



# WATERSHED CONDITIONS STATEMENT

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**Message Number:** 2020-01  
**Issued on:** January 10, 2020 (10:30am)  
**Issued by:** John Bittorf, Water Resources Coordinator

**TO:** Watershed Municipalities and Watershed Media

## MESSAGE:

Recent warm temperatures have significantly lowered the snow pack throughout our watersheds. In most areas, the field snow has been completely exhausted with snow restricted to woodlots and fencerows. The melt has saturated the soils but has not caused any significant runoff to our streams and rivers. River flows are normal for this time of year.

However, there is significant rain forecast for our region. An intense low-pressure system is developing over Oklahoma this morning and will begin to move towards Southern Ontario later today. Peak rain events will occur early Saturday morning and will turn to freezing rain and snow pellets later Saturday afternoon as temperatures begin to drop. With the soils already saturated, the rain will readily run off to area waterways. Depending on the intensity and duration of the rain, flows in local waterways will rise and may cause flooding in low lying areas that seasonally flood. Small watercourses and drainage features are typically overwhelmed under these conditions and may cause localized flooding. It is recommended that area residents and municipal road crews ensure that culverts are clear of debris to prevent drainage issues. At this point, the larger streams and river systems will rise but should not exceed average spring runoff conditions.

A close watch on local forecasts and conditions is recommended. Grey Sauble's [website](#) provides links to rain gauges and stream flow data. Due to the elevated flows, residents are advised to use caution near all watercourses. Grey Sauble Staff will continue to monitor conditions as they develop, and will provide updates as required.

Update: Unless replaced by another message, this message expires Monday January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 9:00 am

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## Grey Sauble Conservation issues THREE types of messages:

### 1. Watershed Conditions

#### Statement - Water Safety/Flood Outlook

These are general notices of weather conditions that could pose a risk to personal safety of which have the potential to lead to flooding.

- i) Water Safety: High flows, unsafe banks, melting ice, etc.
- ii) Flood Outlook: Early notice of the potential for flooding based on weather forecasts calling for heavy rain, etc.

### 2. Flood Watch

Flooding is possible in specific watercourses or municipalities. Municipalities, emergency services and individual landowners in flood-prone areas should prepare.

### 3. Flood Warning

This is the most serious type of message: flooding is imminent or already occurring in specific watercourses or municipalities.