

Flood Warning Kemptville District – Ottawa River

NEWS

04/18/2017

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's (MNR) Kemptville District Office is advising area residents that the previously issued Flood Outlook Statement has been upgraded to a **Flood Warning** for 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 at this time of year and regularly check updated messages about spring weather conditions. Residents who live in an area that has a historic susceptibility to flooding should take appropriate precautions to protect their property, such as ensuring sump pumps are functioning and securing items that may be impacted should water levels rise.

Shorelines along streams and rivers are dangerous at this time of year. MNR advises all residents 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, Environment Canada and from other sources of weather information.

Description of Current Conditions

The Ottawa River Regulation Planning Board (ORRPB) indicates that the middle and lower portions of the Ottawa River basin are experiencing above average conditions, with levels and flows not seen in the previous 10 to 20 years depending on location. The month of April has been particularly wet with cumulative precipitation by mid-April exceeding the amount normally received for the entire month. This precipitation, combined with continued snowmelt in several areas, has caused levels and flows to rise rapidly since Sunday evening. Additional increases are expected in most locations along the main stem of the river between Pembroke and Grenville/Hawkesbury.

Risks:

The ORRPB would like to caution residents and communities located in areas that are flood-prone to be prepared for flooding of low lying access roads and structures. The extent of flooding will depend on the amount of precipitation received over the next few days.

A close watch on local forecasts and conditions is recommended.

Expiry Date:

This message will be in effect until (or updated before): 04/21/2017 12:00 AM.

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.