



## **FLOOD WARNING for North Bay-Mattawa watershed**

### **Watershed Conditions Statement – Flood Outlook for Lake Nipissing Shoreline and Mattawa River downstream of Hurdman Dam**

Message Number: 2026-09

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**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.

**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.

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

A **FLOOD WARNING** remains in effect for most of the North Bay – Mattawa watershed and a **Watershed Conditions Statement – Flood Outlook** has been issued for the Lake Nipissing Shoreline and Mattawa River downstream of Hurdman Dam.

This Message is an update to the previous Message Number 2026-08 dated April 14, 2026.

## **Current Conditions:**

Approximately 80 mm of rain fell across the watershed between April 12 and 14. Month-to-date, more than 174% of normal April precipitation has been recorded at the North Bay Airport. Water levels and flows have increased significantly in response to several days of significant rainfall, and snowmelt in the last couple of days.

Flood water from Chippewa Creek impacted homes and streets in North Bay yesterday (Apr 14). Water level was the highest recorded at the Chippewa Creek gauge since data collection began in 2002. The volume of water moving through the system was highest since data collection began in 1974, with the next highest flow being from April 9, 1980. Water level on Chippewa Creek has receded by 106 cm and remains very high.

Water level on the La Vase River has increased by 106 cm since Apr 9 and has begun to recede. Flow on the La Vase River is similar to its previous maximum from Apr 1, 1998 (data since 1974). Corbeil Conservation Area is closed due to flooding.

Water level on the Wasi River has increased by 78 cm since Apr 12 and has begun to recede. Flow on the Wasi River is less than its previous maximum from April of 2016 (data since 2002).

Water levels in the Mattawa River system are still rising, stabilizing in some areas as water drains through the watershed. Turtle/Trout Lake is 13 cm higher than its past maximum from 2019 (data since 2018). Lake Nosbonsing is 3 cm less than its previous maximum in 2019 (data since 2018). Lake Talon is 13 cm higher than its previous maximum in 2023 (data since 2018). Mattawa River below Boullion Lake has increased by more than 75 cm since Sunday (Apr 12) and Chant Plein Lake is 3 cm less than its past maximum from 2019 (data since 2018). Mattawa Island Conservation Area is closed due to flooding.

The snowpack has had significant melt in the last week. Corbeil and North Bay are now classified as snow-free, while some snow remains in the bush and 48 mm of water equivalent remains in Chisholm. Many wetlands and low-lying areas across the watershed are inundated and there is minimal storage for any additional inputs.

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](https://wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/search/real_time_e.html)

### **Forecasted Conditions:**

Forecasts indicate temperatures will remain above freezing for the coming week with daytime highs for most days above 10 °C. Additional rainfall is anticipated for the coming week with 30-40 mm cumulative rain forecast mostly on Thursday (Apr 16) and Saturday.

Water levels and flows on local creeks and rivers will rise in response to the forecasted rain and remaining snowmelt as the water drains through the landscape.

The water level of Lake Nipissing has been rising at a rate of about 10 cm per day and 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>

Water levels and flows are increasing rapidly at all locations along the main stem of the Ottawa River 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.

For that same rain event, 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. Current readings are 47 cm less than 2019's peak level on the gauge.

**Risk:**

A Flood Warning remains in effect for the North Bay-Mattawa watershed. With soils frozen or saturated and rivers already high, the landscape has little storage capacity for additional rainfall and snowmelt. Urban creeks respond quickly to rain events. Flooding and ponding are likely or already occurring in flood-prone low-lying areas. Very few local rivers are controlled by dam structures; none are operated by NBMCA. River response is driven by rainfall and snowmelt.

A Watershed Conditions Statement – Flood Outlook message has been issued for the Lake Nipissing shoreline and Mattawa River downstream of Hurdman Dam. Water levels are rapidly rising as snowmelt continues in the Sturgeon River watershed and Upper Ottawa River watershed and may approach flood conditions within the next few weeks.

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 fast moving 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.

**This message will be in effect until (or updated before) Monday, April 20, 2026 at 4:00 PM EDT.**


## 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

