

Watershed Conditions Statement: Flood Outlook

Monday, March 10, 2025 to Monday, March 17, 2025

Saugeen Conservation advises that the Water Safety statement issued on Tuesday, March 4th, 2025, has been upgraded to a Flood Outlook due to the continuation of unseasonably warm temperatures and the possibility of rain.

ALL SAUGEEN WATERSHED MUNICIPALITIES – Municipality of Arran-Elderslie, Municipality of Brockton, Township of Chatsworth, Municipality of Grey Highlands, Town of Hanover, Township of Howick, Municipality of Morris-Turnberry, Municipality of South Bruce, Township of Huron-Kinloss, Municipality of Kincardine, Town of Minto, Township of Wellington-North, Town of Saugeen Shores, Township of Southgate, Municipality of West Grey.

Warm temperatures and rainfall last week began melting the snowpack and weakened the river ice. This has resulted in saturated ground conditions and elevated water levels throughout the watershed. These conditions are forecast to continue, with temperatures expected to reach a daytime high of 17°C and 18°C on Friday and Saturday, respectively. Additionally, 10 mm of rain is currently forecast for Saturday, March 15th, 2025.

These weather conditions are expected to further increase water levels and weaken river ice. While widespread flooding is not anticipated at this time, fast flowing water and flooding of low-lying areas, floodplains, and areas with poor drainage may be possible. Should significant ice break up occur, remaining river ice could cause localized ice jams and flooding.

Rivers, small streams and open ditches currently pose a significant risk to public safety. Water levels are expected to remain elevated and water temperatures are still cold. Additionally, river ice has weakened and may start to break up and flow downstream. All ice should be considered unsafe. The public is reminded to stay away from all watercourses and structures such as bridges, culverts, and dams.

Municipal and County staff should monitor problem areas including low-lying roads, culverts and bridges for ice jams and localized flooding.

Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority staff will be closely monitoring watershed conditions and will provide an update if conditions change. This message will remain in effect until 4:00 p.m. on Monday, March 17, 2025 unless otherwise updated.

To report flooding: saugeenconservation.ca/reportflood

For more information:

Jody Duncan, Flood Forecasting and Warning Coordinator
(519) 369-8247 floodcoordinator@svca.on.ca

Website: www.saugeenconservation.ca

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