

Watershed Conditions Statement - Flood Outlook Kemptonville District – Ottawa River

NEWS

04/01/2016

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's (MNRF) – Kemptonville District Office is advising area residents that a **Watershed Conditions Statement - Flood Outlook** is now once again in effect 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 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 should 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.

The weather system that traversed the province over the last two days (Wednesday and Thursday) has dumped a significant amount of rain south of the line from Sudbury to North Bay. The axis of the rainfall seems to be through the east shores of Georgian Bay further inland in a northeast direction.

Description of Current Conditions

There is no significant rainfall in the forecast for the next four days. Temperatures will trend downwards starting Friday, April 1st. Daytime highs of 0 to 10 degrees centigrade are forecast for the south and southern sectors of the northeast today. Tomorrow the daytime high will be between 0 to 5 degrees centigrade for Southern Ontario, mainly for the Lower Great Lakes Region, and sub-zero temperatures through the night for the province. The cold trend will sink further south through the weekend and into early next week.

Risks:

Rainfall associated with snow melt has resulted in high water conditions in several lakes and streams in southern and south-central Ontario. Many streams are still very high and will continue to remain high for the next several days.

Risk of flooding remains for the next few days as the rain and snowmelt from the recent weather system peaks in area streams and rivers. With minimal rain expected in the next four days and cooler temperatures the stream flows should gradually stabilize in areas currently under high water. The warm weather and rain could have melted a significant amount of snow on the ground. In the forecast period, snow melt from the existing snow pack could also be stabilised with the cooler temperatures and significantly reduce further flooding due to snowmelt conditions.

Expiry Date:

This message will be in effect until (or updated before): 04/05/2016 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.