



## **LOW WATER LEVELS THIS SPRING ON THE OTTAWA RIVER**

OTTAWA, May 11, 2010 – Spring water levels and flows are below average on the main stem of the Ottawa River from Pembroke down to the Montreal Region. Below normal precipitation during the past winter and early spring along with mild temperatures in March and early April have produced well below average runoff throughout the Ottawa River watershed.

Although, low flows have been observed this spring in many areas of the Ottawa River basin, **water levels are those normally observed during the summer period.**

Northern reservoirs are filling slowly due to below average runoff from the northern watersheds. Discharges from these reservoirs will remain low as efforts are made to reach navigation levels and fill the reservoirs. Stored water will then be available to help maintain acceptable river levels throughout the summer period in the event of low flow conditions on the Ottawa River. Without significant rainfall, levels and flows on the main stem of the Ottawa River will continue to remain below average.

Conditions at all points along the river are being monitored and further bulletins will be issued if required.

Residents in Ottawa-Gatineau can obtain current information on Ottawa River levels by calling (819) 994-7079 for a message in English and (819) 994-7078 for a message in French. Persons living outside the Ottawa-Hull region should dial 1-800-778-1246 to receive an English message and 1-800-778-1243 for a message in French. This information is also available on the internet at <http://www.ottawariver.ca/>.

The Ottawa River Regulating Committee consists of the following agencies which operate dams in the Ottawa River system: Public Works and Government Services Canada, Ontario Power Generation, Hydro-Québec and the Ministère du Développement durable de l'Environnement et des Parcs du Québec.

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Further Information:

Roch Bérubé (819) 994-6197, Michael Sarich (819) 997-1735  
Ottawa River Regulating Committee