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For Immediate Release

Issued: March 18, 2020

Watershed Conditions Statement – Water Safety

SUDBURY – Conservation Sudbury is issuing a **Water Safety** statement for the Greater Sudbury watersheds effective 3:00 p.m. today. This statement will remain in effect until 10:00 a.m., March 26.

Northern Ontario is forecast to receive up to 15 mm of rain combined with mild temperatures over the next 36 hours. All watersheds within the City of Greater Sudbury still have a significant snowpack that holds more than 150 mm of water content. The snowpack in some areas has matured, making it less capable to absorb the forecast rainfall. This may produce some snowmelt and localized ponding in low-lying areas. Forecast temperatures dropping to sub-zero over the weekend will result in slippery conditions. Water levels and flows in area watercourses are currently within the seasonal range. However, water levels can quickly increase due to rain and warm temperatures. Ice cover in rivers and streams may break up, because of warmer temperatures and higher flows, increasing the risk of ice jams.

Public safety is 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. **At this time, with children off school and with widespread attention on the COVID-19 pandemic, those families living near lakes and rivers should pay special attention to these changing water conditions.** Stream banks will be very slippery and unsafe and must be avoided. Any open-water areas will continue to widen and these must also be avoided.

Water levels will not decrease rapidly and 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.

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

- 30 -

For More Information Contact:

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Managing our watersheds today - for tomorrow
Gérons nos bassins hydrographiques aujourd'hui, pour demain

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