

Flood Watch Pembroke District

NEWS

05/02/2018

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) - Pembroke District is advising area residents that a Flood Watch is in effect for the Madawaska River and the Ottawa River in Renfrew County.

Residents of Renfrew County should be advised that water levels and flows on the Madawaska River and the Ottawa River downstream of Deep River are rising rapidly due to accelerated snowmelt and may exceed minor flooding levels later this week.

For safety, all residents should keep a close watch on conditions, regularly check for updated messages and exercise caution near fast-moving rivers and streams. Any residents in areas prone to flooding should take appropriate action to protect their property, such as ensuring sump pumps are functioning and securing items that may float away as water levels rise. Anyone requiring sandbags or assistance should contact their local municipality.

The Ministry also advises extreme caution when using forest access roads for outdoor activities as many are seasonally inundated with water, prone to washouts and may be impassible due to current water levels.

MNRF is closely monitoring the 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 information received from MNRF - Surface Water Monitoring Centre, MNRF - Aviation Forest Fire and Emergency Management Services and Environment Canada.

Unsettled weather is expected over the next few days with forecast precipitation of around 25mm of rain and temperatures above zero.

Description of Current Conditions

The ongoing warm temperatures are accelerating the melt of the remaining snow in the area. Seasonal mild temperatures combined with rainfall will continue to melt the remaining snow which will increase water levels and flow velocities in rivers and streams and flooding may occur in low-lying areas. Additional water accumulation could occur in areas adjacent to watercourses, road ditches and areas with poor drainage. With the combination warmer temperatures, forecasted precipitation and remaining ice cover on local lakes and rivers, there is the potential for ice jams to form and contribute to elevated water levels and flooding in some instances.

Expiry Date:

This message will expire on 05/10/2018 5:00 PM

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:

Christina Davis, MNRF
613-732-5536
christina.davis@ontario.ca

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/>

The Surface Water Monitoring Centre public webpage can be found at:

<http://www.ontario.ca/flooding>

Key Information Websites:

<http://www.ontario.ca/ministry-natural-resources-and-forestry> - MNRF Website

<http://www.ottawariver.ca/> (or call the 24hr toll free number 1-800-778-1246)

<http://www.opg.com> – Ontario Power Generation

<http://www.renfrewpg.ca> – Renfrew Power Generation

<http://www.emergencymanagementontario.ca/english/home.html> - Emergency Management Ontario

First-hand reports of changing water conditions from local agencies are greatly appreciated and benefit the overall flood program. Please also consider tweeting reports of flooding with the hashtag #ONFlood and promote the use of **#ONFlood**.