

Flood Warning
Watershed Conditions Statement - Water Safety
Bracebridge-Minden-Parry Sound District

Thursday, May 21, 2026
4:00pm

The Ministry of Natural Resources – Bracebridge-Minden-Parry Sound District is advising area residents and visitors that:

- Flood Warning is in effect for the French River and Pickerel River
- Watershed Conditions Statement - Water Safety is in effect for the Severn River, including Sparrow Lake

These messages will remain in effect until Friday May 29, 2026 at 11:59pm

This message applies to the areas identified above within the MNR Bracebridge–Minden–Parry Sound District, including portions of the District of Parry Sound, District of Muskoka, and County of Haliburton.

Residents, visitors, and boaters are advised to use extreme caution near dams, as recent high-water levels may have affected safety booms, signage, barriers, and other safety features.

Residents and visitors should anticipate lake and river water levels to continue to decrease in many areas, with some locations beginning to stabilize.

Residents that have been affected by high water and flow conditions in the past should continue to take necessary action to protect or secure any vulnerable property in proximity to rivers and lakes and closely monitor developing conditions.

Lower-lying portions of known flood-prone areas may be impacted to varying degrees.

MNR also advises extreme caution when using forest access roads for outdoor activities, as many may have been damaged by seasonal conditions, including washouts. These roads may be impassable.

Slippery stream banks and fast-flowing, cold water will create hazardous conditions around all water bodies. Residents and visitors are reminded to keep a close watch on weather conditions, regularly check for updated messages, exercise caution near fast-moving rivers and streams and maintain close supervision of children and pets.

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

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Description of Weather System

The 7-day weather forecast is predicting daytime highs of 13°C to 24°C and overnight lows between 8°C and 13°C with up to 25 mm of rainfall.

Some areas remain vulnerable to additional impacts should significant rainfall occur.

Description of Current Conditions

It is anticipated that water levels on the Severn River, French River, and portions of the Pickerel River will remain elevated. In some locations, levels are comparable to those observed in 2019 and may result in localized effects.

Water levels and river flows in many locations are continuing to trend toward more normal conditions, though some areas remain elevated.

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/page/surface-water-monitoring-centre
- Environment Canada bulletins: www.weather.gc.ca
- A close watch on local conditions and weather forecasts from Environment and Climate Change Canada is recommended.

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ontario.ca/mnr
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