



**OTTAWA RIVER WATER LEVELS**  
**Lake Coulonge down to Montreal Region**

**OTTAWA/GATINEAU, Tuesday April 16, 2019** — The Ottawa River Regulating Committee cautions that levels and flows on the Ottawa River from Lake Coulonge down to the Montreal region continue to rise due to precipitation received and ongoing snowmelt. With significant rainfall forecasted later this week, levels will exceed minor flood levels over the Easter weekend in flood prone areas along the Ottawa River at Lake Coulonge, Chats Lake, Britannia/Lac Deschenes, Pointe-Gatineau, Ottawa / Cumberland, Rockland, Thurso and other vulnerable areas down to the Montreal Archipelago. Based on the current weather forecast, levels could reach those observed during the period from April 18 to April 21, 2017. They will however remain below the maximum levels that were reached in May 2017.

**River Conditions Forecast / Flooding Risk:** The current snowpack throughout much of the Ottawa River basin remains at twice its normal depth for this time of the year. Meteorological forecasts indicate that two low pressure systems will be combining to produce significant rainfall (30 to 55 mm) throughout the watershed beginning on Thursday. Combined with spring runoff from the central and southern portions of the watershed, this precipitation is expected to cause a rapid and sustained increase in water levels and flows on the main stem of the Ottawa River. Levels are expected to exceed minor flood levels over the weekend in vulnerable areas along the Ottawa River with further significant flooding possible based on the amount of precipitation received. **The Regulating Committee will be reassessing forecast conditions and providing hydrological condition updates on its website daily at <http://www.ottawariver.ca/forecast.php>.**

**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 those 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.

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

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>.

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## 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 also provided at key locations within the basin during the spring freshet period.

[www.ottawariver.ca](http://www.ottawariver.ca) (English)

[www.rivieresoutaouais.ca](http://www.rivieresoutaouais.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](http://www.twitter.com/ORRPB) (English)

[www.twitter.com/CPRRO](http://www.twitter.com/CPRRO) (French)

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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 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 press 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 the Lake Timiskaming outlet down to the Montreal region) could exceed significant flood levels.

For additional information, please contact Manon Lalonde (613) 996-8639 or Michael Sarich (613) 996-8643 of the Ottawa River Regulation Secretariat, or write to [secretariat@ottawariver.ca](mailto:secretariat@ottawariver.ca) (English) or to [bureau@ottawariver.ca](mailto:bureau@ottawariver.ca) (French).

*Ottawa River Regulating Committee*