Rideau Valley Conservation Authority

Watershed Conditions Bulletin

November 30, 2010 — Present weather forecasts call for rainfall this week of 50 millimetres (mm) or more. The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority expects flows to rise quickly in small urban stream systems in Ottawa. Some out of bank flow may occur in low areas of those systems. No overbank flooding is expected along the Rideau, Tay or Jock Rivers or Kemptville Creek. Most lakes in the Rideau system have had elevated water levels for several weeks. The Rideau Canal reservoir lakes are all above targets for the time of year and levels can be expected to increase through Thursday.

Flows typically increase in the fall with wetter weather. However, the forecast amounts are higher than usual. That, coupled with little vegetation to retain water and frozen or saturated soil, will cause runoff to move quickly to watercourses so that flows can be expected to increase rapidly.

Safety issues resulting from rapidly rising and fast flowing water are a concern. Everyone is advised to be cautious around watercourses. Parents need to supervise their children and make them aware of the dangers around our rivers, creeks and streams. Anyone doing construction projects near watercourses will need to take measures to protect the worksite and the workers.

The role of the Conservation Authority is to provide early warning of developing flood situations and continuous monitoring and analysis through an event. Timely and useful information will be provided to municipal and provincial emergency response personnel on the severity and duration of the event.

The RVCA continues to monitor river flows and watershed conditions as part of its flood forecasting and warning program. Weather forecasts are monitored and estimates of expected river flows and water levels are prepared on a daily basis. Updates will be issued as required.

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More information:
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