



FLOOD WARNING for Lake Nipissing Shoreline (Callander and North Bay), La Vase River downstream of Lakeshore Dr, Parks Creek, and Mattawa River downstream from Hurdman Dam (updated)

Watershed Conditions Statement – Flood Outlook for the remainder of the watershed

Message Number: 2026-13

Issued: April 30, 2026, at 12:00 PM EDT

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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.

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.

If you need assistance responding to 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 the Lake Nipissing Shoreline, La Vase River downstream of Lakeshore Dr, Parks Creek, and the Mattawa River

downstream of Hurdman Dam. The Watershed Conditions Statement- Flood Outlook remains in effect for the remainder of the watershed.

This Message is an update to the previous Message Number 2026-12 dated April 28, 2026.

Current Conditions:

More than 253% of normal April precipitation has been recorded at the North Bay Airport.

Water level on Lake Nipissing at North Bay is 10 cm above the maximum non-damage elevation. Snowmelt continues in northern parts of the Lake Nipissing watershed. Lake Nipissing directly impacts water levels in the La Vase River downstream of Lakeshore Dr and Parks Creek. The Parks Creek Backflood Control Structure is operational, keeping water levels lowered in the Parks Creek watershed. Eva Wardlaw Conservation Area is closed to the public while operations remain ongoing.

Upstream flows on the Ottawa River, which directly impacts water level in the lower reaches of the Mattawa River, have been increasing and are forecast to increase over the next few days. Water level in Mattawa has exceeded the major flood threshold of 154.8 m. Mattawa Island Conservation Area remains closed due to flooding.

Water levels in other local watersheds have receded to normal for this time of year. Corbeil Conservation Area remains closed until staff can assess the safety of the pedestrian bridge that was damaged during 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:

Minimal precipitation is forecast for the next 4 days. Cool, dry conditions will help slow the continued melt from northern watersheds.

The water level of Lake Nipissing continues to slowly rise. Public Services and Procurement Canada is forecasting water level on Lake Nipissing to rise by another 5 to 6 cm to before stabilizing in the coming week. 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>

Sustained high flows on the Ottawa River are anticipated as snowmelt continues in the northern areas of its watershed, sending more spring runoff downstream. In Mattawa, water levels are forecast to exceed the major flood level and reach 150.0 m by May 1, per the Ottawa River Regulating Committee. This would be an increase of 15 cm over current water levels. 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, when river-based flooding occurred at Mattawa in May 2019, the water level on the Ottawa River at Mattawa reached a maximum level of 155.635 m, which is 63.5 cm higher than the forecasted level. Flows from the Otto Holden dam in May 2019 were around 17% greater at their maximum than present. Comparing historic annual maximum daily average water level, conditions in Mattawa for April 29, 2026 was the seventh highest since 1918; 2019 was the fourth highest.

Additionally, when lake-based flooding occurred on Lake Nipissing in May 2019, the water level on Lake Nipissing at North Bay reached a maximum daily average level of 196.579 m, which is about 25 cm higher than the present level. The water level was higher than current levels for the period between May 5 and June 15, 2019. Water level is currently 6 cm higher than the 2024 peak elevation. Comparing historic annual maximum daily average water level, conditions for Lake Nipissing in North Bay for April 29, 2026, were the ninth highest since 1933 (three years missing); 2019 was the fourth highest.

Risk:

A Flood Warning continues for the Mattawa River downstream of Hurdman Dam. High flow on the Ottawa River directly impacts water level of the Mattawa River and major flood elevation has been reached. Water levels are forecast to continue to increase over the next few days.

A Flood Warning continues for the Lake Nipissing shoreline in North Bay and Callander and includes the La Vase River downstream of Lakeshore Dr and Parks Creek. Water levels continue to slowly rise in response to recent rain and snowmelt and may stabilize in the next week. High winds over open water combined with high water level water will increase wave action and increase risk for shoreline erosion and damage. Operations are ongoing with the Parks Creek Backflood Control Structure to prevent high water levels on Lake Nipissing from impeding drainage from Parks Creek and surrounding urban areas.

A Watershed Conditions Statement – Flood Outlook continues for the remainder of the watershed. Water levels have receded to seasonal normal in local watersheds but remain high in some areas. With soils near saturation, water levels could respond rapidly to any additional rain.

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 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) Thursday, May 8, 2026, at 4:00 PM EDT.

See also the Ministry of Natural Resources – North Bay District local bulletins for areas outside the North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority, including for the Ottawa River <https://www.lioapplications.lrc.gov.on.ca/webapps/swmc/flood-forecasting-and-warning-program/>


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

