

Watershed Conditions Statement - Water Safety

Pembroke District

Friday, May 19, 2023
10:00 am

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry – Pembroke District is advising area residents and visitors that a Watershed Conditions Statement - Water Safety is in effect for the portions of the Ottawa River within Renfrew County until Friday, May 26, 2023.

Residents along the main stem of the Ottawa River should exercise caution along the waterway. Flooding is not anticipated based on current forecasts and that most systems water levels are trending downward, the public is advised that special caution should be exercised around rivers, streams and in low-laying areas as water levels are still above average.

Anyone trying to clear debris or clean up properties are advised to work safely around the cold, fast moving waters. Stream banks and shorelines may be unsafe after a high water event and must be avoided if possible. Public safety is the number one priority, especially for children who may be attracted to the edge of creeks or rivers.

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

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Description of Weather System

A slow moving, low pressure system is moving into the area and will bring precipitation, up to 50 mm over the coming weekend. Friday could see 12-22 mm and Saturday 18-25 mm. The forecast following this rain looks clear moving into next week.

Daytime temperatures in the 15-20 range, with nighttime temperatures staying above freezing

Description of Current Conditions

The spring runoff continues to decline in all locations of the watershed. Levels are now below minor flood thresholds in all locations along the main stem of the Ottawa River but remain above average for this time of year. Levels and flows along the main stem of the Ottawa River are expected to continue declining over the coming week, with only a minor increase as a result upcoming rainfall

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
- **SHORELINE CONDITIONS STATEMENT – WATER SAFETY:** indicates that **along the Great Lakes shorelines high water**, melting ice or other factors could be dangerous but flooding is not expected.
- **SHORELINE CONDITIONS STATEMENT – FLOOD OUTLOOK:** gives early notice of the potential for flooding **along the Great Lakes shorelines** based on weather and lake conditions, and water safety information.
- **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/page/surface-water-monitoring-centre
- Environment Canada bulletins: www.weather.gc.ca
- A close watch on local conditions and weather forecasts from Environment Canada is recommended.