

Watershed Conditions Statement - Water Safety

Pembroke District – Ottawa River

Wednesday, April 22, 2020
4:00pm

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry – Pembroke District is advising area residents that the Watershed Conditions Statement - Water Safety that is in effect in the District has been extended for the Ottawa River until Wednesday, April 29, 2020.

Residents along the Ottawa River in Renfrew County should keep a close watch on conditions, regularly check for updated messages and exercise caution near fast-moving rivers and streams. Residents who have 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 float away as water levels rise.

The ministry is closely monitoring the weather and developing watershed conditions. Further updates will be issued as appropriate.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Description of Weather System

Weather for Renfrew County is forecast to remain cool with daytime highs between 5 and 10°C and nighttime lows around 0°C for the next five days. Between 15 and 25mm of rain is forecast, mostly on Sunday.

Description of Current Conditions

Most Renfrew County lakes and rivers have now crested, have started to gradually decline and are being managed to get to summer levels.

The Ottawa River along Renfrew County remains at the average freshet levels and flows as northern reservoirs are being managed to accommodate the significant snow that remains in the north of the basin. It can be expected that levels and flows in the Ottawa River will slowly start to decrease through the week as the snow is gone in the south and west of the basin and the tributaries are in decline.

DEFINITIONS

- **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.

LEARN MORE

- Surface Water Monitoring Centre public webpage www.ontario.ca/floodforecast
- Environment Canada bulletins: www.weather.gc.ca
- A close watch on local conditions and weather forecasts from Environment Canada is recommended.