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For Immediate Release

Issued: May 11, 2019

Watershed Conditions Statements – Flood Watch and Water Safety

SUDBURY – Conservation Sudbury is issuing a **Flood Watch** for the Wanapitei River Watershed including Wanapitei Lake. For all other watercourses within the City of Greater Sudbury, **Water Safety** messaging is being maintained.

Both statements are effective 3:00 PM today and remain in effect until 10:00 AM on May 16, 2019.

The current Environment Canada forecast for the next seven days indicates warm temperatures nearing 18°C with no major precipitation in sight.

The combination of recent rainfall and snowmelt in the upper reaches of the watershed has resulted in rising water levels and very high stream flows flowing into Wanapitei Lake. Substantial flow is being released downstream into the Wanapitei River by Ontario Power Generation and water levels and flows in the river are already elevated. This additional increase in discharge will take place over the next several days resulting in further increase in water levels.

The neighbourhoods adjacent to the river in the Wahanapitae and the Wanup areas might experience shoreline flooding due to increased flow coming from Wanapitei Lake. High flows can lead to increased shoreline erosion. The developing conditions must be closely monitored by all residents especially those living in known low-lying, hazard areas where overland flooding could become an issue.

Public safety is absolutely the number one priority, especially for children who may be attracted to the edge of creeks or rivers. The cold, fast flowing water must be avoided. Stream banks will be very slippery and unsafe, and must be avoided. Open water areas often found at the edges of ice-covered lakes will continue to widen and these must also be avoided.

Conservation Sudbury remains in direct contact with the City of Greater Sudbury and all other partners as required; staff continues with the monitoring of water levels and updates will be provided as required.

For more information please visit ConservationSudbury.ca

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Conservation Sudbury issues five types of messages, depending on conditions:



Normal

No flood conditions to report.



Watershed Conditions Statement - Water Safety

High flows, unsafe banks, melting ice or other factors that could be dangerous for recreational users such as anglers, canoeists, hikers, children, pets, etc. Flooding is not expected.



Watershed Conditions Statement - Flood Outlook

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

Flooding is possible in specific watercourses or municipalities. Municipalities, emergency services and individual landowners in flood-prone areas should prepare.



Flood Warning

Flooding is imminent or already occurring in specific watercourses or municipalities