

Watershed Conditions Statement - Flood Outlook

Bracebridge-Minden-Parry Sound District

Friday, March 13, 2026
11:00am

The Ministry of Natural Resources– Bracebridge-Minden-Parry Sound District is advising area residents that a Watershed Conditions Statement - Flood Outlook bulletin is in effect in the District until Friday, March 20, 2026

This message will affect residents within the MNR Bracebridge-Minden-Parry Sound District for portions of the District of Parry Sound, District of Muskoka, and County of Haliburton within the Black, Boyne, Burnt, Gull, Magnetawan, Muskoka, Pickerel, Seguin and Severn River Watersheds.

Higher than normal flow conditions are occurring throughout the area due to recent rainfall and snowmelt. Slippery stream banks and fast flowing, cold water will create hazardous conditions around all water bodies. Residents 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.

Lower-lying portions of known flood-prone areas may be impacted to various degrees as runoff from rainfall and melting snow enter watercourses.

Additional forecasted rainfall may further increase water levels and flows in the area. Ice jam related flooding along water courses is possible.

MNR advises residents to exercise extreme caution concerning ice conditions. No ice is safe ice. Anyone planning to venture onto the ice should check the ice conditions often, plan ahead, and be prepared for an emergency.

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

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

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Description of Weather System

Additional rainfall is forecasted for March 16, 2026. The existing snowpack is expected to absorb some of this rainfall, but significant runoff is possible with snowpack melt and rainfall combined.

What: Total rainfall amounts ranging from 10 mm to 30 mm, with daytime high temperatures up to +9° C are possible.

When: Monday March 16, 2026.

Additional information: Below seasonal temperatures with significant snowfall is forecasted for much of the next two weeks.

Description of Current Conditions

River flows and lake water levels are increasing with recent rainfall and snowmelt but are expected to stabilize and decline with colder than normal temperatures forecasted.

Some areas within the District received up to 76.6 mm of precipitation, primarily rainfall, over the past week (March 6-12) which contributed to significant snowmelt and runoff into lakes and rivers. The remaining snowpack is saturated in some locations and not able to absorb additional rainfall. The quick transition to below seasonal temperatures is expected to slow runoff from melting snow and rain forecasted on March 16, 2026.

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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