

Watershed Conditions Statement

Flood Outlook

Number: 2023. S.4.1
Issued at: Friday, March 31, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.
Issued by: Davin Heinbuck, Water Resources Coordinator

To: **ABCA Watershed Municipal Flood Coordinators**

Confirmation of receiving this message is NOT required

Message: **24 hour rainfall totals of 40-50 millimetres (mm) possible
Minor flooding within low-lying flood plains is expected**

An intensifying low-pressure system will track through southern Ontario today (March 31, 2023) and through tomorrow morning with the potential for up to 40-50 millimetres (mm) of rain.

The heaviest rain is expected to come in two waves today, with the first wave reaching the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) area this morning. As of 9:00 a.m. today, 5-10 mm of rainfall has been observed across the watershed. Forecasted rainfall through the morning and early afternoon has increased considerably from prior forecasts, and it is expected that heavy rains may result in an additional 25+ mm from this first wave before a period of light showers this afternoon. The exact track and timing of the second wave of rain is less certain, however, and additional 10-15 mm of rain is expected, beginning late this evening and overnight.

Based on current weather and streamflow forecasts, major flooding is not anticipated at this time. However, rivers will exceed bankfull, resulting in flooding of traditional low-lying flood plain areas. Streamflows in the smaller tributary creeks are expected to peak later today. Should this forecast materialize, flows on the larger rivers are not likely to peak until later this weekend. Flows will remain higher than normal through most of next week.

Residents are reminded to use extreme caution near all watercourses. Slippery and unstable streambanks, and extremely cold and fast-flowing water will combine to create hazardous conditions.

This message will remain in effect until 12:00 p.m. on Monday, April 3, 2023, unless rainfall totals and local conditions warrant further updates. The Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority will continue to monitor forecasts and watershed conditions through the week and will provide updates as required.

Contact: Davin Heinbuck, Water Resources Coordinator at 519-235-2610 or pager 519-661-6840

Copies To: ABCA Board, Adjacent CAs, Media, OPP, NDMNRF-SWMC

End of Message –
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Types of Flood Messages

Watershed Conditions Statement (Flood Outlook/Water Safety): General watershed conditions suggest high runoff potential that could lead to flooding and remind the public of general river safety issues.

Shoreline Conditions Statement: Weather forecasts over Lake Huron suggest a potential for high waves reaching the shoreline, and resulting in potential coastal flooding and erosion issues.

Flood Watch: Flooding is possible in specific watercourses or municipalities. Municipalities, emergency services, 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.