

FLOOD WATCH – BEAVER RIVER CLARKSBURG AND LOWER VALLEY ROAD

Message Number: 2026-03

Issued on: January 27, 2026 (4:30pm)

Issued by: John Bittorf, GSCA Flood Duty Officer

To: Beaver River Watershed Municipalities and Media

Message:

Due to the extreme cold temperatures over the past week, with cold temperatures expected to continue through the coming weekend, combined with the fact that the Beaver River still has not fully frozen over throughout the system, frazil ice continues to be generated within the turbulent flow reaches of the river. Municipalities are challenged with localized potential flooding in two separate areas as noted;

CLARKSBURG – TOWN OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

Over the last week, frazil ice has collected in the Beaver River within Clarksburg which has caused water levels to rise. The water level remains high at this time. With windchill temperatures forecast to remain near or below –18C into the weekend, with only small warmer periods during the day, the potential exists for frazil ice to continue being produced upstream of Clarksburg until the Beaver River freezes over.

At this time, the frazil ice sheet has extended upstream of Marsh Street and there is concern that flow will be further restricted causing water levels to rise over the next week. This area will continue to be monitored by Town and GSCA Staff. Town of the Blue Mountains crews and contractors are utilizing a long-reach excavator to remove frazil ice from the river to promote flow, despite limited access to the river. The frazil ice removal is expected to continue throughout the daytime hours.

LOWER VALLEY ROAD – MUNICIPALITY OF GREY HIGHLANDS

Flooding has been observed along Lower Valley Road just south of Graham's Hill/Campbell's Hill roads. Frazil ice is causing water along the Beaver River to backup and spill its banks. The Municipality has closed the road and the public is cautioned to avoid the area.

Grey Sauble Conservation issues THREE types of messages:

1. Watershed Conditions

Statement - Water Safety/Flood Outlook

These are general notices of weather conditions that could pose a risk to personal safety of which have the potential to lead to flooding.

- i) Water Safety: High flows, unsafe banks, melting ice, etc.
- ii) Flood Outlook: Early notice of the potential for flooding based on weather forecasts calling for heavy rain, etc.

2. Flood Watch

Flooding is possible in specific watercourses or municipalities. Municipalities, emergency services and individual landowners in flood-prone areas should prepare.

3. Flood Warning

This is the most serious type of message: flooding is imminent or already occurring in specific watercourses or municipalities.

Flood Watches are issued when flooding is possible along local watercourses. Landowners within these areas should monitor their situation and be prepared in case of flooding.

Grey Sauble staff will continue to monitor the weather and the flows and provide additional updates as needed.

This Statement expires Monday, February 2nd, 2026 at 4:30pm unless replaced by further updates.

Contact: John Bittorf, Flood Duty Officer, j.bittorf@greysauble.on.ca ph 548-877-0585

-30-

Grey Sauble Conservation issues THREE types of messages:

1. Watershed Conditions

Statement - Water Safety/Flood Outlook

These are general notices of weather conditions that could pose a risk to personal safety of which have the potential to lead to flooding.

- i) Water Safety: High flows, unsafe banks, melting ice, etc.
- ii) Flood Outlook: Early notice of the potential for flooding based on weather forecasts calling for heavy rain, etc.

2. Flood Watch

Flooding is possible in specific watercourses or municipalities. Municipalities, emergency services and individual landowners in flood-prone areas should prepare.

3. Flood Warning

This is the most serious type of message: flooding is imminent or already occurring in specific watercourses or municipalities.