

# Renfrew County Emergency Management Community of Practice Spring Freshet 2020 – Call #6

April 22, 2020, 10:50am

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

- Pembroke District Flood Status: the Watershed Conditions Statement – Water Safety issued last week expires today

## Weather Forecast and Update – Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Surface Water Monitoring Centre: Lak Ramanathan

- Over the next 5 days the weather will be mixed with about 15-25mm of rain, mostly on Sunday
- Wednesday: no precipitation, temperature around zero during the day and -5 to -10°C at night
- Thursday: no precipitation, high of 5°C during the day and 0°C at night
- Friday: temperature 5 to 10°C during the day and zero to -5°C at night
- Saturday: around 5mm of rain maximum, temperature 5 to 10°C during the day and below zero at night
- Sunday: 15-25mm of rain, temperature 5 to 10°C during the day and around zero at night

## Dam Updates

- Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Pembroke District: Christina Davis
  - Operations at Balaclava and Lake Dore Dams to get to summer levels and monitoring Halfway Dam
  - All lake and water levels are looking good, no concerns and heading toward summer levels
- Ottawa River – Ottawa River Regulation Secretariat: Michael Sarich
  - Below normal temperatures means that the tributary flows through most of the basin have continued to decline
  - There is no snow left in southern regions, most of the snow is gone in the top of the Madawaska and Algonquin Park areas
  - There is still significant snow in the north – precipitation continues to accumulate as snow; snowpack is decreasing 3-5mm per day but there are still a couple of metres remaining
  - The upcoming forecast is excellent with below normal temperatures and little precipitation
  - Temiskaming levels are holding flat with inflows equalling outflows

- Mattawa: water levels have been slowly declining but are stable
  - Pembroke and Lac Coulonge: water levels have declined a bit
  - Lac des Chats and east: water levels are declining
  - There is lots of reservoir space and reservoirs should be able to contain the runoff from the north
  - It would be difficult at this point to get to water levels higher than we've seen this spring
  - Expecting downstream levels and flows to decrease through the next week because the tributaries continue to decrease
  - Not expecting a significant impact from the north at this time
  - The Ottawa River is at average freshet level and flows are above summer level
- Madawaska River – Ontario Power Generation: Jordan Hughes
    - There has been a sharp decrease in inflows
    - Bark Lake is at the minimum outflow so moved to refill strategy
    - If inflows keep dropping there is a slight risk of not meeting summer minimums
    - Kamanisseg is declining accordingly with inflows and that decline can be seen along the system
    - There is not a lot of water in the system so rain would be appreciated
- Bonnechere River – Renfrew Power Generation Inc: Shawn Cameron
    - Both Round and Golden Lakes crested late last week
    - Round Lake is at a high summer level; planning to put logs in at Round Lake later this week to manage for summer levels
    - Golden Lake is decreasing slowly and is still ~8cm above the average peak
    - As of April 15<sup>th</sup>, all the snow is gone and most of the ice is off lakes
    - This is earlier than the average peak
    - At Renfrew the flows are slowly decreasing every day
    - The entire system is draining and decreasing slowly

### **Government Updates Affecting Renfrew County**

- Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management: Grant Murphy
  - Below average temperatures in far north has resulted in slow thaw which is delaying the big river break up and associated flooding
  - Great Lakes continue to be an issue due to high levels and potential for damage due to wave action

## **Municipal Updates**

- County of Renfrew CEMC: Steve Osipenko
  - No concerns
  - Water is high in Muskrat Lake near Cobden but no concerns
- Lower Tier Municipalities
  - No concerns

## **Questions/Information Requests**

- None

## **Update Renfrew County Flood Status**

- The Watershed Conditions Statement – Water Safety will be extended for the Ottawa River

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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](http://www.ontario.ca/floodforecast) (\*\*new website address\*\*)
- Ottawa River Regulation Planning Board: [www.ottawariver.ca/](http://www.ottawariver.ca/) (or call the 24hr toll free number 1-800-778-1246)
- Ontario Power Generation (Madawaska River/Ottawa River): [www.opg.com](http://www.opg.com)
- Renfrew Power Generation (Bonnechere River) water levels and freshet: [www.renfrewpg.ca/water-levels-flow-history](http://www.renfrewpg.ca/water-levels-flow-history)
- Emergency Management Ontario: [www.emergencymanagementontario.ca/english/home.html](http://www.emergencymanagementontario.ca/english/home.html)