



Grand River Conservation Authority

GRCA NEWS

Flood Warning Message #3 – Combined Flood Warning/Flood Watch

The Grand River Conservation Authority is issuing the following combined Flood Warning/Flood Watch message, which replaces Flood Message #2.

Rainfall totals and air temperatures associated with the weather system that passed through the Grand River watershed overnight Thursday were lower than originally forecast, resulting in reduced runoff and lower river flows.

Flows in northern and central portions of the watershed have stabilized and are beginning to recede. Flows are expected to peak in the southern portion of the watershed through the weekend.

The potential for ice jams still remains in New Hamburg, Plattsville, Six Nations Territory, Cayuga and Port Maitland. Ice jams can occur quickly and without warning. Residents in areas prone to ice jams should prepare accordingly.

A **Flood Warning** has been updated for:

- **Nith River (New Hamburg):** Flows peaked on Friday afternoon in New Hamburg and will recede but remain high through the weekend. Ice remains intact upstream of New Hamburg dam resulting in flooding on Milton Street. Wilmot flood co-ordinators are asked to continue to monitor conditions due to the risk of ice jam flooding.
- **Nith River (Ayr):** Flows in the Nith River through Ayr are expected to peak on Saturday afternoon based on the current forecast, continue to monitor warning zone 1 and be prepared to warn zone 2.

A **Flood Watch** has been updated for:

- **Grand River (Grand Valley):** Flows through Grand Valley are peaking on Friday afternoon below flooding thresholds.
- **Grand River (West Montrose):** Flows in the Grand River through West Montrose peaked on Friday afternoon in Warning Zone 1.
- **Conestogo River (Drayton):** Flows in the upper Conestogo River peaked in Warning Zone 1 early Friday morning.
- **Conestogo River (St. Jacobs):** Flows peaked through St. Jacobs early Friday morning. Flood Co-ordinators are requested to maintain closure of the low level bridge upstream of St. Jacobs through Saturday.

- **Speed River (City of Cambridge):** Flows in the Speed River through the City of Cambridge peaked late Friday afternoon below flooding thresholds.
- **Grand River (City of Cambridge):** Flows in the Grand River through the City of Cambridge are expected to peak late Friday afternoon in the 400 m³/s range, below the flooding threshold for Water Street.
- **Grand River (City of Brantford):** Flows are expected to peak in the Grand River through the City of Brantford overnight Friday. Flood coordinators in the City of Brantford are advised to maintain closure of Gilkison Street. Flows are forecast to peak in the 530 m³/s range.
- **Grand River (Six Nations):** Flows through Six Nations Territory are forecast to peak in the 550 m³/s range Saturday morning. There is an ice jam located between the Cockshutt Bridge and Onandaga which will increase the risk of additional ice jams and flooding in low lying areas through this reach. Six Nations and County of Brant flood coordinators are advised to monitor and prepare to close Boundary Road and 4th Line.
- **Grand River (Caledonia and Cayuga):** River ice remains present in the southern Grand River upstream of Caledonia Dam and Dunnville Dam. Potential for ice jams is possible in low lying areas typically prone to flooding. Flood coordinators are advised to monitor conditions along River Drive (south of Caledonia), Sims Lock Road, Grand Sports Road as well as the communities of Cayuga and Port Maitland.

GRCA's major reservoirs at Belwood, Conestogo, Guelph, Luther, Woolwich, Laurel, and Shade's Mills are being used to store runoff from this event and reduce flooding downstream of these reservoirs.

GRCA Ice Fishing

Ice Fishing has now been closed at all GRCA Conservation Areas.

Stay Safe

The public is reminded to exercise extreme caution around all water bodies. Banks adjacent to rivers and creeks are very slippery at this time and, when combined with current weather conditions, pose a serious hazard. Parents are encouraged to keep their children and pets away from all watercourses and off frozen water bodies, which will be weakened as a result of the warming trend.

This message will remain in effect until 4:00pm on Monday, March 18, 2019. Updated flood messages will be issued as conditions develop and better forecast information becomes available.

More information

- For more information on flows, weather and reservoir conditions see the [River Data](#) section of the GRCA website.
- Safety information for parents and children is available in the GRCA's [River Safety Rules](#) booklet.
- More information on the [flood warning system](#) is available on the GRCA website.
- [Receive GRCA flood messages by e-mail by subscribing](#) through the GRCA website.
- Follow GRCA flood messages on Twitter at [grca_flood_msg](#).

- More information about how the GRCA manages floods is available in the [Flooding](#) section of the website.

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