near Burks Falls	Armour, Ryerson & Village of Burk's Falls	26.8	NA	-3
South Magnetawan near Emsdale	Armour, Ryerson & Village of Burk's Falls	33.2	NA	-4.7
Magnetawan near Britt	Unorganized	244.4	NA	-4.3
Moon River at Highway 400	Georgian Bay / Archipelago	189	NA	22
Musquash River at Highway 400	Georgian Bay	94	NA	-0.3
Shawanaga River	Shawanaga FN	NA	9	NA

## **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. 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