



Message # 2026-02

Issued: 3:30 p.m., Thursday January 22, 2026

Subject: FLOOD WATCH - issued for the Trent-Severn Waterway, particularly the Otonabee River and upper Trent River to Hastings and local watercourses within the jurisdiction of Otonabee Conservation.

ISSUED TO: This **FLOOD WATCH** is issued to alert municipalities, water management authorities, Indigenous communities, Ministry of Natural Resources and Otonabee Conservation's other partners in flood emergency management.

WEATHER: Extreme cold air temperatures will be moving into the province Thursday evening, combined with a lack of ice cover and turbulent flows on the Otonabee River and upper Trent River (to Hastings) may result in the generation of frazil ice – a type of slush ice.

FRAZIL ICE: Frazil ice can form when cold air temperatures and wind chill combine to cause surface water temperature to be super-cooled (i.e., cooled below the freezing point), but the super-cooled water is unable to form a solid cover of ice because of fast and turbulent water. As frazil ice flows downstream, it may accumulate against obstructions such as islands, bridge piers and abutments, particularly in areas where flows are slower or in areas of channel constrictions. Frazil ice may also anchor itself to the bottom of a watercourse and accumulate.

FLOOD RISK: As frazil ice flows downstream, it will accumulate and create ice jams that may block water flow, causing water levels to rapidly rise and **potential flooding**.

ACTION: The Trent-Severn Waterway's water management team is keeping a close watch on conditions and is responding accordingly. Residents along the shores of the Otonabee River and upper Trent River (to Hastings), especially those located in low-lying areas, are strongly encouraged to also keep a close watch for frazil ice generation and fluctuating water levels, and to take action to limit or prevent damages due to potential flooding. Water levels can be monitored at [Trent-Severn Waterway](#), [Water Survey of Canada](#) and [Otonabee Conservation](#) websites.

This **FLOOD WATCH** message will expire **Tuesday, February 2, 2026, at 3 p.m.**, unless up-dated earlier.

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