

May 18, 2010

---

## **ONTARIO POWER GENERATION ADVISES THAT FLOWS ON THE MADAWASKA RIVER ARE LOWER THAN NORMAL FOR THIS TIME OF YEAR**

Ontario Power Generation (OPG) is advising the public that flows on the Madawaska River are 30% of normal for this time of year and are more comparable to what occurs typically in July. While water levels at Kamaniskeg Lake and from Mountain Chute to Arnprior are not significantly different from normal and are expected to be within their normal summer ranges starting on the May long weekend, the water levels between Palmer Rapids and Griffith, including the Lower Madawaska Provincial Park, are lower than normal. This is because of the low flows and natural rapids which govern water levels in this reach.

The level of Bark Lake is expected to be more than two meters below the summer minimum by the start of the May long weekend. Lower than normal runoff during the spring has prevented the refill of Bark Lake with lower than normal flows on the Madawaska River because of the sequence of weather events that occurred over most of the basin. These weather events resulted in the lowest peak flow at Bark Lake on record and an April inflow volume at Bark Lake that was only 50% of the long-term average.

In addition, during much of March, the entire Madawaska River area experienced mild daytime temperatures and below freezing temperatures at night which, combined with only 35% of normal rain in April, resulted in a significant loss of moisture to the atmosphere and also a lower than normal runoff volume. The amount of snow on March 1st was at the long term average and was not a significant factor nor was the near normal flows prior to the melt.

To help mitigate the lack of inflows, OPG terminated construction activities at the Bark Lake Dam earlier than planned to allow the refill at Bark Lake to start as soon as the runoff started to increase. OPG is also minimizing the flow out of Bark Lake in compliance with the approved Madawaska Water Management Plan (2009).

As a result, the level of Bark Lake is slowly rising. However without significant rainfall the level of Bark Lake is expected to be more than two meters below the summer minimum by the start of the May long weekend.

For information:  
Jennifer Gardiner  
Public Affairs Officer  
(613) 433-9673 ext. 3350