
Watershed Conditions Statement - Water Safety Kemptville District – Ottawa River

NEWS

03/17/2016

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's (MNRF) – Kemptville District Office is advising area residents that a **Watershed Conditions Statement - Water Safety** is in effect for the 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, Champlain and Alfred-Plantagenet 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 as water levels rise.

Shorelines along streams and rivers are dangerous at this time of year. MNRF advises all residents to keep their children, pets and themselves away from lakeshores and riverbanks.

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

TECHNICAL INFORMATION**Description of Weather System**

This message is being sent on the basis of weather information received from the ministry's Surface Water Monitoring Centre, Environment Canada and from other sources of weather information.

This week flows along the eastern reaches of the Ottawa River and in corresponding tributaries are continuing to respond to early spring weather conditions.

Description of Current Conditions

A series of weather systems have been forecasted to pass through southern/central Ontario through the week that have brought amounts of rain almost every day and keeping temperatures above freezing, however, generally less than +10 degrees C. Daytime high temperatures above freezing are expected for much of the week as far north as James Bay, as well as the southern sections of the northwest region.

This week, forecasted precipitation for southern Ontario is 10 – 20 mm. Cooler temperatures for southeastern Ontario are anticipated next week bringing mixed precipitation, including the possibility of snow in some areas.

Risks:

Sustained warmer temperatures will continue the gradual seasonal melt and along with forecast precipitation, will likely result in moderate runoff and elevated water levels and flows in areas previously mentioned..

A close watch on local forecasts and conditions is recommended.

Expiry Date:

This message will expire on 03/25/2016 12:00 AM

Terminology: Notification Levels

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

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.

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 <http://weather.gc.ca/>