

Bulletin

Flood Watch

Far North District

Winisk River

Friday, May 22, 2026
3:10 pm

The Ministry of Natural Resources – Far North District is advising area residents that a Flood Watch is in effect until Friday, May 29, 2026 at 11:59 pm.

Residents in the Peawanuck Community should keep a close watch on river conditions.

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

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Far North Weather Synopsis

**Issued by the Ministry Emergency Operations Centre
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario Friday May 22, 2026**

Friday May 22, 2026

A warm front extends into region today. Mainly cloudy skies with some breaks throughout the day are likely, clearer skies closer to the shores of Hudson's Bay. Light showers up to trace amounts for the southwest part of the region possible later this afternoon. Winds will be southerly near 15-20 km/h, gusting to 30-40 km/h. RH values will be around 30-40% for most of the region today. Daytime high temperatures will be between 10°C and 15°C. Overnight lows will drop to 0°C to 5°C.

Saturday May 23, 2026

Expect to see a mix of sun and clouds throughout the morning and early afternoon hours. Light showers up to trace amounts are possible later in the afternoon for the western half of the region and will continue into the late evening. Those showers will continue eastward in the region overnight. Winds will be southeasterly to southerly at 15-20 km/h, gusting to 30-40 km/h. RH values will be around 30-35% in the early afternoon, before rising above 60% in the evening. Daytime high temperatures will be between 15°C and 20°C. Overnight lows will drop down to 5°C to 10°C.

Long-Range Outlook:

On Sunday, a low-pressure system moving across the region will bring atmospheric instability and moisture. Overcast skies and widespread rainfall are likely with this system. 10-15 total mm of rainfall is possible for an area stretching from Peawanuck to Ogoki. Elsewhere, up to trace amounts are possible. Daytime high temperatures will vary between 10°C and 15°C. Monday will see a frontal boundary remain, causing extended cloud coverage to remain over the region with the possibility of isolated showers up to trace amounts in the northeast. As the day progresses, we can expect to see more clearing leading into the late-night hours. Daytime high temperatures will sit between 15°C and 20°C. On Tuesday, a ridge building into the region will stabilize conditions, and sunny skies are to be expected. Winds will near 15-25 km/h and be coming from the north. Wind gusts may reach up to 45-50 km/h on Tuesday as well. Daytime highs will be between 10°C and 15°C.

Description of Current Conditions

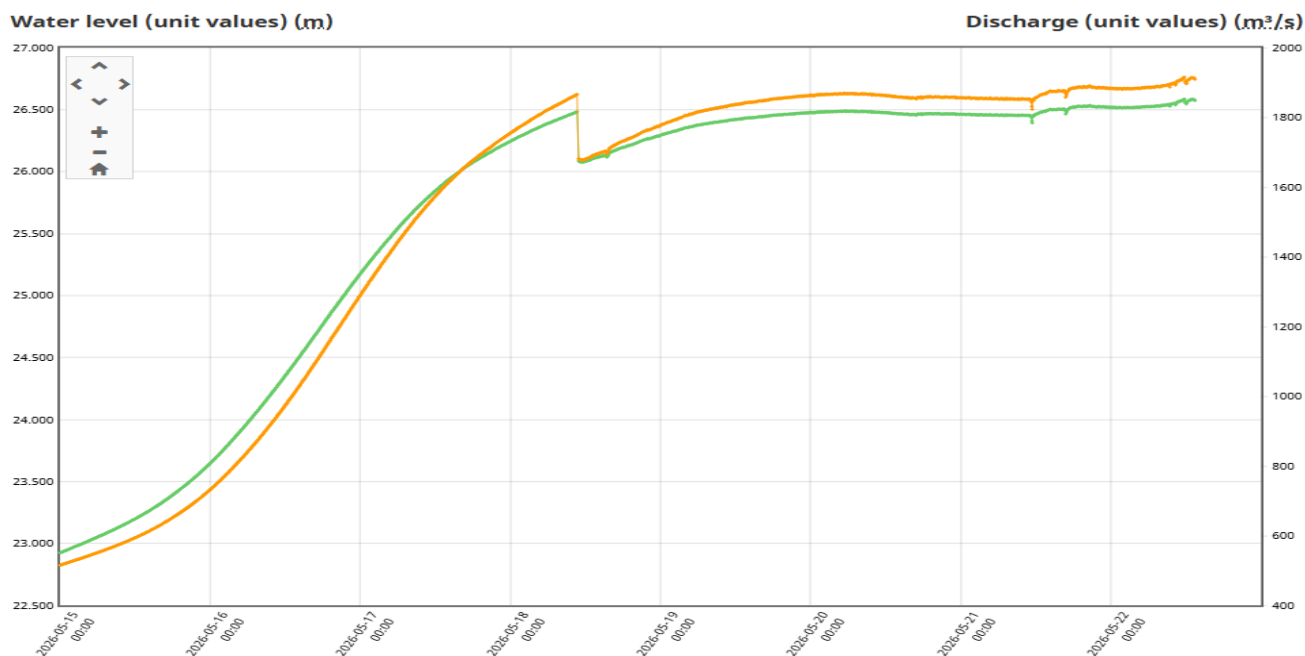
The MNR conducted a surveillance flight of the Winisk River today, commencing in the headwaters at the Asheweig River at Straight Lake stream gauge location and continuing down to the mouth of the Winisk River at Hudson Bay. The upper reaches of the Winisk River largely consists of deteriorated ice cover, minor expanses of open water and intermittent areas of rubble ice. Water levels are elevated as indicative of the stream gauge graphs and verified by the aerial observations of major shoreline separation and ice fractures (see photo below).



Although elevated, water levels appear to be well-below bankfull stage with no overland flooding observed. The stabilization of the water levels that commenced on May 18th (see graph below) is indicative that water is continuing to flow under the remaining ice cover and down river into Hudson Bay.

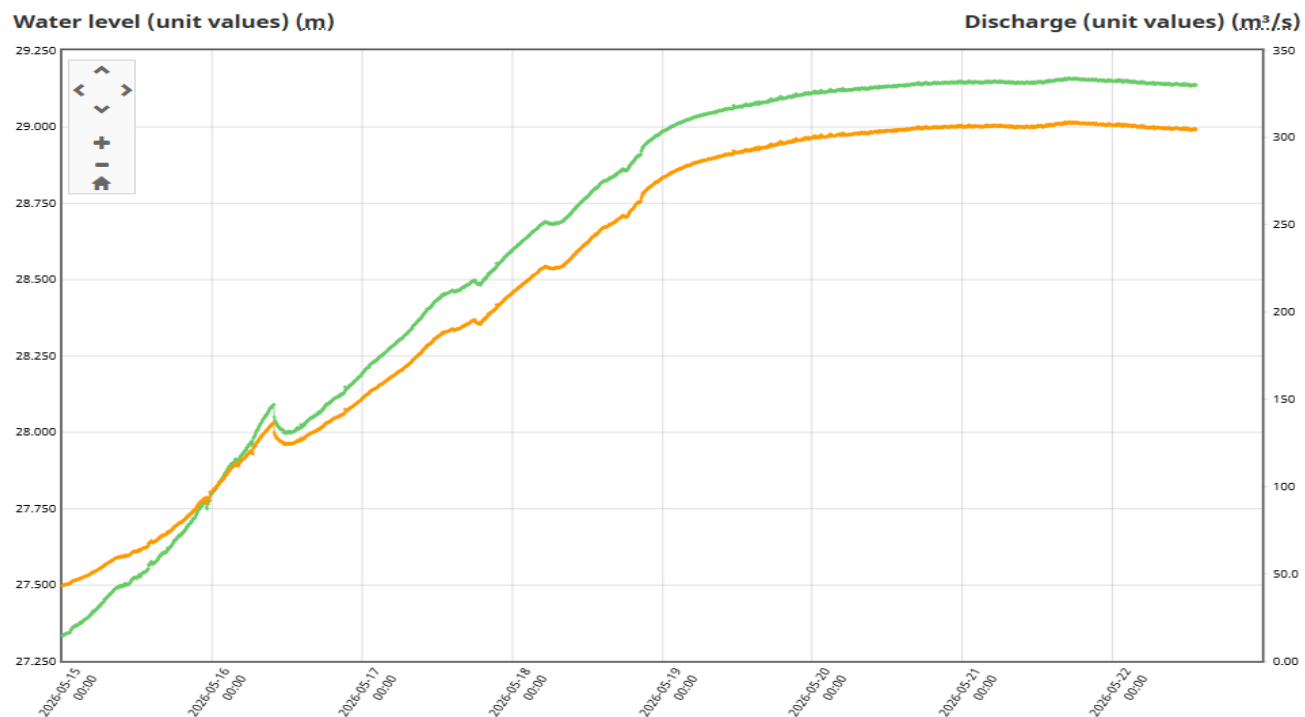
Water levels and flows within the Winisk River have stabilized (levelled off) since May 18th. The Winisk River below Asheweig River tributary stream gauge graph currently depicts water levels at 26.5 m, approximately 2.35 m above the ice breakup threshold of 24.15 m.

Winisk River below Asheweig River tributary



Winisk River below Asheweig River tributary stream gauge station data (graph) image captured at 1:40pm.

Winisk River Shamattawa River tributary



Shamattawa River at outlet of Shamattawa Lake tributary stream gauge station data (graph) image captured at 1:40pm.

Further downriver closer to the community of Peawanuck, the remaining ice cover had broken up, forming a large expanse of open water and rubble ice likely triggered by the Shamattawa River tributary that flows into the Winisk River on the opposite bank from Peawanuck. In this expanse of the Winisk River, there are several ice jams (albeit minor) adjacent to large expanses or channels of open water (see photo below).



Ice conditions near the mouth of the Winisk River appears substantially deteriorated and not hindering the Winisk River from flowing into Hudson Bay.



Above photo depicts the mouth of the Winisk River, flowing into Hudson Bay.

Based on the above information, the MNR is projecting a **LOW** flood risk for the community of Peawanuck. There will be no further MNR river surveillance flights on the Winisk River unless there are significant changes in river conditions.

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
- Environment Canada bulletins: www.weather.gc.ca
- A close watch on local conditions and weather forecasts from Environment Canada is recommended.

ontario.ca/mnrf

Disponible en français

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