
Watershed Conditions Statement - Flood Outlook Kemptville District – Ottawa River

NEWS

05/16/2017

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's (MNR) Kemptville District Office is advising area residents that the previous Flood Warning status has been downgraded to a **Flood Outlook** 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 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, the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, Environment Canada and from other sources of weather information.

Description of Current Conditions

The Ottawa River Regulation Planning Board (ORRPB) indicates that most heavily flooded areas, between Lac Coulonge and the Hawkesbury/Grenville area, are now free of high waters. Water level decline is expected to continue throughout the coming week. Snowmelt from the north has been retained by northern reservoirs.

A system is forecast to move into the Province later this week (Thursday, Friday) that has the potential to bring 20mm to 25mm across central Ontario including central and northern regions of the Ottawa River basin. Higher amounts are possible in localized areas should thunderstorms develop. Daytime high temperatures across south and central Ontario are forecast in the 15 to 25 °C range with nighttime lows in the 5 to 15 °C range.

Risks:

If the forecasted 20mm to 25mm materializes over the Ottawa River basin later this week, flows may stabilize but no major increase in flows and levels is expected.

As long as waters remain on the flood plain, there continues to be a risk of returning to flooding levels in response to possible widespread heavy rainfall events. Residents in low-lying areas are encouraged to continue to closely watch for updates in forecasts.

Expiry Date:

This message will be in effect until (or updated before): 05/18/2017 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:

Deborah Bierman, IRM Technical Specialist, Kemptville District Office

Telephone: (613) 258-8203

Email: deborah.bierman@ontario.ca

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.