



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

Bulletin Number: 2009 Flood Event 1, Bulletin 8
Issued at: February 13, 2009 at 15:00
Issued by: Brian McDougall, Director of Watershed Services

Highlights:

- Flood Warning Cancelled - Water levels remain high on lower Sydenham River
- Ice breaking operation complete on north branch of Sydenham River
- Commenced gradual opening of gates of the W. Darcy McKeough Dam at 09:00

Current:

Water levels on the upper portions of the Sydenham River and its tributaries are continuing to fall from yesterday's peaks. Water levels peaked at Dresden at 09:00 and are gradually falling. At Wallaceburg and the McKeough, water levels are stable to falling slowly, with the gates of the dam open 0.5 metres. An ice breaking operation in the north branch of the Sydenham River concluded this afternoon and remaining ice is making its way downstream. As water levels in Wallaceburg permit, the gates of the McKeough Dam will be opened gradually until the north branch can again safely flow through Wallaceburg. 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:

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.

<i>Update:</i>	As required.
<i>Contact:</i>	Brian McDougall at 519-617-1925
<i>Confirmation:</i>	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.