

Renfrew County Emergency Management Community of Practice Spring Freshet 2020 – Call #4

April 8, 2020, 10:50am

Introduction and Current Status – Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Pembroke District: Christina Davis

- Pembroke District Flood Status: an extension to the Watershed Conditions Statement – Water Safety was issued on Monday, April 6, 2020

Weather Forecast and Update – Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Surface Water Monitoring Centre: Gord Gallant

- The forecast is mixed over the next 5 days with less than 20mm of precipitation
- Wednesday to Friday: showers and flurries with temperatures in the low single digits above freezing during the day and at or below freezing at night
- Saturday: sun and cloud with daytime temperature 7-10°C and freezing at night
- Sunday and Monday: showers, above freezing temperatures during the day and below freezing at night

Dam Updates

- Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Pembroke District: Christina Davis
 - Lake levels rose 2-4cm yesterday compared to a 3-6cm rise per day over the weekend and a 7-9cm rise per day last week
 - Lakes are still ice covered with some dark spots and patches of open water starting to show
 - Seeing high water in normal areas but still low enough that there are no concerns
 - Doing occasional dam operations and everything is progressing well
 - There is still a long way to go before last year's levels are reached
- Ottawa River – Ottawa River Regulation Secretariat: Michael Sarich
 - There is still snow in the north but in the south part of the basin most of the snow is gone
 - Saw a strong response in the mid-basin tributaries over the past weekend with the warmer temperatures
 - Water levels along the length of the river rose fairly quickly over the weekend
 - Flows have stabilized now
 - Watching the rain that is forecast for Monday – a lot of the snow is gone so the runoff should be moderate
 - The upper reservoirs are closed

- Passing water at Temiskaming so the discharge will be increasing
- From Mattawa to Carillon all dams are fully open and passing water
- Water levels are rising as a result of local tributaries
- There is a system moving into the area on Monday that may bring more rain in the east – watching the tracking of that system
- Likely going to be issuing a press release by the end of this week to let everyone know to expect the water to rise
- So far it has been an average spring and everything is about 2 weeks earlier than normal, which is good
- Watching closely and monitoring

- Madawaska River – Ontario Power Generation: Halya Petzold
 - Snow is almost gone in the lower Madawaska watershed
 - As of April 1st there was 130% of normal snow water equivalent in the upper Madawaska watershed – this has likely dropped over the past week
 - The lower Madawaska inflows are dropping
 - The York River has been slowly climbing and may peak as soon as today, depending on any rain
 - Moving water out of Kamaniskeg
 - Bark Lake is rising 35cm per day
 - In a good place with lots of room in Kamaniskeg and Bark Lake
 - Mountain Chute and downstream are passing water
 - Flows and the snow water equivalent are both dropping in the lower watershed which is a good sign

- Bonnechere River – Renfrew Power Generation Inc: Shawn Cameron
 - Round Lake: rising ~10cm per day; 41cm left to the upper limit
 - Golden Lake: rising ~4cm per day; 8cm off the average peak
 - Water levels are rising but are not flooding yet; approaching the average levels – there is more room to go before any impacts are felt
 - Snow is gone around Renfrew and has dropped in the upper Bonnechere watershed – staff are heading into Algonquin Park today to check snow levels
 - Renfrew: flows are decreasing every day which means that the local water is finished

Government Updates Affecting Renfrew County

- No updates

Municipal Updates

- No updates

Questions/Information Requests

- None

Update Renfrew County Flood Status

- The current Watershed Conditions Statement – Water Safety expires on Tuesday, April 14, 2020 and the status will be reviewed at that time

First-hand reports of changing water conditions from local agencies are greatly appreciated and benefit the overall flood program. Please also consider tweeting reports of flooding with the hashtag #ONFlood and promote the public's use of #ONFlood.

Key Information Websites:

- Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Surface Water Monitoring Centre: www.ontario.ca/floodforecast (**new website address**)
- 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