

Flood Watch

Aurora Midhurst Owen Sound District

Friday, May 08, 2026
11:00am

The Ministry of Natural Resources– Aurora Midhurst Owen Sound District is advising area residents that a Flood Watch remains in effect in the District until Friday, May 15, 2026.

This message will affect residents in the Aurora Midhurst Owen Sound District within north Simcoe County in the townships of Severn and Ramara including the area of the Severn River around Washago as well as Sparrow Lake.

Residents and those visiting the area are advised to be aware of current watershed conditions. Higher than normal water levels and flow conditions are present throughout the area and residents are reminded to keep a close watch on weather conditions, regularly check for updated messages, and exercise caution near fast-moving rivers and streams.

Water levels in most lakes and rivers remain high and are expected to continue to remain high as water works its way through the system.

Residents and visitors should exercise caution while around waterbodies and maintain close supervision of children and pets.

Residents that have been affected by high water and flow conditions in the past should continue to take necessary action to protect/secure any vulnerable property in proximity to rivers and lakes and closely monitor developing conditions and regularly check for updated messages.

Lower-lying portions of known flood-prone areas may be impacted to various degrees.

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 7-day weather forecast is predicting some mixed weather with daytime highs of 9°C to 16°C and overnight lows between 1°C and 8°C with limited precipitation forecast.

Description of Current Conditions

River flows along the Severn River down to Sparrow Lake have receded from their highs but remain higher than normal and this is expected to continue over the next week. Water levels on the Black River have peaked and are in recession. Lake levels on Lake St. John also continue to decline.

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
- Environment Canada bulletins: www.weather.gc.ca

- A close watch on local conditions and weather forecasts from Environment and Climate Change Canada is recommended.

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