

# NEWS RELEASE

## WATERSHED CONDITIONS BULLETIN

RIDEAU VALLEY, March 4, 2011 — The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) expects that flows in rivers and streams throughout the Rideau River watershed will rise as a result of rainfall and snowmelt over the weekend. Water levels are not expected to reach flood stage but the increasing levels will raise and weaken the ice sheet. Ice may break-up on smaller streams and could accumulate at bridges, culverts or other constrictions causing higher local water levels.

Weather forecasts indicate that as much as 60 millimetres of snow, freezing rain and rain may fall from Friday through to Sunday. Above freezing temperatures on Saturday can be expected to generate runoff from the rain combined with melting snow that will cause increased flows overnight. Levels are expected to decline again with cooler temperatures on Sunday.

**The expected increase in water levels will weaken the ice on local watercourses. The RVCA advises everyone to stay off the ice and to be cautious around watercourses. Parents need to supervise their children and make them aware of the danger of unstable ice and increasing flows.**

The RVCA is now in the daily planning cycle of its flood forecasting and warning program – weather forecasts and water levels are being monitored daily and flow estimates updated. Based on those estimates, either Watershed Conditions, Flood Advisory or Flood Warning messages will be issued as warranted.

The RVCA recommends that everyone living near a watercourse should inform themselves of the flood risks in their area and should review their own plans for minimizing flood-related property damages and inconveniences. Municipal officials should review their flood response plans and the usual preparations should be made to respond to emergency situations as required. The role of the Conservation Authority is to provide early warning of developing flood situations and continuous monitoring and analysis throughout the event, with a view to providing timely and useful information to municipal and provincial emergency response personnel on the expected severity and duration of the event.

If watershed residents would like to receive RVCA flood messages directly through e-mail, contact Andrea Larsen at [andrea.larsen@rvca.ca](mailto:andrea.larsen@rvca.ca) or check our messages on Twitter or our webpage at [www.rvca.ca](http://www.rvca.ca) .

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**More Information:**

Rideau Valley Conservation Authority  
613-692-3571 or 1-800-267-3504 (within 613 area code)  
contact: Patrick Larson, RVCA Senior Water Resources Technician at ext. 1110 or cell 613-227-2792

*The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority is a partnership of municipalities within the Rideau Valley watershed created under the Conservation Authorities Act to deliver a range of programs in watershed management and natural resource conservation.*