

Rideau Valley Conservation Authority Flood Warning Update Statement

River Levels Still Rising

(WCS - 07/2014)

April 10, 2014 — Ongoing snowmelt and forecast rain today will keep streamflows increasing moderately through the Rideau system and more locations in the watershed will have the onset of flooding over the next 48 hours.

Snowmelt will continue through today with warmer temperatures and no freezing overnight. Some rain is forecast for tonight as well, which will contribute to the increased flows.

Rideau Canal officials have advised that flow releases from upstream storage reservoirs (above Smiths Falls) will have to be increased later today in order to reserve capacity for runoff from a significant rainfall event that is forecast for early next week.

The Long Reach of the Rideau River (Manotick to Becketts Landing) has seen a significant increase in water level and residents can expect more as runoff continues to enter the system. The effect of Thursday afternoon's increased flow release at Smiths Falls will be observed along the Long Reach on Friday morning (around 7 to 9 a.m.) as a short-term surge (or quickening) in the water level's rise.

The Manotick and Long Island Dams are opened to capacity and are passing as much water as possible. In addition to the communities in North Grenville mentioned in previous statements (Becketts Landing, Cedar Beach, Hilly Lane and Rideau Glen,) others there and downstream along the river such as Fairmile Road, Fennell Lane, Harris Road, Lannin Lane and Lorne Bridge Road can expect to see water on roadways over the next two days. A modest increase (10-15 cm) in water levels on the Long Reach can be anticipated over the next 24 to 36 hours. Residents in those low-lying communities should consider alternative arrangements.

Widespread flooding of agricultural lands in the upper reaches of Kemptville Creek has been reported, and portions of Diamond Road, Branch Road and other local roads in Augusta Township are inundated.

The presence of an unusually thick and strong ice sheet on area rivers and streams has been a significant factor affecting water levels in many locations during this spring freshet.

The ice is off the Lower Rideau River (downstream of Hog's Back Falls) and the river is at or above bank-full stage in Old Ottawa South (Bronson Avenue to Smyth Road). Any additional increases in flow and water level will cause flooding on the surface of Rideau River Drive between Fentiman and Belmont. Water level increases in the order of 10-15 centimetres over the next 24 to 36 hours in Old Ottawa South could be anticipated.

Again, we remind everyone that the high flows make for unsafe conditions on all sizes of watercourses and everyone needs to be cautious. If they have not already done so, residents in flood vulnerable areas should take whatever precautions are reasonable and practical, in their particular circumstances, to minimize property damages and public safety risks.

The RVCA continues in the daily planning cycle of its flood forecasting and warning program — weather forecasts, river flows, water levels and snowpack conditions are being monitored. **At the present time, weather forecasters are anticipating another significant rainfall event will move into Eastern Ontario on Sunday and Monday, potentially causing further increases in water levels and flooding problems on local streams.** An update to this message will be issued on Friday April 11 or sooner, if warranted.

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More Information:

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contact: Patrick Larson, RVCA Senior Water Resources Technician at
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information also available online at www.rvca.ca

"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."

"Onset of flooding stage" is defined for each flood vulnerable community as the river level at which access routes serving existing residences are inundated, giving rise to public safety hazards.

RVCA Watershed Conditions Statements:

- *Water Safety – High flows, unstable banks, melting ice or other factors that could be dangerous for recreational users such as anglers, canoeists, hikers, children, pets, etc. Flooding is not expected.*
- *Flood Outlook – Early notice of the potential for flooding based on weather forecasts, calling for heavy rain, snow melt, high winds or other conditions that could lead to high runoff, cause ice jams and/or lakeshore flooding or erosion.*
- *Flood Watch – Flooding is possible in specific watercourses or municipalities. Municipalities, emergency services and individuals in flood prone areas should prepare.*
- *Flood Warning – Flooding is imminent or already occurring in specific watercourses*