

RE: Flood Monitoring and Mitigation Measures

Whitewater Region, Ontario - April 14, 2026

On Tuesday, April 14, 2026, the Ministry of Natural Resources – Pembroke District is advising area residents that a Flood Warning is in effect for areas along the Ottawa River most noticeably from Pembroke to Arnprior until Friday, April 17, 2026 (if not updated/replaced)

Recent rainfall combined with warm temperatures has resulted in the melting of the snowpack and lake ice. This combined with forecasted precipitation and continued warm temperatures, will result in high water conditions as the freshet runoff moves through the system. This combined effect is causing the water levels and flows of the Ottawa River to rise significantly and may exceed flood levels in flood prone locations later this week. Water levels and flows upstream of Pembroke are expected to rise but remain below flood threshold levels at this time.

Mitigation Measures

Residents that have been affected by high water and flow conditions in the past, should take necessary action to protect/secure any vulnerable property in proximity to rivers and lakes and closely monitor developing conditions and regularly check for updated messages.

Residents with private wells are reminded to take precautions if their water supply has come into contact with flood waters. The Renfrew County and District Health Unit advises that steps be taken to ensure drinking water is safe for consumption. Additional information on water safety and drop-off locations can be found at <https://www.rcdhu.com/healthy-living/emergency-preparedness/caring-for-your-well-water-during-and-after-a-flood/>

Whitewater Region Municipal Emergency Control Group

The Township's Flood Readiness Team has been meeting regularly over the past month to prepare for spring conditions. As a result of changing conditions, the Municipal Emergency Control Group (MECG) has been activated.

The Township remains in continued communications about the Spring Freshet 2026 with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR), Ontario Power Generation (OPG), the Ontario River Regulation Planning Board (ORRPB), Renfrew County and neighbouring municipalities. Further updates will be communicated as additional information becomes available.

Sand and Sandbags

The Township is actively evaluating the deployment of sandbags based on changing conditions. Further information will be communicated as it becomes available. If sand, or sandbags, are required, please contact the Township.

Road Conditions and Emergency Access

The Township's Public Works Department are monitoring roads for flooding and potential closures. Municipal511.ca will be updated to report impacted roads as they become known. The Township advises residents in low lying areas affected by flooding that access may be restricted by emergency services.

Municipal511.ca is being updated to report flooded roads as they become known. The Township advises residents in low-lying areas affected by flooding that access may be restricted by emergency services.

Single Point of Contact

The Township can be contacted at 613-646-2282 from Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and after-hours emergency at 613-646-2282, Option 9.

Anyone in need of immediate and urgent assistance, should call 911.

Information Gathering

Flood resource information, current MNRF bulletins, and relevant press releases can be found on the Township's website.

For safety, all residents should monitor weather conditions, check for updated messaging and exercise caution near fast moving water.

Ottawa River Regulation Planning Board (ORRPB)

- www.ottawariver.ca/

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)

- <https://www.lioapplications.lrc.gov.on.ca/webapps/swmc/flood-forecasting-and-warning-program/>

Ontario Power Generation (OPG)

- <https://water.opg.com/region/southeast/>

Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU)

- www.rcdhu.com/

Municipal 511

- www.municipal511.ca/

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Additional information:

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