

## **Watershed Conditions Statement - Water Safety**

### **Midhurst District**

Friday, March 26, 2021  
10:00am

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry – Midhurst District is advising area residents that a **Watershed Conditions Statement - Water Safety** bulletin is in effect until Wednesday, March 31, 2021

Residents in the northern areas of Simcoe County including Severn, Ramara, Tiny and Tay Townships. Specifically, areas around the Severn and Black Rivers including Sparrow Lake have increasing flows and higher than normal water levels. This is expected to continue in the coming days with the expected melt of the remaining snowpack and rainfall forecasted. Residents and visitors are advised to be aware of current watershed conditions, exercise caution while around water bodies and maintain close supervision of children and pets.

The ministry is closely monitoring the weather and developing watershed conditions. Further updates will be issued as appropriate.

#### **TECHNICAL INFORMATION**

##### **Description of Weather System**

This message is being sent based on information received from MNRF-Surface Water Monitoring Centre, MNRF-Aviation Forest Fire and Emergency Management Services, Parks Canada and Environment Canada.

Forecasts call for rain continuing today into this evening with total rainfall amounts reaching the 20 to 40mm range with some areas receiving in excess of 50+mm. Both day and nighttime temperatures are forecasted to remain well above zero degrees Celsius for the next 5 days before cooling down below zero degrees Celsius towards the end of next week.

## Description of Current Conditions

Water levels and flows in the Black and Severn Rivers through the townships of Severn and Ramara will continue to increase. Levels on Sparrow Lake are also expected to rise in the coming days.

The expected rainfall combined with the warm temperatures is expected to continue the melt of the remaining snowpack that still exists. This will increase potential for ice jams and blockage of storm drainage systems, particularly in the areas around culverts and bridges.

It is expected that lower-lying portions of known flood-prone roads along river courses may be impacted to various degrees as river levels increase in the coming days.

Expect higher and faster flowing water in most watercourses. Slippery and unstable banks create very hazardous conditions around any waterbody.

## 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/flooding](http://www.ontario.ca/flooding)
- 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.