

## **Flood Warning North Bay District**

Friday, April 17, 2026  
4:00pm

The Ministry of Natural Resources – North Bay District, is advising area residents in the southern areas of the Sturgeon and Upper Ottawa Watersheds (**including and south of** Janes, Dana, McWilliams, Thistle, McLaren, Gladman, Hammell, Osborne, Garrow, Clarkson and Poitras Townships) as well as the French Watershed that a Flood Warning bulletin is in effect until Tuesday, April 21, 2026 at 4:00pm.

Residents in these areas should keep a close watch on conditions and exercise caution around lakes, rivers, creeks and streams. Spring freshet is under way and water levels and flows are expected to continue to rise with more precipitation forecast for tomorrow. Flooding is currently occurring in some areas and could occur in others in the coming days. Please alert and or monitor any children and pets under your care to possible dangers and supervise their activities around waterbodies.

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 current forecast for Saturday is calling for rainfall amounts of 15-25mm along with daytime temperatures between 10-15°C before a cold front moves in on Sunday. Daytime temperatures during the cold front will hover around the freezing mark with nighttime temperatures dropping below freezing.

#### **Description of Current Conditions**

**Mattawan Township:** Hwy 533 remains closed from First Street in Mattawa and Hwy 63 in Redbridge due to flooding.

**East Mills, Wilson (northern reaches), McConkey (southern reaches):** After dam operations were made earlier in the week, water levels at Le Grou Lake Dam remain high but are trending down.

**Ellesmere Village (Tilden Lake area):** the low-lying community which has a history of flooding continues to be impacted by high water levels.

Water levels and flows in these areas of the district are climbing higher because past rain events, including a significant rain event earlier in the week. Watercourses throughout the district are expected to react accordingly to the increased rainfall and runoff.

Where it remains, lake and river ice continues to deteriorate and is considered unsafe. Extreme caution should be used around all bodies of water as spring freshet continues.

The ground is saturated and has very little capacity, if any, to absorb moisture from rainfall or runoff. Remaining snowpack has a high moisture content and reduced ability to absorb rainfall which will contribute to impacts.

Structures such as homes, boat houses and docks could be at risk of flooding if located near lake/river level or are in other low-laying flood prone areas that have a history of flooding. Residents in these areas are encouraged to monitor conditions and prepare accordingly.

Municipalities, residents and visitors, especially those in low-lying areas and along shorelines, are encouraged to monitor conditions and prepare accordingly. Shorelines and banks adjacent to waterbodies are very slippery and unstable at this time and when combined with cold, fast flowing water, pose a serious hazard.

Everyone is encouraged to prepare accordingly and keep a close watch of local weather forecasts, special weather statements and warnings as weather systems can be dynamic, and paths of travel and amount and type of precipitation may change.

**This message remains in effect until Tuesday April 21 at 4pm, or until it's updated.**

## **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
- **SHORELINE CONDITIONS STATEMENT – WATER SAFETY:** indicates that **along the Great Lakes shorelines high water**, melting ice or other factors could be dangerous but flooding is not expected.

- **SHORELINE CONDITIONS STATEMENT – FLOOD OUTLOOK:** gives early notice of the potential for flooding **along the Great Lakes shorelines** based on weather and lake conditions, and water safety information.
- **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](http://www.ontario.ca/page/surface-water-monitoring-centre)
- Environment Canada bulletins: [www.weather.gc.ca](http://www.weather.gc.ca)
- A close watch on local conditions and weather forecasts from Environment Canada is recommended.