
Watershed Conditions Statement - Water Safety Kemptville District – Ottawa River

NEWS

05/02/2018

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's (MNR) Kemptville District Office is advising area residents that a **Water Safety** statement is in effect for the residents along the north-eastern reaches of the Ottawa River in the District.

Residents living in the City of Clarence-Rockland, the Town of Hawkesbury, and in the Townships of East Hawkesbury and Champlain should stay away from fast-moving rivers and streams and regularly check updated messages about spring weather conditions. Municipalities are advised to monitor and maintain local storm water infrastructure to ensure that storm drains, catch basins, culverts and ditches are free of materials such as dead leaf matter, to alleviate the potential for localized ponding of water on roads.

MNR advises all residents to be aware of the potential for elevated water levels in streams and rivers, and to keep their children, pets and themselves away from lakeshores and riverbanks.

MNR is closely monitoring spring weather and developing watershed conditions. Further updates will be issued as appropriate.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

This message is being sent on the basis of information received from the Ministry's Surface Water Monitoring Centre, the Ottawa River Regulation Planning Board, South Nation Conservation, Environment Canada and from other sources of weather information.

Description of Current Conditions

Water levels and flows on the main stem of the Ottawa River are increasing in response to runoff from recent precipitation and ongoing snow melt from the greater part of the basin.

Description of Weather System

As an area of low pressure moves eastward over the next several days, southern Ontario will see several days of unsettled, warm weather. Wednesday will see a large portion of southeastern Ontario forecast to receive 10 to 20mm of rain and Thursday will see southwestern and central Ontario forecast to receive 10 to 25mm of rain. Associated temperatures will range from 15-20C, with overnight lows well above freezing.

Risks:

According to the Ottawa River Regulation Planning Board (ORRPB), flows and levels are expected to continue their rise during the week, possibly causing localized minor flooding in low-lying areas. Based on the current snowpack and weather forecast, levels and flows are expected to remain within the normal range of fluctuations for this time of year.

Expiry Date:

This message will be in effect until: 05/07/2018 5:00 PM.

Terminology: Notification Levels

WATERSHED CONDITIONS STATEMENT – WATER SAFETY: indicates that high flows, melting ice or other factors could be dangerous for such users as boaters, anglers and swimmers but flooding is not expected.

WATERSHED CONDITIONS STATEMENT - FLOOD OUTLOOK: gives early notice of the potential for flooding based on weather forecasts calling for heavy rain, snow melt, high winds or other conditions.

FLOOD WATCH: potential for flooding exists within specific watercourses and municipalities.

FLOOD WARNING: flooding is imminent or occurring within specific watercourses and municipalities.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information, please contact:

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A close watch on local conditions and weather forecasts from Environment Canada is recommended.

Environment Canada bulletins can be found at weather.gc.ca/.

The Surface Water Monitoring Centre public webpage can be found at ontario.ca/flooding.