



# FLOOD WARNING – Lake Nipissing

## FLOOD WATCH – Mattawa River

### WATER SAFETY – Other Areas

Date: June 15, 2019  
From: NBMCA Duty Officer, Kurtis Romanchuk  
Time: 2:15 PM  
Message No: 17

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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. This Flood Warning for Lake Nipissing updates the previous Flood Warning for Lake Nipissing.

**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. This Flood Watch for the Mattawa River updates the previous Watershed Conditions Statement – Water Safety for the Mattawa River.

**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. For areas other than stated above within the North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority jurisdiction a Watershed Conditions Statement – Water Safety remains in effect.

If you have a flood emergency, please contact your municipality. If you live in an unincorporated township, please contact Graham Mewett at the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry – North Bay District at (705) 475-5529.

#### **Current Conditions:**

Water levels on Lake Nipissing remain very high, affecting the lower reaches of the La Vase River and Jessups Creek. The Mattawa River is rising due to backwater effects from the rising Ottawa River, due to increased flow from upstream reservoirs. All watercourses in the NBMCA area of jurisdiction are showing a response to the substantial received precipitation, but remain below their levels earlier this spring.

Significant precipitation has fallen recently within the North Bay-Mattawa area, however the current forecast shows only trace precipitation over the next five days, up to 5mm. Highs will be around 17-

20 degrees Celsius, with lows around 8-12 degrees Celsius. North Bay has seen significant winds in the past days, currently there are westerly winds with gusts exceeding 30 km/h, which will continue to diminish overnight.

The Ottawa River at the Town of Mattawa was at elevation 154.02m as of 11:00am today, and has risen substantially in the last few days due to the received rainfall and increased flow from upstream reservoirs. This is causing a backwater effect on the Mattawa River, in addition to increased local inflows from recent rainfall. The level on Lake Temiskaming is again approaching critical levels, and additional flow is being received from upstream reservoirs in Quebec, resulting in increased flow being passed downstream on the Ottawa River. The Ottawa River Regulation Secretariat (ORRS) estimates the water level in Mattawa will reach 154.25m, approximately 23cm, or 9 inches, above its current level. A Flood Watch is now in effect for the Mattawa River, due to the increased possibility of flooding if further increases in flow are made upstream.

The current Ottawa River water level may be viewed at the Water Survey of Canada (WSC) website (note that there is a delay of several hours, and 100m should be added to the gauge reading for metres above sea level):

[https://wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/report/real\\_time\\_e.html?stn=02JE013](https://wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/report/real_time_e.html?stn=02JE013)

Lake Nipissing is currently at elevation 196.32m near North Bay, remaining relatively steady over the last 24 hours, due to the received precipitation and shifting winds. Lake Nipissing continues to remain vulnerable to wind and rain effects, and strong westerly winds may drive up water levels on the east side of Lake Nipissing including the City of North Bay and the Municipality of Callander. This may pose a threat to properties along the Lake Nipissing and Callander Bay shoreline, as well as along the lower La Vase River and Jessups Creek. The outflow from the Dams is being reassessed on a continuous basis to balance flooding on Lake Nipissing and the French River.

Information about the current status of Lake Nipissing may be found at the PWGSC website:

<https://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/ontario/eaux-water/renseignement-information-eng.html>

The current Lake Nipissing water level may be viewed at the WSC website (note that there is a delay of several hours, and 190m should be added to the gauge reading for metres above sea level):

[https://wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/report/real\\_time\\_e.html?stn=02DD006](https://wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/report/real_time_e.html?stn=02DD006)

### **Risk:**

Water levels within local watercourses and waterbodies remain high in some areas. Water levels remain very high near Lake Nipissing and the Mattawa River, and access to nearshore properties and roads may be restricted.

The Parks Creek Backflood Control Structure has been operating on Red Alert and pumping since May 2, to mitigate flooding in the Parks Creek neighbourhood. Boat traffic is neither permitted nor possible through the structure while it is in operation. Eva Wardlaw Conservation Area remains closed to the public.

All residents, especially those in low-lying areas, are encouraged to monitor the conditions that are developing. Parents are encouraged to keep their children and pets away from watercourses and waterbodies.

Municipalities are encouraged to monitor shorelines and water crossings, and respond to high water levels. 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 provide updates if conditions change.

The general public is advised of these messages through the [www.nbmca.ca](http://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.

**This message will be in effect until (or updated before) Wednesday, June 19, 4:00pm.**

### **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, ice jams, lakeshore flooding, or erosion.

 **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.

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