

# Flood Messages



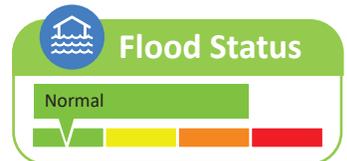
Otonabee Conservation, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, and Conservation Authorities across Ontario use standard flood messages and terminology to raise public awareness about flooding.

One of Otonabee Conservation's most important responsibilities is protecting people and property from flooding. The Flood Forecasting and Warning Duty Officer monitors weather information (temperature and precipitation), river flows, snow pack, and ice conditions in order to predict when floods will occur and how high the water may rise. When flooding is possible, or about to occur, Otonabee Conservation issues a flood message to municipal emergency management officials and the media. Otonabee Conservation issues four types of flood messages, depending on existing conditions, and displays the associated Flood Status icon on our website, as seen below.

## Types of messages | When they are issued | What you can do

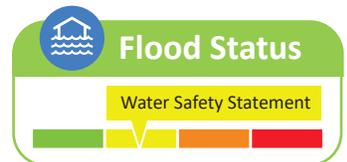
### NORMAL STATUS

**STATUS IS NORMAL** | Water conditions are within normal limits and no flooding is expected.

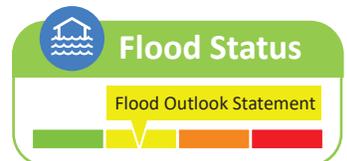


### WATERSHED CONDITIONS STATEMENT

**WATER SAFETY STATEMENT** | High flows, unsafe banks, melting ice or other factors could be dangerous for recreational users (anglers, paddlers, hikers, children, pets). Flooding is not expected.

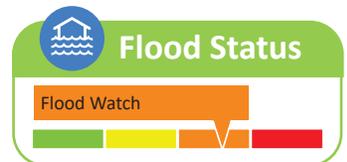


**FLOOD OUTLOOK STATEMENT** | Early notice of the potential for flooding based on weather forecasts calling for heavy rain, snow melt, high wind, or other conditions that could lead to significant runoff, cause ice jams, or a rise in water levels.



### FLOOD WATCH

**FLOODING IS POSSIBLE** | Municipalities, emergency services, and individual landowners in flood-prone areas should prepare for flooding in specific watercourses. This message describes watershed conditions, potential impacts, and may include a forecast of water levels. Municipal Flood Coordinators should initiate a check on their flood or emergency plans, monitor potential problem areas, and remain on stand-by alert. Municipal Flood Coordinators may also advise specific properties at this stage.



### FLOOD WARNING

**FLOODING IS IMMINENT OR ALREADY OCCURRING** | This is the most serious type of message. A Flood Warning message may include a call for a specific action to be taken by Municipal Flood Coordinators and/or emergency services: closing roads and bridges, activating the emergency response plan, warning residents in specific areas, in some cases, evacuation.



# Flood Messages

## Why do we issue flood messages?

Human activity, settlement, and climate change can all impact the hydrological cycle and result in changes to the frequency and magnitude of flood events. This, combined with intensified development in the hazardous flood zone adjacent to watercourses, means that floods have become the most common and most taxing type of disaster faced by today's area residents and municipalities, causing losses of material assets and cultural and ecological resources.

The purpose of the flood forecasting and warning service is to prevent loss of life and reduce damage to property by providing residents and municipal officials with as much advance notice, information, and advice as possible regarding an impending flood so that they can prepare themselves and optimize the municipal response.

Otonabee Conservation works in partnership with member municipalities and other government agencies, including the Trent-Severn Waterway and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

## Getting The Message

### [otonabeeconservation.com](http://otonabeeconservation.com)

Flood messages are posted on the Otonabee Conservation website. Look for the current Flood Status icon at the top of the main page, which also links directly to the associated flood message.

### Flood Watch Hotline | 705-745-5791 ext. 228

Call the Flood Watch Hotline for a pre-recorded flood status message, which is updated as conditions warrant.

### Your Local Municipal Contact

Flood messages are distributed to Community Emergency Management Coordinators throughout the watershed. Contact your local municipality directly for current flood status messages

### Local Media

Flood messages are often announced through the local news, newspapers, and across local media social platforms.

Follow Otonabee Conservation's Twitter and Facebook pages for updates, flood messages, and tips for flood preparation: Twitter and Facebook (@OtonabeeC)



250 Milroy Drive, Peterborough, ON K9H 7M9  
705-745-5791 | [otonabeeconservation.com](http://otonabeeconservation.com)



@OtonabeeC