



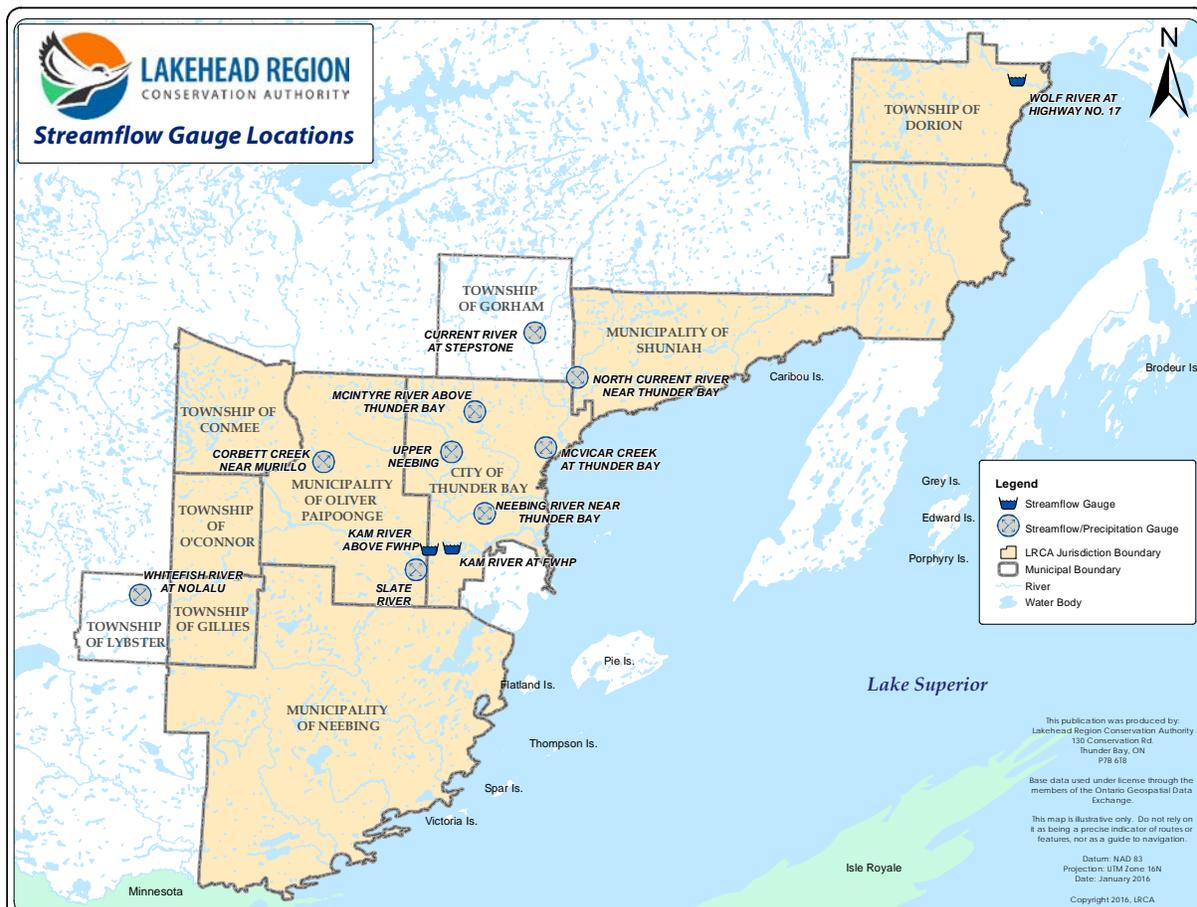
The Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) operates a Flood Warning System to alert Municipal Representatives, media, Ministry of Natural Resources and other affected organizations of potential riverine flooding within the area of jurisdiction of the LRCA.

The goal of the Flood Warning System is to:

**Reduce the risk of loss of life, injury and property damage due to flooding through the issuance of flood messages and information to those that may be at risk and to those agencies and individuals that respond to the flood event.**

Responsibilities of the LRCA include:

1. Monitoring and collecting data related to rainfall, snow depth/water equivalent, ice conditions and antecedent moisture conditions.
2. Monitoring forecasted weather and runoff to predict the flows of rivers and streams within the LRCA area of jurisdiction.
3. Issuing Flood Watch/Warning messages to Municipalities, partners and News Media within the LRCA area of jurisdiction.
4. Promoting and participating in the development of Emergency Plans with our Member Municipalities.
5. Interacting with Provincial and Municipal Officials during an event to notify key individuals or agencies.



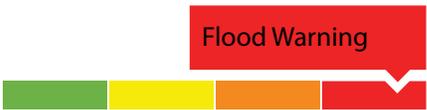
## Daily Monitoring

The staff of the LRCA monitors weather forecasts at a minimum of twice daily. The Ministry of Natural Resources Surface Water Monitoring Centre issues weather maps to Conservation Authorities and Ministry of Natural Resources offices twice daily, which predicts expected precipitation as well as an estimate as to how much rain or snowmelt is required in 24 hours for flash flooding. LRCA staff assesses the weather forecasts along with local conditions and issue Flood Messages as warranted.

Streamflow and received precipitation are monitored at various monitoring sites throughout the LRCA area of jurisdiction. Streamflow and levels on various streams can be remotely monitored from the LRCA office. Received precipitation is also remotely monitored from the LRCA office, as well as through a volunteer network of rain gauges throughout the area.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry District Office is responsible for flood forecasting outside the area of jurisdiction of the LRCA.

## FLOOD MESSAGING TERMINOLOGY:

	<b>NORMAL:</b> Conditions are within NORMAL limits. No flooding is expected.
	<b>WATERSHED CONDITIONS STATEMENT- WATER SAFETY:</b> High flows, unsafe banks, melting ice or other factors could be dangerous for recreational users such as anglers, canoeists, hikers, children, pets, etc. Flooding is not expected.
	<b>WATERSHED CONDITIONS STATEMENT- FLOOD OUTLOOK:</b> Early notice of the potential for flooding based on weather forecasts calling for heavy rain, snow melt, high wind or other conditions.
	<b>FLOODWATCH:</b> Indicates that there is the <u>potential</u> for flooding within specific watercourses and municipalities.
	<b>FLOOD WARNING:</b> Indicates that <u>flooding is imminent or occurring</u> within specific watercourses and municipalities.

Flood messages are distributed by fax and email to all Member Municipalities, Ministry of Natural Resources Surface Water Monitoring Centre, media and affected agencies. In the event of a Flood Warning Member Municipalities and affected agencies are contacted by telephone to ensure the message is received.

Flood messages are posted on the Authority's website (lakeheadca.com) as soon as possible. A Flood Watch or Warning will remain in effect until a termination message is issued.

A meeting is held annually with Member Municipalities and affected agencies to assess Spring Melt conditions, confirm contact information and to review the Flood Warning System.

**THE FLOOD WARNING SYSTEM OPERATES MOST EFFECTIVELY WITH SIGNIFICANT RAINFALL EVENTS WITH AT LEAST 12 HOURS FORECAST TIME. IT IS NOT DESIGNED TO PREDICT FLOOD WARNINGS AS A RESULT OF HIGH INTENSITY, SHORT DURATION THUNDERSTORMS.**