

Watershed Conditions Message

(WCM -03/2011)

March 9, 2011 — Once again, the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) expects that flows in rivers and streams throughout the Rideau River watershed will rise as a result of rainfall and snowmelt. It is possible that water levels will rise onto the lowest lying lands along the Rideau River between Kemptville and Kars and along the lower Kemptville Creek. Roads and buildings are not expected to be affected. The major concern will be the raising and weakening of the ice sheet. Broken ice on smaller streams could accumulate at bridges, culverts or other constrictions causing higher localized water levels.

Up to 45 millimetres of rain is forecast to fall on the Rideau watershed from Thursday through to Sunday. Above freezing temperatures on all three days will melt some of the snow cover which will combine with the rain to cause increased flows. A return to colder temperatures on Monday will cause water levels to decline again.

The expected increase in water levels will weaken the ice on local watercourses. The RVCA advises everyone to stay off the ice and to be cautious around watercourses. Parents need to supervise their children and make them aware of the danger of unstable ice and increasing flows.

The RVCA is now in the daily planning cycle of its flood forecasting and warning program – weather forecasts and water levels are being monitored daily and flow estimates updated. Based on those estimates, either Watershed Conditions, Flood Advisory or Flood Warning messages will be issued as warranted.

The RVCA recommends that everyone living near a watercourse should inform themselves of the flood risks in their area and should review their own plans for minimizing flood-related property damages and inconveniences. Municipal officials should review their flood response plans and the usual preparations should be made to respond to emergency situations as required. The role of the Conservation Authority is to provide early warning of developing flood situations and continuous monitoring and analysis throughout the event, with a view to providing timely and useful information to municipal and provincial emergency response personnel on the expected severity and duration of the event.

If watershed residents would like to receive RVCA flood messages directly through e-mail, contact Andrea Larsen at andrea.larsen@rvca.ca or check our messages on Twitter or our webpage at www.rvca.ca .

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More Information:

Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
613-692-3571 or 1-800-267-3504 (within 613 area code)
contact: Patrick Larson, RVCA Senior Water Resources Technician at ext. 1110 or cell 613-227-2792

"Rideau Valley Conservation Authority is a partnership of municipalities within the Rideau Valley watershed created under the Conservation Authorities Act to deliver a range of programs in watershed management and natural resource conservation."