



INCREASED FLOODING RISK ON THE OTTAWA RIVER
Mattawa down to Montreal Region

OTTAWA/GATINEAU, Thursday April 25, 2019 — The Ottawa River Regulating Committee warns that levels and flows on the Ottawa River from Mattawa down to the Montreal region are expected to exceed flood levels of May 2017 over the coming week end. Flows and levels are expected to rapidly rise over the weekend due to significant forecast rainfall. **On Monday or Tuesday, flows and levels are expected to exceed those observed at the height of the May 2017 flood, depending on the amount of precipitation received.** All areas along the Ottawa River that were impacted in 2017, and possibly additional areas, are at risk.

River Conditions Forecast / Flooding Risk: A low pressure system is expected to bring 20 to 50 mm of precipitation over much of the basin on Friday and Saturday. Runoff from this precipitation will bring additional water volumes to the Ottawa River, at a time when levels have already exceeded major flood levels in most flood-prone areas along the Ottawa River. Runoff from ongoing snowmelt and recent rainfall events has already swollen most tributaries, with some experiencing record breaking flows. Heavy rainfall is expected, which will cause levels to rise sharply on the Ottawa River starting Friday evening. **Levels should peak on Monday or Tuesday and are expected to exceed those experienced in May 2017. The degree to which May 2017 levels may be exceeded will depend on the precipitation amounts received.** Due to the high degree of forecast uncertainty it is difficult to accurately predict how quickly water levels will rise and when river conditions may peak. People living along the Ottawa River are encouraged to closely follow evolving conditions and to take necessary measures. **The Regulating Committee will be reassessing forecast conditions and providing hydrological condition updates on its website daily at <http://www.ottawariver.ca/forecast.php>.**

Reservoir Regulation Strategy: Currently, close to 90% the runoff in the Ottawa River is from locations originating in the central portion of the basin, with only 10% coming from the major reservoirs that are mainly located in the northern part of the watershed. Most major reservoirs will continue to retain a large part of the runoff flowing into them over the next week, thereby reducing flows in the downstream part of the river. Dams located in the central and southern portions of the basin are essentially “run of the river” with no significant storage capacity. As such, they cannot reduce the flows and levels associated with increased spring runoff. During this critical freshet period, the Regulating Committee will take all possible actions to limit the amount of flooding and will continuously monitor conditions at all points along the river.

If you think that your property may be at risk of flooding, **please contact your municipality.**

The Ottawa River Regulating Committee works closely at all times with provincial agencies responsible for issuing flood related messages. In Ontario, Conservation Authorities and District Offices of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry issue flood related messages and information to municipalities and other key agencies involved in flood preparedness and response. Current flood related

messages can be viewed on-line on the individual conservation authority websites and on the provincial flood webpage: <https://www.ontario.ca/flooding>. In Quebec, the Centre des opérations gouvernementales du Québec and the Sécurité civile collaborate with municipalities to protect residents. Monitoring of flood conditions can be viewed at <https://geoegl.msp.gouv.qc.ca/adnv2>.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Website: Current and forecast conditions on the Ottawa River along with conditions at the major reservoirs in the system may be obtained by consulting our website. A general four-day forecast is also provided at key locations within the basin during the spring freshet period.

www.ottawariver.ca (English)

www.rivieredesoutaouais.ca (French)

Telephone: The river conditions forecast and information on current river levels may be obtained for the following locations: Lake Timiskaming, Mattawa, Pembroke, Lake Coulonge, Chats Lake, Ottawa (Britannia), Gatineau (Hull wharf), Grenville and Maniwaki, by calling the following numbers:

Ottawa-Gatineau	(613) 995-3443 English (613) 995-3455 French
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Outside the Ottawa-Gatineau region	1-800-778-1246 English 1-800-778-1243 French
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Twitter : Follow us to be notified when news releases are issued, when we begin daily updates or the general four-day forecasts on our website, or when special bulletins are posted on our website.

www.twitter.com/ORRPB (English)

www.twitter.com/CPRRO (French)

The Ottawa River Regulating Committee consists of the following agencies that are responsible for the integrated flow management of the principal reservoirs within the Ottawa River watershed: Hydro-Québec, Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques du Québec, Ontario Power Generation, and Public Services and Procurement Canada. In Ontario, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, through its associate membership with the Regulating Committee, contributes important hydrometeorological information and plays a key role in disseminating information in Ontario. The Regulating Committee issues a press release when the spring freshet season is starting on the Ottawa River and when it anticipates that river conditions on the main stem of the Ottawa River (between the Lake Timiskaming outlet down to the Montreal region) could exceed significant flood levels.

For additional information, please contact Manon Lalonde (613) 996-8639 or Michael Sarich (613) 996-8643 of the Ottawa River Regulation Secretariat, or write to secretariat@ottawariver.ca (English) or to bureau@ottawariver.ca (French).

Ottawa River Regulating Committee