



A NEWSLETTER FOR MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS
March 2008

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Flood Forecasting and Warning

The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority monitors and forecasts flood conditions to provide member municipalities, public agencies and watershed residents with advance notice and information so that they can respond to potential flooding and flood emergencies.

Flood forecasting is highly dependent on reliable and timely data. The RVCA has several tools to forecast spring flooding: stream gauges, snowpack measurements, weather forecasts and computer modeling.

The RVCA uses 15 stream gauges that are continuously recording water levels within the Rideau Watershed. RVCA technicians also head out twice a month to take snowpack surveys. Measuring snowpack (snow cover) helps the RVCA understand how much precipitation has fallen and what the impacts of snow melt will have on runoff and water levels. Five different snow course locations are monitored by the RVCA in the lower watershed east of Smiths Falls. Another six snow courses in the upper watershed are monitored by Rideau Canal, Parks Canada staff.

All this information, when combined with weather forecasts and computer modeling, allows RVCA staff to estimate flows and predict potential floods. Streamflow conditions and flood forecasting and warning messages are available at www.rvca.ca.

If a flood is likely to happen, the RVCA warns local municipalities and other government agencies that emergency response plans should be implemented. The RVCA will also notify the public through the media allowing individuals to take appropriate precautions.

Now is also the time that municipal flood emergency response plans are reviewed to make sure all employees, equipment and communications are in place just in case. Property owners should also assess their plans for minimizing flood-related property damages. Should a flood event occur, the first response is up to the individual homeowners. If the flood is beyond the capability of the homeowner to combat, municipal Emergency Response Plans kick-in to assist those in need.

Flood forecasting is just part of the preventative measures that Conservation Authorities take to protect the general public from flooding. The RVCA also regulates development and promotes proper land use in our local flood plains. The RVCA also works in cooperation with valley municipalities, Parks Canada – Rideau Canal and the Ministry of Natural Resources to manage the water levels throughout the system at dams and other water control structures.



Flood Vulnerable Riverside Communities

Rideau River

- in the vicinity of Brewer, Windsor, Brantwood and Strathcona Parks and areas in the vicinity of Cummings Bridge in the City of Ottawa
- parts of the rural area of the City of Ottawa including Fairmile Subdivision, areas between the Baxter Conservation Area and the Village of Kars, in the vicinity of James Island, Lorne Bridge Road, parts of the Village of Kars and the Carleton Golf & Yacht Club

- Becketts Landing, Rideau Glen, Hilly Lane and Little Chesterville and Mapleshores developments in North Grenville Township

Jock River

- parts of the Village of Richmond including areas on the tributaries (Van Gaal Drain, Flowing Creek, Bypass Drain)

Steven Creek

- parts of the Village of North Gower and areas downstream

Kemptville Creek

- parts of the Township of North Grenville between the community of Kemptville and the confluence with the Rideau River; areas upstream of the community of Oxford Mills

Tay River

- within the Town of Perth and areas upstream to Glen Tay

Worried about spring flooding?

Valley residents can get flood messages directly to their home email account. Contact Diane at diane.downey@rvca.ca to be added to our email list.

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☎ 613 692 3571
800 267 3504

📠 613 692 0831

✉ postmaster@rvca.ca

🌐 www.rvca.ca

Types of Messages

Long Range Outlook and Flood Safety Bulletins are posted early in the season (usually around March 1) outlining the watershed's conditions and reminding the public of river safety.

Flood Advisories are issued when a potential for flooding exists. Measures should be taken to prepare for a possible flood. Flood Advisories are issued and updated depending on weather and runoff conditions and will be followed by a notice of cancellation once the potential for flooding has passed.

Flood Warnings are issued when flooding is imminent or occurring. Action is required by municipalities and emergency services. Flood Warnings are issued and updated depending upon weather and runoff conditions, and will be followed by a notice of cancellation once the potential for flooding has passed.

RVCA Contact Information

Municipal/Technical Inquiries:

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Bruce Reid – Director, Watershed Science and Engineering Services, ext. 1103 or bruce.reid@rvca.ca
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Landowner Inquiries:

Kellie Adams – Information Specialist, ext. 1128 or kellie.admas@rvca.ca
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Media Inquiries:

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