

Watershed Conditions Statement - Flood Outlook

Watershed Conditions Statement - Water Safety

Bracebridge-Minden-Parry Sound District

Friday, March 20, 2026
1:00pm

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry – Bracebridge Minden Parry Sound District is advising area residents that a Watershed Conditions Statement – Flood Outlook Bulletin is in effect for the **Severn River Watershed** including Sparrow Lake within the district **until Friday, March 27, 2026**.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry – Bracebridge Minden Parry Sound District is advising area residents that a Watershed Conditions Statement – Water Safety Bulletin is in effect for the remainder of the district **until Friday, March 27, 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 Severn, Boyne, Pickerel, Seguin, Magnetawan and Muskoka River Watersheds.

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.

Higher than normal water 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.

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.

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

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 weather forecast is calling for daytime highs of -4°C to +3°C, and overnight lows are forecasted between -18°C and -1°C for the next 7 days. Forecasts are also anticipating that the area will receive up to 15cm of snow over the next 7 days.

Description of Current Conditions

River flows in many areas of the district are at elevated levels. Lake water levels in most areas are stabilizing and beginning to decrease with near normal seasonal temperatures forecasted.

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.