



OTTAWA RIVER WATER LEVELS
Deep River to Ottawa - Gatineau (Britannia - Lac Deschênes)

OTTAWA/GATINEAU, Tuesday May 1, 2018 — The Ottawa River Regulating Committee cautions that levels and flows on the Ottawa River between Deep River and Ottawa-Gatineau (Britannia / Lac Deschênes) continue to rise rapidly due to accelerated snowmelt and may exceed the minor flooding levels starting this Thursday in flood prone areas namely Lake Coulonge, Chats Lake and Britannia / Lac Deschênes.

River Conditions Forecast / Flooding Risk: The ongoing warm temperatures are accelerating the melt of the snowpack remaining on the central portion of the basin, which causes levels and flows to continue to increase. Rainfall is forecast on a large part of the watershed in the next few days. This may cause spring runoff to increase further into the weekend, if significant rainfall is received. The Ottawa River Regulating Committee cautions residents along the river that live in areas that are prone to flooding from Deep River down to the Britannia/Lac Deschênes area in Ottawa-Gatineau that levels may increase by another 100 to 110 cm in Lake Coulonge, 50 to 60 cm in Chats Lake, and 50 to 60 cm in Lac Deschênes by Saturday or Sunday, depending on amount of rainfall received.

Reservoir Regulation Strategy: The principal storage reservoirs in the northern part of the watershed are expected to contain the majority of the increased runoff in these areas. However, dams located in the central and southern portions of the basin are essentially “run of the river” with no significant storage capacity. As such, they cannot significantly reduce the flows and levels associated with increased spring runoff. During this critical freshet period, the Regulating Committee will take all possible actions to limit the amount of flooding and will continuously monitor conditions at all points along the river.

Further bulletins will be issued if flood risks increase.

The Ottawa River Regulating Committee works closely at all times with provincial agencies responsible for issuing flood related messages. In Ontario, Conservation Authorities and District Offices of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry issue flood related messages and information to municipalities and other key agencies involved in flood preparedness and response. Current flood related messages can be viewed on-line on the individual conservation authority websites and on the provincial flood webpage: <https://www.ontario.ca/flooding>. In Quebec, the Centre des opérations gouvernementales du Québec and the Sécurité civile collaborate with municipalities to protect residents. Monitoring of flood conditions can be viewed at <https://geoegl.msp.gouv.qc.ca/adnv2>.

If you think that your property may be at risk of flooding, **please contact your municipality.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Website: Current and forecast conditions on the Ottawa River along with conditions at the major reservoirs in the system may be obtained by consulting our website. A general four-day forecast is provided at key locations within the basin during the spring freshet period.

www.ottawariver.ca (English)

www.rivieredesoutaouais.ca (French)

Telephone: The river conditions forecast and information on current river levels may be obtained for the following locations: Lake Timiskaming, Mattawa, Pembroke, Lake Coulonge, Chats Lake, Ottawa (Britannia), Gatineau (Hull wharf), Grenville and Maniwaki, by calling the following numbers:

Ottawa-Gatineau

(613) 995-3443 English

(613) 995-3455 French

Outside the Ottawa-Gatineau
region

1-800-778-1246 English

1-800-778-1243 French

Twitter : Follow us to be notified when news releases are issued, when we begin daily updates or the general four-day forecasts on our website, or when special bulletins are posted on our website.

www.twitter.com/ORRPB (English)

www.twitter.com/CPRRO (French)

The Ottawa River Regulating Committee consists of the following agencies that are responsible for the integrated flow management of the principal reservoirs within the Ottawa River watershed: Hydro-Québec, Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques du Québec, Ontario Power Generation, and Public Services and Procurement Canada. In Ontario, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, through its associate membership with the Regulating Committee, contributes important hydrometeorological information and plays a key role in disseminating information in Ontario. The Regulating Committee issues a news release when the spring freshet season is starting on the Ottawa River and when it anticipates that river conditions on the main stem of the Ottawa River (between Lake Timiskaming outlet down to the Montreal region) could exceed significant flood levels.

For additional information, please contact Manon Lalonde (613) 996-8639 of the Ottawa River Regulation Secretariat, or write to secretariat@ottawariver.ca (English) or to bureau@ottawariver.ca (French).

Ottawa River Regulating Committee