

Rideau Valley Conservation Authority Watershed Conditions Bulletin

RVCA is still Forecasting a "Lower than Average" Spring Flood

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.

April 3, 2009, RIDEAU VALLEY WATERSHED — Eastern Ontario is expecting 30 to 40 millimetres of rain over the next 36 hours. Stream flows and water levels on the Rideau River and its tributaries are expected to increase, but no flooding problems are expected as a result of this weather system.

Overbank flooding of low-lying areas adjacent to some streams might occur, but we do not expect any access routes serving streamside communities to be affected.

This year's spring snowmelt event has been a gentle one — occurring over the past two weeks with flows that have stayed well below long-term averages, so far. The snowpack on the watershed has entirely melted, and rivers are now generally ice-free.

Water levels are expected to rise in response to the incoming rainfall and peak sometime on Sunday at levels that will remain below average annual maximums.

The weather forecast beyond Sunday calls for continuing wet, but cooler conditions.

The RVCA continues to monitor watershed conditions and river flows as part of its flood forecasting and warning program. Updated messages will be issued as warranted.

We continue to advise extreme caution around our lakes, rivers and streams.

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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

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. The RVCA Flood Forecasting and Warning Program is done under a delegated responsibility from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and in conjunction with the Parks Canada-Rideau Canal for the residents and municipalities of the watershed.