



Media Release

For Immediate Release

May 1, 2026

1:30 p.m.

Ottawa River and Petawawa River Flooding Update

Petawawa, ON – Officials continue to closely monitor river conditions across the Ottawa River watershed as water levels remain elevated due to ongoing spring snowmelt in the northern basin and recent rainfall.

According to the Ottawa River Regulation Planning Board, water levels and flows on the Ottawa River continue to rise slowly from Mattawa to Pembroke. Water levels in Mattawa have exceeded major flood thresholds, where streets and buildings are at risk, while locations downstream toward Pembroke are expected to remain below major flooding levels at this time.

Emergency Declaration in Mattawa

On April 30, 2026, the Town of Mattawa declared a local State of Emergency after water levels exceeded the major damage flood level and were forecast to continue rising. Flood response measures in Mattawa include berm construction, sandbagging operations, and protective measures at critical infrastructure. The declaration underscores the seriousness of current conditions across the upper Ottawa River system.

Public Safety Message

Residents are reminded to:

- Avoid flooded areas and fast-moving water
- Keep children and pets away from shorelines
- Secure loose materials and prepare flood protection where necessary
- Follow updates from local authorities and official channels

Emergency Services and Municipal staff will continue monitoring conditions closely and will provide further updates as required.

Sandbagging Locations

The Town of Petawawa has established four sandbagging stations to assist residents:

- South Shore Drive
- MacGregor Bay Trail
- Shames Road
- Melody Trail

Residents are reminded to take only what is necessary to ensure supplies remain available for others.

For public safety emergencies, call 911.

For municipal updates, residents are encouraged to monitor official communications channels.

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For further information, contact:

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Town of Petawawa Fire Department

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