



Watershed Conditions Statement – Flood Outlook for NBMCA watershed

Watershed Conditions Statement – Water Safety for Lake Nipissing Shoreline and Mattawa River downstream of Hurdman Dam

Message Number: 2026-04

Issued: April 2, 2026, at 8:00 AM EDT

From: NBMCA Duty Officer, Angela Mills

Watershed Conditions Statement – Flood Outlook: gives early notice of the potential for flooding based on weather forecasts calling for heavy rain, snow melt, high wind or other conditions that could lead to high runoff, cause ice jams, lakeshore flooding or erosion.

Watershed Conditions Statement – Water Safety indicates that high flows, unsafe banks, melting ice or other factors could be dangerous for users such as anglers, boaters, swimmers, children, or pets. Flooding is not expected.

If you have a flood emergency, please contact your municipality. If you live in an unincorporated township, please contact the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) – North Bay District.

A **Watershed Conditions Statement – Flood Outlook** has been issued for most of the NBMCA watershed and a **Watershed Conditions Statement – Water Safety** is in place for the Lake Nipissing Shoreline and Mattawa River downstream of Hurdman Dam.

Current Conditions:

Water levels on area lakes and rivers are generally normal for this time of year. Water levels and flows have increased in response to several days of mild

temperatures, rainfall, and snowmelt in the past week. Significant water content remains stored in the snowpack, with an above normal average of 133.3 mm (as of Apr 1). The remaining snow is very wet and unstable, and many wetlands and low-lying areas across the watershed are inundated. Trails at the Corbeil Conservation Area are closed due to flooding.

Current water levels can be viewed by searching Station Names "Ottawa River", "Mattawa River", "Chippewa Creek", "La Vase River", "Wasi River", and "Lake Nipissing" at https://wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/search/real_time_e.html

Forecasted Conditions:

Environment and Climate Change Canada has issued a Yellow Warning – Rainfall for the North Bay – Powassan – Mattawa area for the potential of 30-50 mm of rain and freezing rain today into tomorrow. Forecasts indicate temperatures will warm to 10 °C tomorrow and with daytime highs above freezing and overnight lows near freezing through the weekend. Additional rainfall is forecast for Saturday.

Water level and flows on local creeks and rivers will increase in response to the forecasted rain and resulting snowmelt.

The water level of Lake Nipissing is expected to continue to increase in response to higher inflows, refilling the lake from winter draw down. The changes to water levels on Lake Nipissing depend on the amount of water flowing in from rivers, precipitation, and the amount of water flowing out through the control dams to the downstream French River. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-services-procurement/services/infrastructure-buildings/bridges-docks-dams/frenchriver-dam.html>

The water level of the Ottawa River at Mattawa is seasonal and expected to increase over the coming days per the Ottawa River Regulating Committee. The Ottawa River water levels are managed by dams and reservoirs operated by provincial and federal governments. The Ottawa River Regulation Planning Board posts current data and forecasts on their website <https://ottawariver.ca/>

Historic Flood Conditions:

For comparison, current conditions and forecasts are similar to those of April 18, 2019 when flooding occurred in the watershed. The snowpack water content was 123 mm (measured April 15, 2019). Daytime temperatures were between

3 and 12 °C, with overnight temperatures above freezing. Actual precipitation measured on April 18, 2019 was 31.8 mm. When combined with snowmelt, the daily average water level on Chippewa Creek, in North Bay, increased by 57.6 cm in that one day. Wasi River responded over several days with daily average water level at the gauge increasing by 70 cm over two days causing flooding in Chisholm and East Ferris.

Risk:

A Flood Watch has been issued for the North Bay-Mattawa watershed with a Watershed Conditions Statement – Water Safety message issued for the Lake Nipissing shoreline and Mattawa River downstream of Hurdman Dam. Local rivers and creeks have responded to recent rain and snowmelt. Many low-lying areas and wetlands are inundated and have limited capacity to store additional water. Forecast rainfall and snowmelt will cause water levels to rise further. Water levels and flows in local streams and rivers, especially those in urban areas could change rapidly especially during and after rainfall. Widespread flooding is not expected; however, flooding and ponding is likely in flood-prone low-lying areas. Lake ice surrounding inflowing streams may deteriorate rapidly with increasing flows.

All residents, especially those in low lying areas, are encouraged to monitor the conditions that are developing. Banks adjacent to rivers and creeks are very slippery at this time and when combined with cold open water, pose a serious hazard. The public is encouraged to keep children and pets away from watercourses and off waterbodies.

Municipalities are encouraged to monitor water crossings for debris that may affect the movement of water through culverts and bridges. A close watch on local conditions and updated forecasts and warnings from Environment Canada is also recommended.

Staff at the North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority will continue to monitor weather and watershed conditions and update this message based on the changing weather and streamflow conditions.

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This message will be in effect until (or updated before) Thursday, April 9, 2026 at 4:00 PM EDT.

The general public is advised of these messages through the www.nbmca.ca website with the flood status icon and a link to information about current conditions. NBMCA also circulates these messages to local media and social media, posting on Twitter (@theNBMCA), Instagram (nbmcainfo), and Facebook (NBMCA).

The public is invited to share photos of watershed conditions on social media using #NBMCAFlood.

Terminology: Notification Levels

WATERSHED CONDITIONS STATEMENT: general notices of potential flooding or other conditions that pose a safety risk. There are two kinds of statements:

 **Water Safety:** indicates that high flows, unsafe banks, melting ice or other factors could be dangerous for users such as anglers, boaters, swimmers, children, or pets. Flooding is not expected.

 **Flood Outlook:** gives early notice of the potential for flooding based on weather forecasts calling for heavy rain, snow melt, high wind or other conditions that could lead to high runoff, cause ice jams, lakeshore flooding or erosion.

FLOOD WATCH

 **FLOOD WATCH:** notifies that the potential for flooding exists within specific watercourses and municipalities. Municipalities, emergency services and individual landowners in flood-prone areas should prepare.

FLOOD WARNING

 **FLOOD WARNING:** notifies that flooding is imminent or already occurring in specific watercourses or municipalities. Municipalities and individuals should take action to deal with flood conditions. This may include road closures and evacuations.

MAP: North Bay – Mattawa Watershed

