

FLOOD WATCH – Mattawa River downstream of Hurdman Dam

Message Number: 2025-11
Issued: May 13, 2025, at 11:30 AM EDT
From: NBMCA Duty Officer, Angela Mills

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.

If you have 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. For Flood Messages related to the Ottawa River, please refer to the MNR North Bay District.

A **FLOOD WATCH** remains in effect for the Mattawa River, downstream of Hurdman Dam to the Ottawa River.

This is an update to the previous Message Number 2025-10 dated May 6, 2025.

Current Conditions:

Water levels on the Ottawa River at Mattawa are high, causing minor flooding in low lying areas along the Mattawa River between Hurdman Dam and the confluence with the Ottawa River. Water from snowmelt and rainfall in the Upper Ottawa River watershed continues to pass through the river system. Water levels in the remainder of the watershed in local rivers have peaked and are near normal for this time of year.

The Mattawa Island Conservation Area is currently experiencing flooding due to high water levels and is closed to the public until further notice.

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:

Sustained high flows from the Upper Ottawa River watershed will continue to pass through the Mattawa Area. Limited precipitation is forecast for the coming week, with up to 20 mm of rain locally possible Friday (May 16) into Saturday.

The water level of the Ottawa River at Mattawa is forecast remain stable over the next few days and remain high for this time of year, per the Ottawa River Regulating Committee. 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/>

The water level on Lake Nipissing is regulated by dams operated by the federal government. Water levels have reached normal summer navigable water levels. More information is available at <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-services-procurement/services/infrastructure-buildings/bridges-docks-dams/frenchriver-dam.html>

Historic Flood Conditions:

For comparison, when river-based flooding occurred in Mattawa in May 2019, the water level on the Ottawa River at Mattawa reached a maximum level that is 128 cm higher than the present level. Flows from the Otto Holden dam in May 2019 were around 40% greater at their maximum than present.

Risk:

Water levels remain elevated in the lower reaches of the Mattawa River due to high flows from upstream tributaries to the Ottawa River. Flooding is expected to persist where it is already occurring. A Flood Watch is in effect for the lower reaches of the Mattawa River, downstream of the Hurdman Dam, where water levels are directly affected by high flows on the Ottawa River.

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 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) Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at 4:00 PM EDT.


The general public is advised of these messages through the 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.

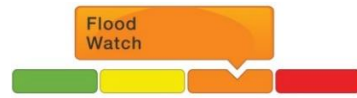
Terminology: Notification Levels

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.

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