



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

Bulletin Number: 2009 Flood Event 1, Bulletin 7
Issued at: February 13, 2009 at 9:00
Issued by: Brian McDougall, Director of Watershed Services

Highlights:

- Water levels remain high on lower Sydenham River
- Ice breaking operation continues on north branch of Sydenham River
- Commenced gradual opening of gates of the W. Darcy McKeough Dam

Current:

Water levels on the upper portions of the Sydenham River and its tributaries are falling from peaks of yesterday. Peaks began yesterday on Bear Creek at Petrolia and on the east branch of the Sydenham River at Strathroy near noon and gradually moved downstream. Water levels are stable this morning at Dresden on the east branch of the Sydenham while water levels continue to climb at the McKeough Dam with the gates partially closed. An ice breaking operation in the north branch of the Sydenham River commenced late yesterday and continues this morning. Water levels in Wallaceburg as such that the gradual opening of the gates of the McKeough Dam began just before 9:00 am and will assist with the removal of the ice from the north branch. Localized flooding continues along the main branches of the Sydenham River and its major tributaries. Many roads remain 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 today. Precipitation forecast for the next few days is expected to fall as snow.

The next few days:

The last remnants of ice on the Sydenham River are expected to flow downstream this morning or early afternoon. Water levels in upstream areas are expected to continue to fall through the day today returning to near normal levels tomorrow. Levels on the lower Sydenham River should gradually return to near normal (pre-event) conditions by late Sunday or Monday. Municipal staff and road superintendents continue to monitor local conditions and will re-open roads when they can be made safe and passable.

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

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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.