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For Immediate Release

Issued: November 14, 2020

Flood Watch and Water Safety Watershed Conditions Statements

SUDBURY – Conservation Sudbury is issuing a **Flood Watch** for the Wanapitei River downstream of Wanapitei Lake. A **Water Safety** message is being issued for all other watercourses within the City of Greater Sudbury. Both statements are effective 6:00 PM today and remain in effect until 10:00 AM on November 20, 2020.

A significant low-pressure system is forecast to bring heavy rain to northeast Ontario beginning Saturday night and extending well into Monday morning. Up to 60 mm are expected to fall before the rain transitions to snow Sunday evening.

Currently, flows on all watercourses are seasonal except the Wanapitei River. The Wanapitei River has higher than normal flows and will remain elevated for some time. Higher levels and faster-flowing water is to be expected in all watercourses if the forecasted rainfall is received over the next 36 hours. The inundation of low-lying areas, adjacent to watercourses with a history of flooding may occur.

The developing conditions must be closely monitored by all residents especially those living in known low-lying, hazard areas where overland flooding or ponding 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.

Conservation Sudbury remains in direct contact with the City of Greater Sudbury (CGS), Ontario Power Generation (OPG) and all other partners as required. Staff continues with the monitoring of water levels and updates will be provided as required.

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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