

## MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
(March 23, 2009)

### **SPRING RUNOFF NEARS IN NICKEL DISTRICT WATERSHEDS**

SUDBURY.... The Nickel District Conservation Authority (NDCA) has the following update on the developing Spring runoff conditions in the Wanapitei River, Vermilion River, and Onaping River watersheds. Continuous updates will be provided by the NDCA and flood advisories or warnings may have to be issued if overland flooding conditions are forecast in specific areas of these watersheds.

Significant snowfall was received across all the watersheds this past Winter and two major rain/snow melt events occurred, one in late December, 2008 and in February, 2009. This has left above average amounts of snow and related water content in the snow across the watersheds.

Recent weather, sunny days and cool nights, helped to reduce the snowpack somewhat. However, recent snow survey data from various agencies confirms that there is still above average snow and water content throughout the watersheds, especially in the headwater areas of the major rivers. Runoff along watercourses in the City such as Junction Creek, Whitson Creek, Coniston Creek, etc., has been progressing smoothly. The ice cover on these systems has been significantly reduced by the controlled flows over the past two weeks. With normal or near normal weather conditions over the next few weeks, major overland flooding problems along the smaller systems should be avoided. Conditions could change quickly, however, if more snow, heavy rain, etc. is received.

At this time, the northern areas of the major watersheds are being closely monitored as all of that snow melt and runoff on these river systems eventually has to pass through the City of Greater Sudbury. Currently, the greatest threat of overland flooding could come along the major rivers if rapid snowmelt occurs in the headwater areas. Ice jamming could also increase the impacts from overland flooding. A slow and gradual runoff period would be the most favourable condition to reduce the threat of overland flooding.

The NDCA has met with representatives from various partner organizations/agencies to plan and prepare for the spring runoff period around all the watersheds. All of the agencies will be working together to provide the most current information and assistance if required by watershed residents to deal with any possible overland flooding problems.

Residents in the City of Greater Sudbury are reminded that if they expect to or are experiencing overland flooding problems, they must call **311**, 24 hours a day. The NDCA will provide information for the general public through all local media outlets and post Watershed Bulletins, Flood Advisories or Warnings on our website [www.nickeldistrict.ca](http://www.nickeldistrict.ca) as conditions warrant and until the threat of flooding during the spring runoff period has safely passed.

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