



WATER LEVEL BULLETIN

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LOWER TRENT
CONSERVATION

Flood Outlook Statement



Flood Outlook Statement - Lake Ontario

Water Safety Statement – Trent River

A **Flood Outlook Statement** is issued to raise awareness. Based on weather forecasts for heavy rain, snowmelt or high wind, a change in conditions on local waterways is possible.

A **Water Safety Statement** is issued during high flows, unsafe banks, melting ice or other factors that could be dangerous for recreational users such as anglers, canoeists, hikers, children, pets, etc.

Nuisance localized flooding for some may occur.

DATE: April 8, 2020

TIME: 10:40 AM

ISSUED TO: Municipalities (Alnwick/Haldimand, Cramahe, Brighton, Trent Hills & Quinte West), Northumberland & Hastings Counties, Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry, Media, Health Units, Emergency Response Agencies

MESSAGE #: LTC – 20 – 09

Valid until Thursday, April 22, 2020

Lower Trent Conservation advises local municipalities and the public that the Flood Outlook Statement originally issued on March 13, 2020 for Lake Ontario and Bay of Quinte shoreline from Grafton to Quinte West is still in effect. Residents along the shoreline should be aware of the potential for erosion and flooding.

Higher than normal water levels still continue on Lake Ontario. Unprecedented inflows into Lake Ontario have kept these water levels elevated over the past few months and the Lake Ontario water level at the Cobourg gauge is currently 75.26 m (IGLD85). The water levels are currently 45 cm above average for this time of year but 23 cm below the record high for the time of year set in 1973. The International Lake Ontario – St. Lawrence River Board has forecasted that if the weather conditions continue within normal ranges for this time of year, the water levels are predicted to reach 75.3 m (IGLD85) by the week of April 17 and reach peak levels in mid-May around 75.45 m (IGLD85). This is well below the peak water level of 75.88 m seen in 2017 and 75.92 m observed in 2019.

High onshore winds may also result in greater short-term fluctuations of water levels, as well as increased flooding and erosion. Water levels on the Great Lakes naturally vary, responding monthly, seasonally and annually to a variety of factors. Water levels are primarily influenced by natural factors, including precipitation, evaporation, winds, runoff from rivers or streams and inflow from upstream Great Lakes. Lake Ontario typically reaches its seasonal high water level in May/June. Residents living along Lake Ontario and the Bay of Quinte should expect further increases in water levels for at least the next couple of months.

For further information on Lake Ontario water levels and forecasted water levels, please visit the International Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Board website: <https://ijc.org/en/loslrb/watershed/water-levels>

This Flood Outlook Statement will be in effect until (or updated before) **Thursday, April 22, 2020.**

The Flood Watch issued for the Trent River from Hastings to Trenton has been downgraded to a Water Safety Statement. High flow conditions still exist along the Trent River system but water levels have declined and further flooding is not expected.

The flows in the Trent River saw the highest flows over the past weekend and are now in decline. The highest water levels along the Trent River were also observed during last weekend and are also in decline and have dropped 5 to 10 cm since the peak.

A steady decline in flows and water levels have been observed since these peak flows and very little rainfall is helping the situation. There is about 5 mm of rain forecast for Thursday and then another system forecasted to come through with 25 mm of rain on Monday, April 13. This amount of rain is not expected to have much impact on the Trent River flows but we remain vigilant. Parks Canada is continuing with operations to manage the water in the entire system. The flows through the Trent River will remain high as a result of these operations but flooding is not expected.

The Trent River should still be considered extremely unsafe in these conditions. The public is further cautioned that fast moving water, cold water temperatures, and unstable streambanks will create additional hazards. Areas around dams, culverts and bridges should be avoided at all times. Parents and caregivers are advised to keep children and pets away from all waterways.

This Water Safety Statement will be in effect until (or updated before) **Thursday, April 22, 2020.**

Residents should ensure personal property (boats, docks, etc.) along banks and shorelines is secured. Property owners are also reminded that any work along river banks and the Lake Ontario shoreline (e.g., place of fill, armour stone, etc.) will require a permit from Lower Trent Conservation and should contact the office or visit the website for more information.

Lower Trent Conservation monitors water levels and weather forecasts closely as part of its flood forecasting and warning program. Daily water level updates are available at www.LTC.on.ca. If you have concerns about water levels, please contact Lower Trent Conservation at (613) 394-4829.

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