
RVCA News Release

2006 Rideau River Spring Runoff — Long-range Outlook

The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority issues the Long-range Outlook bulletin at the beginning of March each year to provide an indication of the potential for flooding when the spring freshet occurs. Historically, freshet occurs between mid-March and mid-April in the Rideau Valley.

RIDEAU VALLEY, March 3, 2006 — Based on present snow conditions in the Rideau Watershed and the assumption that there will be normal precipitation amounts over the next several weeks, the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority is presently expecting **near average spring flow conditions this year.**

Warm temperatures and rain in January left no snow cover south of the Rideau River and Rideau Lakes. Further north, the precipitation came in all forms leaving a snowpack with ice layers throughout. The Conservation Authority snow measurements were last completed on Wednesday, March 1st. Snow depth was below average, but because of the ice layers, the water equivalent of the snowpack was slightly above average.

Everyone is advised to be cautious around watercourses and parents particularly need to supervised children and make them aware of the danger of unstable ice and increasing flows.

Those living near a watercourse should inform themselves of flood risks in their areas and review their own plans for minimizing flood-related property damages.

Municipal offices should review their flood response plans at this time and the usual preparations be made to respond to emergency situations as required.

The RVCA continues to monitor river flows as part of its flood forecasting and warning program. Weather forecasts are monitored and estimates of expected river flows and water levels are prepared on a daily basis. Flood advisory or warning messages will be issued as required based on those forecasts.

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