



OTTAWA RIVER WATER LEVELS

OTTAWA/GATINEAU, Friday April 28, 2017 –The Ottawa River Regulating Committee cautions that water levels and flows along the main stem of the Ottawa River between Mattawa and the Montreal region will remain high for a sustained period of time. Well above normal April precipitation combined with snowmelt runoff have resulted in recent peak levels not seen in the last 20 years in many locations. Current meteorological forecasts are calling for additional rainfall of 30-60 mm over much of the Ottawa River basin. This additional precipitation is expected to once again increase levels that had been in decline.

Current weather forecasts predict very significant precipitation beginning Sunday, April 30th into Monday, May 1st. These weather conditions could cause rapid increases in levels and flows between Mattawa and the Montreal region. The increase in levels and extent of possible flooding will depend on the amount of precipitation received, the tracking of the storm as well as the amount of snowmelt in the north.

With current forecasts, northern snowmelt runoff combined with precipitation is expected to fill most northern reservoirs in the next few days. As a result, the capacity to retain additional runoff from the headwater areas in the north will be diminished. Residents of low-lying areas and communities located in areas prone to flooding along the Ottawa River are advised to monitor river conditions closely by consulting the daily update of river conditions on the ORRPB website at <http://www.ottawariver.ca> and checking with their local provincial agency that is responsible for issuing flood advisories.

During this critical period, the Committee will take all possible actions to limit the amount of flooding and will continuously monitor conditions at all points along the river. Further bulletins will be issued if the situation changes.

Residents who would like to report flooding or require help should communicate with responsible provincial agencies, that is in Ontario, your Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry local district office or Conservation Authority (<https://www.ontario.ca/law-and-safety/flood-forecasting-and-warning-program>); and in Québec, the Sécurité civile of the Ministère de la Sécurité publique at 1-866-776-8345. Your municipality is responsible for on-the-ground flood response.

Current information on Ottawa River levels and flow discharges at the major reservoirs in the system may be obtained by consulting our website at <http://www.ottawariver.ca>. A general three-day forecast is also provided at key locations within the basin.

Residents in Ottawa-Gatineau can obtain current information on Ottawa River levels by calling (613) 995-3443 for a message in English and (613) 995-3455 for a message in French. Persons living outside the Ottawa-Gatineau region should dial 1-800-778-1246 to receive an English message and 1-800-778-1243 for a message in French. Information is given for levels at Lake Timiskaming, Mattawa, Pembroke, Lake Coulonge, Chats Lake, Ottawa (Britannia), Gatineau (Hull wharf), Grenville and Maniwaki.

The Ottawa River Regulating Committee consists of the following agencies that 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 de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques du Québec.

For additional information, please contact Manon Lalonde (613) 996-8639, or Michael Sarich (613) 996-8643 of the Ottawa River Regulation Secretariat.

Ottawa River Regulating Committee