

Below is an excerpt from a recent email update on the Spring Freshet from Doug Buckwald, CEMC, Bonnechere Valley Township. Thank you Doug!

11 April 2019

Levels in all the local watercourses are beginning a slow rise due to the recent conditions.

Lake Clear has risen out 5 cm in the past week after a period of decline. It is still below the average for this time of year.

Round Lake has seen only a small rise of a couple cm over the last week and is still below its minimum approved level. This means there is extra capacity in Round Lake to absorb water coming down from the park once the melt starts in earnest.

Golden Lake is slowly rising a couple cm a day for the last couple days. It is still below its average level and currently not a concern.

Due to the recent snow it does not appear that the snowpack has lowered so that still has the potential to affect us in the coming weeks. There is still a lot of ice on the lakes, (but not necessarily safe so STAY OFF the ice!) so breakup is not yet upon us.

The 5 day forecast from the Surface Water Monitoring Center (MNRF) anticipates 40-50 mm of rain and temperatures above freezing. This will contribute both to runoff and thawing of the snowpack, adding water to the system. There is actually a freezing rain warning for overnight tonight in our area. After that things are expected to warm up.

All in all it's going to be a wet few days with some warmer weather. I suspect that by the end of next week the freshet will begin in earnest.

MNRF will be issuing tomorrow a watershed conditions statement: flood Outlook (an early notice of the potential for flooding based on heavy rain, snow melt etc.) and water safety information.

Here is a link to the Golden Lake/Round Lake Charts: www.renfrewpg.ca/wp-content/uploads/Freshet-charts2019.pdf