



**St. Clair Region
Conservation
Authority**
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Flood Warning Update

Bulletin Number: 2009 Flood Event 1, Bulletin 6
Issued at: February 12, 2009 at 18:00
Issued by: Brian McDougall, Director of Watershed Services

Highlights:

- Ice jam in east branch of Sydenham River causes flooding
- Water levels remain high
- Gates of the W. Darcy McKeough Dam remain closed

Current:

Water levels on the Sydenham River and its tributaries remain very high. Water levels have peaked at Strathroy and Alvinston on the Sydenham River, at Petrolia on Bear Creek and on Black Creek at the Bickford Line this afternoon and are slowly falling. Localized flooding continues along the main branches of the Sydenham River and its major tributaries. The gates of the W. Darcy McKeough Dam were closed this morning and streamflow is being diverted down the diversion channel to the St. Clair River. An ice jam in the east branch of the Sydenham River, upstream of Wallaceburg's Murray Street bridge, forced river levels over top of bank this morning. The ice jam broke free near noon and by mid afternoon most of the ice had cleared the Sydenham River except for the area between the mouth of Otter Creek and Holt Line (the December 28 ice jam and area upstream to the McKeough Dam). Many roads are closed due to flooding in St. Clair and Enniskillen Township and in the Municipality of Chatham-Kent. Roads have been barricaded or signed, however care should be taken in travelling on all roads in floodplain areas over the next few days.

Forecast:

Temperatures are forecast to return to near normal tomorrow. Precipitation forecast for the next few days is expected to fall as snow.

The next few days:

Water levels are expected to level off and begin to fall overnight on the main branches of the Sydenham River and its major tributaries. Ice jamming issues should be alleviated with an ice breaking operation commencing this evening to assist in removing the remaining ice for the lower Sydenham River. That process should be completed this evening. Municipal emergency response staff and road superintendents should continue to monitor local conditions closely.

Residents are reminded to avoid watercourses and flooded areas due to slippery banks and cold and swift moving water. Parents in particular are urged to keep their children away from floodplain areas.

The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority will monitor the flood condition of the watersheds in the region and will provide warnings to municipal officials and media in the event conditions develop which could result in the potential of flooding.

Update: As required.
Contact: Brian McDougall at 519-617-1925
Confirmation: Confirmation of receipt of this message **is not** required

Page 1 of 1

Types of Flood Bulletins

- *Flood Monitoring/Safety Bulletins* are dual purpose in nature, with Monitoring Bulletins used to report on general watershed conditions to flood coordinators, and Safety Bulletins to remind the general public of general river safety issues.
- *Flood Advisory Bulletins* are issued when the potential for flooding exists in specific municipalities.
- *Flood Warning Bulletins* are issued after a forecast has been made and apply to specific flood damage centres where serious flooding appears inevitable.