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For Immediate Release

Issued: March 26, 2020

Watershed Conditions Statement – Flood Outlook

SUDBURY – Conservation Sudbury is issuing a Watershed Condition Statement - **Flood Outlook** for all Greater Sudbury watersheds effective 1:00 p.m. today. This statement will remain in effect until 10:00 a.m., April 2, 2020.

Starting Saturday, a Colorado low will approach the Great Lakes region and persist into the weekend bringing widespread rainfall to Southern and Northeastern Ontario. Rainfall amounts of up to 20 mm or more are expected on both Saturday and Sunday, with total amounts reaching 40 – 45 mm in some locations. Both Saturday and Sunday will see daytime temperature highs between 5 to 10 C and night time temperatures remaining above freezing.

Currently water levels and flows are slowly rising but are within the seasonal range. All watersheds within the City of Greater Sudbury still have a significant snowpack that holds more than 100 mm of water content. If the forecasted rainfall is received over the weekend, this will impact the runoff situation. The combination of rainfall and snowmelt will produce significant runoff resulting in higher flows and water levels. Smaller and urbanized watercourses like Junction Creek will react much more quickly to high-intensity rainfall than larger rivers will.

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 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; staff continues with the monitoring of water levels and updates will be provided as required.

For more information please visit ConservationSudbury.ca

For More Information Contact:

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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