

Emergency Management Community of Practice

Spring Freshet 2019 – Call #1

March 22, 2019, 10:00am

Introduction and Current Status – Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

Pembroke District: Shane Stuart

- Pembroke District Flood Status: no flood messages issued
- Neighbouring District Status:
 - North Bay: no flood messages issued
 - Bancroft: no flood messages issued
 - Kemptville: no flood messages issued

Weather Forecast and Update – Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

Surface Water Monitoring Centre:

- Potential of 3 cm of snow with above 0 today returning to freezing in the evening
- Saturday cooling off to -12 in evening
- Sunday 2 millimeters of mixed precipitation
- Monday temperature range -2 to -16 in the evening
- Tuesday temperature range -2 to -15 in the evening
- March 15 snow survey shows a deep snowpack in southeast Ontario ranging from 125-450 percent of normal for this date; that is 30-70 cm of snow on the ground, ranging from 100 to 200 mm of snow water equivalent.

Dam Updates

- Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Pembroke District: Shane Stuart
 - Balaclava Dam: no issues, monitoring, some dam operations
 - Lake Dore Dam: no issues, monitoring, some dam operations
 - No signs that freshet is coming soon. Lots of ice on lakes. Generally nothing to report.
 - Despite most days for the next 2 weeks raising above 0 it is going to continue to freeze most nights. Those daily highs above 0 are not drastically warm and there's no forecasted significant rainfall (mostly dry). This is good for slowing down the melt and the longer this goes on the better.
 - We have normal capacity on our lakes for this time of year and plans are to draw them down further in anticipation of a possible above average melt
 - Deck clearing at our dams started over a week ago to allow the last of ice to melt and permit early operations if required. We're also recalibrating our HOB0 gauges as required to ensure accurate readings throughout freshet.
- Ottawa River – Ottawa River Regulation Secretariat:
 - Temperatures in the northern basin experiencing overnight temperatures of -20

- Southern basin the overnight lows are -10
- Snow pack above normal across the basin as high as double the amount
- Reservoirs on track on the draw down, even below normal.
- Draw down will continue for another week
- Flow and level are right on average on the Ottawa River
- Ottawa River – Ontario Power Generation:
 - Swisha, Holden, Chenuaux, Chat Falls passing flows at typical levels for this year

Madawaska River – Ontario Power Generation

- Bark Lake heading towards minimum level
- Little melt that is making it slowly rise a couple of centimetres a day

● Bonnechere River – Renfrew Power Generation Inc.:

- All lakes ice covered
- Ministry order to Round lake to go below lower limit
- Gained 10 cm lower and will try to reach maximum of 20 cm
- All lakes have average surface ice of 50 to 70 cm
- No issues on system yet
- Starting to gather snow sampling to predict Algonquin Park snow pack

Government Updates Affecting Renfrew County

● Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management:

- Nothing to report, Monitoring local activity

● Ministry of Transportation:

- For today's update our Patrol staff is monitoring all areas and known problem areas daily
- Snow ditching and culvert steaming is ongoing.
- No concern areas to report at this time for any of the rivers, and streams going through our right of ways in Renfrew County.

● Ministry of Municipal Affairs/Ministry of Housing:

- Nothing to report

● Renfrew County District Health Unit:

- Nothing to report

Municipal Updates

- County of Renfrew CEMC:
 - No Issues

- County of Renfrew Public Works:
 - Mild overflow of creek
 - Crews are punching holes in snow banks on roadsides to allow for drainage
 - Crews are in preparation mode

- City of Pembroke:
 - Daily checks on the Indian and Muskrat river
 - Issued letters to residents impacted in 2017
 - Ready for sandbag station

- Pikwakanagan Reserve:
 - Nothing to report

- Lower Tier Municipalities
 - Admaston/Bromley (Township of)
 - Nothing significant
 - Arnprior (Town of)
 - Reached out to a few nervous residents for general preparation
 - Met with SMT – looking at streaming the process
 - Bonnechere Valley (Township of)
 - Reviewed flooding in 2017 – will reach out to concerned residents
 - Brudenell, Lyndoch, and Raglan (Township of)
 - Nothing to report
 - Deep River (Town of)
 - Nothing to report
 - Greater Madawaska (Township of)
 - Nothing to report
 - Head, Clara, and Maria (Township of)
 - Nothing to report
 - Horton (Township of)
 - 7-8 concerned residence with one registering for sandbags
 - Killaloe, Hagarty, and Richards (Township of)
 - Nothing to report
 - Laurentian Hills (Town of)
 - Nothing to report
 - Laurentian Valley (Township of)
 - Ok and monitoring and will post document from Steve on website

Madawaska Valley (Township of)

- Normal

McNab Braeside (Township of)

- Nothing to report

North Algona/Wilberforce (Township of)

- Nothing to report

Petawawa (Town of)

- Nothing to report

Renfrew (Town of)

- Nothing to report

Whitewater Region (Township of)

- Good stock of sandbags with 2 sites

Update Renfrew County Flood Status

- No plans to issue a flood message at this time
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Key Information Websites:

- Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Surface Water Monitoring Centre: www.ontario.ca/flooding
- Ottawa River Regulation Planning Board: www.ottawariver.ca/ (or call the 24hr toll free number 1-800-778-1246)
- Ontario Power Generation (Madawaska River/Ottawa River): www.opg.com
- Renfrew Power Generation (Bonnechere River) water levels and freshet: www.renfrewpg.ca/water-levels-flow-history
- Emergency Management Ontario: www.emergencymanagementontario.ca/english/home.html