
Muskoka Parry Sound Freshet Water Conditions Update April 14th 2014 at 12:00pm

Watershed Conditions and Weather

The amount of forecasted rainfall over the last 24-hours was not received in local watersheds. Approximately 14 mm of rain occurred over the last 24-hours.

The current weather forecast for our area is calling for significantly less rainfall today as compared to yesterday's forecast. Approximately 15mm of rain is forecasted for today.

Given the reduced amount of predicted rainfall, the existing snow pack is expected to melt at a reduced rate throughout the day than previously anticipated, with air temperatures dropping to below freezing tonight and through tomorrow. It is now expected that a significant amount of the snow pack will remain following today's mild spell and rainfall, especially in higher elevations such as the western slopes of the Algonquin highlands.

* Flows within the Big East River, Town of Huntsville are currently rising at a rate of approximately 2 cubic meters/second (cms) per hour and river flow as of 6:00 am this morning was at 80 cms as measured at the upstream Williamsport data logger station. It is expected that the rate of rise will accelerate throughout the day and into tomorrow given current conditions and expected rainfall. Some **inundation or flooding of lower-lying, flood-prone locations along the Big East River expected to begin later today** that may impact some low-lying properties and roads within traditional flood-prone locations.

Lakes and other rivers or reaches continue to rise but no flooding is occurring at this time.

Seasonal temperatures and rain will continue to melt the snow pack and runoff from the melt will continue to enter local watercourses. Lake and river levels will continue to rise in the coming days.

Water levels within lakes regulated by dams are currently within the respective normal operating ranges. As lake levels 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. 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 snow water content in the snow pack as of **April 11th is 20% above normal or 120%** of the historical average in the area. Snow water content in the remaining snow pack has fallen from the April 4th snow survey readings but remains above normal for this time of year.

Most managed lakes in the area continue to rise with rising inflows. 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	417.56	0.14	418.2	13
Kawagama Lake	Algonquin Highlands	355.6	654.74	-299.14	356.07	9
Lake of Bays	Lake of Bays	315.2	314.71	0.49	315.5	8
Wood Lake	Bracebridge	301.05	300.98	0.07	301.67	7
Fox Lake	Huntsville	294.4	294.73	-0.33	296	22
Huntsville Lakes	Huntsville	283.8	283.44	0.36	284.3	11
Mary Lake	Huntsville	280.75	280.59	0.16	281.15	9
Lake Rosseau/Joseph	Muskoka Lakes	226.05	225.75	0.3	226.37	6
Lake Muskoka	Bracebridge/Muskoka Lakes	225.4	225.08	0.32	226	9
Go Home Lake	Georgian Bay	185.18	184.87	0.31	184.45	-3
Perry Lake	Township of Perry	335.15	335.24	-0.09	335.9	5
Doe Lake	Armour Township	293.95	294.73	-0.78	295.9	17
Bernard Lake	Sundridge/Strong Township	329.4	329.18	0.22	329.55	9
Cecebe Lake	Municipality of Magnetawan	282.7	282.82	-0.12	283.36	12
Ahmic Lake	Municipality of Magnetawan	279.4	279.66	-0.26	280.1	18
Forest Lake	South River	349.7	349.38	0.32	350.4	13
Dollars Lake	Unorganized	205.5	205.41	0.09	NA	15
Crane Lake	Archipelago	198.58	na	#VALUE!	NA	na
Otter Lake	Seguin Township	207.17	207.3	-0.13	NA	7
Oastler Lake	Seguin Township	204.5	204.49	0.01	NA	9

Current status of river flows

River	Municipality/Area	Current Flow (cms)	Early Flood Watch Flow (cms)	Approximate Rise over 24h(cms)
Big East	Huntsville	83.5	50	29.5
North Muskoka	Huntsville/Bracebridge	89.7	75	9
South Muskoka (HH)	Lake of Bays/Bracebridge	41.6	50	4.7
Oxtongue	Lake of Bays	41.8	NA	9.2
Black	Bracebridge	38.7	NA	3.1
North Magnetawan near Burks Falls	Armour, Ryerson & Village of Burk's Falls	31	NA	10.3
South Magnetawan near Emsdale	Armour, Ryerson & Village of Burk's Falls	27	NA	8.5
Magnetawan near Britt	Unorganized	129	NA	13
Moon River at Highway 69	Georgian Bay / Archipelago	78	NA	5.2
Musquash River at Highway 69	Georgian Bay	94.3	NA	6
Shawanaga River	Shawanaga FN	10.72	9	2.6

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:

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