

## Flood Warning

### North Bay District

**NEWS**

Monday, June 10, 2019  
1630 hrs

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry – North Bay District is advising residents in the Lake Nipissing and Upper French River areas that a **Flood Warning** is in effect until Monday, June 17, 2019.

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

#### **TECHNICAL INFORMATION**

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

Lake Nipissing and the Upper French River area are forecast to receive 20-25mm of rain throughout today with a risk of thunderstorms this afternoon. Rain will taper off through the evening and overnight. Rain is expected to begin again on Thursday with 15-20mm forecast, and an additional 5mm on Friday. Variable winds are expected throughout the next five days with today's forecast calling for south winds at 19 km/h, gusting to 29km/h. Wind speed and direction continues to be a major factor in local water levels.

The long-term trends for inflows have continued to decline over the past five days. With the current outflows and the weather forecast, the Lake level is forecasted to continue to decrease, but will ultimately depend on rate of evaporation and actual amount of rain over the coming days. With the rain in the forecast this week, levels may increase due to local inflows.

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

The affected area for the flood warning has experienced significant increases in water levels and stream flows over the past month and a half. The combination of repeated rainfall and snowmelt has resulted in water levels in the area rising significantly, reaching or exceeding flood levels in many areas. Further significant rainfall events could increase the potential for flooding and further impact currently flooded areas.

The Lake Nipissing and Upper French River areas have been impacted by higher than normal water levels. Lake Nipissing water levels are currently sitting at **196.30m**, above the Maximum 'Non-Damage' water level of 196.22m. Higher than normal water levels and flows are expected to continue in the Lake Nipissing and Upper French River area if it receives the wind and precipitation currently forecasted. High winds and rainfall could pose a significant risk and cause additional damages if forecasts should change.

On Lake Nipissing and the Upper French River, boaters are being urged to stay away from shorelines and flood affected areas so that vessel movements do not pose a risk to the safety of individuals or cause damage to the environment, properties and infrastructure.

Due to safety concerns and the higher than normal water levels, safety booms in the following locations have not been installed at:

- French River Dams at Lake Nipissing outlet (Big Chaudière, Little Chaudière and Portage)

Recreational users (boats, jet skis, canoes, kayaks, etc.) are urged to stay away from dams and flood affected areas as high water levels and strong currents are dangerous for watercraft and pose a serious safety risk. Reports of large debris (e.g. logs, docks, decks, etc.) are also being reported in flood affected waters and pose an additional safety risk to recreational users.

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

Road closures and sand bagging efforts continue across much of the Lake Nipissing and the Upper French River and many area residents have been impacted by localized flooding.

A close watch on local forecasts and conditions is recommended.

## **DEFINITIONS**

- **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
- **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.

- **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.

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[ontario.ca/mnrf](http://ontario.ca/mnrf)  
*Disponible en français*

## Contact Information

For more information please contact:

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## Avertissement d'inondation

### District de North Bay

**NOUVELLES**

Monday, June 10, 2019  
1630 h

Le ministère des Richesses naturelles et des Forêts – district de North Bay avise les résidents des secteurs du lac Nipissing et du tronçon supérieur de la rivière des Français qu'un **Avertissement d'inondation** est en vigueur jusqu'au Monday, June 17, 2019.

Le ministère surveille de près les conditions météorologiques et l'évolution des conditions du bassin versant. D'autres mises à jour seront diffusées, au besoin.

#### **INFORMATION TECHNIQUE**

##### **Description du système météorologique**

Les secteurs du lac Nipissing et du tronçon supérieur de la rivière des Français devraient recevoir entre 20 et 25 mm de précipitations aujourd'hui, avec des risques d'orage en après-midi. Les précipitations devraient se calmer au cours de la soirée et de la nuit. De 15 à 20 mm de précipitations sont attendus pour jeudi, et 5 mm supplémentaires devraient tomber vendredi. Des vents de vitesse variable devraient souffler au cours des cinq prochains jours. Les prévisions d'aujourd'hui annoncent des vents en provenance du sud de 19 km/h, avec des bourrasques de 29 km/h. La force des vents et leur direction continuent d'influencer grandement les niveaux d'eau locaux.

Dans une perspective à plus long terme, les débits entrants continuent de décroître depuis les cinq derniers jours. En tenant compte des débits entrants actuels et des prévisions météorologiques, le niveau du lac devrait continuer de baisser, selon la vitesse d'évaporation et les précipitations effectives des prochains jours. Avec la pluie prévue cette semaine, les niveaux pourraient augmenter en raison des débits entrants locaux.

##### **Description des conditions actuelles**

Le secteur concerné par l'avertissement d'inondation aura été touché par des niveaux d'eau et des débits beaucoup plus élevés au cours des 45 derniers jours. La combinaison d'épisodes de pluie répétés et de la fonte des neiges a fait augmenter

considérablement le niveau des cours d'eau dans le secteur, lesquels ont atteint ou dépassé le niveau d'inondation dans de nombreux secteurs. De grandes quantités de précipitations supplémentaires pourraient augmenter le potentiel d'inondation et perturber encore davantage les secteurs déjà inondés.

Les secteurs du lac Nipissing et du tronçon supérieur de la rivière des Français ont été touchés par des crues supérieures à la normale. Le niveau du lac Nipissing se situe actuellement à **196,30 m**, ce qui est au-delà du niveau d'eau maximal « sans dommage » établi à 196,22 m. On s'attend à ce que les niveaux et les débits demeurent au-dessus des normales dans les secteurs du lac Nipissing et du tronçon supérieur de la rivière des Français si les précipitations et les vents annoncés se concrétisent. Dans l'éventualité où les prévisions changeraient, la présence de forts vents et de précipitations risquerait fortement d'entraîner des dommages supplémentaires.

Sur le lac Nipissing et le tronçon supérieur de la rivière des Français, les plaisanciers sont priés de se tenir à l'écart des rives et des zones touchées par les inondations, afin d'éviter que les remous causés par les embarcations posent un risque pour la sécurité des personnes ou provoquent des dommages à l'environnement, aux propriétés et aux infrastructures.

Pour des raisons de sécurité et en raison des niveaux d'eau plus élevés que la normale, les barrages flottants de sécurité n'ont pas été installés aux endroits suivants :

- Barrages de la rivière des Français à la hauteur du lac Nipissing (Big Chaudière, Little Chaudière et Portage).

Les plaisanciers (bateaux, motomarines, canots, kayaks, etc.) sont priés de se tenir loin des barrages et des zones inondées, car les niveaux d'eau élevés et les forts courants sont dangereux pour les embarcations et posent un risque sérieux pour la sécurité. Des rapports faisant état de débris importants (p. ex., billes de bois, quais, ponts) sont également signalés dans les eaux touchées par les inondations et posent un risque supplémentaire pour la sécurité des plaisanciers.

Nous encourageons les municipalités et les résidents, particulièrement dans ces basses terres et le long des côtes, à surveiller la situation et à prendre des mesures en conséquence. Les rives et les berges des rivières et des ruisseaux sont très glissantes et instables en cette période et, lorsqu'on y ajoute de l'eau libre froide, elles posent un grave danger.

Les fermetures de routes et l'installation de sacs de sable se poursuivent dans les secteurs bordant le lac Nipissing et le tronçon supérieur de la rivière des Français, et de nombreux résidents subissent les répercussions d'inondations localisées.

Il est recommandé de surveiller de près les prévisions locales et les conditions météorologiques.

## DÉFINITIONS

- **RAPPORT CONCERNANT LES CONDITIONS DU BASSIN VERSANT – PERSPECTIVES D'INONDATION** : permet d'aviser la population des risques d'inondation selon les prévisions météorologiques faisant état de fortes précipitations, de la fonte des neiges, de vents violents ou d'autres conditions.
- **RAPPORT CONCERNANT LES CONDITIONS DU BASSIN VERSANT – SÉCURITÉ SUR L'EAU** : indique que le débit élevé de l'eau, la fonte des glaces ou d'autres facteurs représentent un risque pour les plaisanciers, les pêcheurs à la ligne et les nageurs, mais qu'on ne prévoit pas d'inondation.
- **VEILLE D'INONDATION** : le risque d'inondation est réel dans certains cours d'eau et certaines municipalités en particulier.
- **AVERTISSEMENT D'INONDATION** : une inondation est imminente ou a lieu dans certains cours d'eau et certaines municipalités en particulier.

## RESSOURCES ADDITIONNELLES

- Page Web publique du Centre de contrôle des eaux de surface : <https://www.ontario.ca/fr/lois-et-securite/programme-de-prevision-des-crues-et-davertissement-du-public>
- Bulletins d'Environnement et Changement climatique Canada : [www.meteo.gc.ca](http://www.meteo.gc.ca)
- Il est recommandé de surveiller de près les conditions et les prévisions météorologiques locales d'Environnement et Changement climatique Canada.

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[ontario.ca/mrnf](http://ontario.ca/mrnf)  
Available in English

## Coordonnées

Pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez communiquer avec :

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# FLOOD WARNING

Date: June 11, 2019  
From: NBMCA Duty Officer, Kurtis Romanchuk  
Time: 1:15 PM  
Message No: 15

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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.

For areas other than Lake Nipissing within the North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority area, including the Mattawa River, a Watershed Conditions Statement – Water Safety remains in effect due to high water levels.

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:**

Approximately 46.3mm of rain fell yesterday in the North Bay area, causing a rise in local water levels. Water levels on Lake Nipissing remain very high, affecting the lower reaches of the La Vase River and Jessups Creek. Other watercourses in the NBMCA area of jurisdiction continue to show a response to yesterdays rainfall.

Up to 35mm of precipitation is forecasted over the next five days, with the majority on Thursday and Friday. Highs will be around 16-20 degrees Celsius, with lows around 9-15 degrees Celsius. There are currently westerly winds, which are causing an increase in levels on the east side of Lake Nipissing.

Lake Nipissing is currently at elevation 196.34m near North Bay, rising approximately 3cm over the last 24 hours due to the received rainfall and shift in wind direction. 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.

## **(continued on next page)**

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)

The Ottawa River at the Town of Mattawa is currently at elevation 153.23m, and is fluctuating somewhat as dam outflows are adjusted upstream, but remains far below its peak earlier this spring. As mentioned above, a Watershed Conditions Statement – Water Safety remains in effect for the Mattawa River, and residents are reminded to exercise caution around high water levels.

The water level at Mattawa peaked this year at 155.64m on May 11. Information about the most current forecasted peak water levels for the Ottawa River may be found at the Ottawa River Regulation Planning Board website:  
<http://www.ottawariver.ca/Forecast-2019.pdf>

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)

### **Risk:**

Water levels within local watercourses and waterbodies remain high in some areas. Water levels remain very high near Lake Nipissing, 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) Friday, June 14, 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.

 **FLOOD WARNING:** 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.