River Water Levels

Canada

You can use the historical river data and when you last paddled/canoed/travelled the river to compare level/flow values with your experience.

WCA takes no responsibility for the accuracy of the information given or levels shown on the links, and anyone using this information does so at their own risk. Occasionally the links become obsolete due to government website changes. However you can use the general map and station number to locate the water level/flow data.

Using river level information inherently includes a judgment factor. What one may consider an easy or safe level, someone else might not, and vice-versa. There is also a risk that due to recent heavy rain or an opening of a dam just before the trip, the level that the canoeists encounter when they arrive is nothing like that seen on the link before they left for the trip.

Historical Hydrometric Data Map Search at

https://wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/map/index_e.html?type=historical

Use the real-time data to monitor what the current level/flow is. From this you can estimate what the levels will be on a future date you want to do the river.

Real-Time Hydrometric Data Map Search at

https://wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/map/index_e.html?type=real_time&default_marker=data_availability

Quebec Rivers real time data

https://www.cehq.gouv.qc.ca/atlas-hydroclimatique/stations-hydrometriques/index-en.htm

Southern Ontario

Ontario Power Generation

The site offers some historical and current data on various rivers

https://water.opg.com/region/southeast/

Beaver Creek

Min: 10 cms, Ideal: 22 cms and above – lots of water, good surf waves, Max: Routinely peaks in the 40's. Low bridges may become a hazard above this.

https://wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/report/real_time_e.html?stn=02HK006

Black River – Queensboro

Min: 8 cms. Ideal: 18 and above. Max: above 40.

https://wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/report/real_time_e.html?stn=02HL003

Black River Washago

Min: 7.75 m. Ideal: 8.1 to 8.7 m. Max: above 9 m take care going under bridges.

https://wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/report/real_time_e.html?stn=02EC002

Bronte Creek

Lowville to Lake Ontario. 5 cms is enough water. Strainers more hazardous at higher levels

https://wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/report/real_time_e.html?stn=02HB011

Burnt River near Burnt River

Min: 3.25 m. Ideal: 3.25 to 4.0 m. Max: 5 m spring peak.

https://wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/report/real_time_e.html?stn=02HF003

Clyde River north of Perth

Class 1 to 2.5. 9.27m ideal

Real-Time Hydrometric Data Graph for CLYDE RIVER NEAR LANARK (02KF010) [ON] - Water Level and Flow - Environment Canada

Credit River at Streetsvile

Optimal at gauge level 4.7m to 5.0m. Above that gets washed out. Have run it at 5.3m in flood. At 4.65m it becomes full on class 2 river with a bit of bumping off the bottom in places. and dodging rocks, but lots of fun!. Have run it at 4.55 m it was ok, but more bumping off the bottom.

https://wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/report/real_time_e.html?stn=02HB029

Crowe Bridge

Minimum: 8 cms for the lower hole, 40 cms for the bridge waves

Between 40 and 100, the play is mellow

Ideal: 100 cms and above are optimal play levels

Over 100 is the level that the hole (second feature) gets big.

Max: 240 cms

https://wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/report/real_time_e.html?stn=02HK003

Eels Creek

Gauge on bridge at Highway 28 picnic area and visual updates in the link below.

Location: https://maps.app.goo.gl/BYaXj8z34v5Fruku5

Runnable at level 2.0 to 5.0; river difficulty increases at higher levels.There is a painted gauge in feet under the HWY 28 take out bridge at the picnic area on the river left south side. 5 is high, 4 is med high, 3 is medium low and it gets quite boney below 2.5. Numbers on the river cam refer to this gauge.

https://rivercam.io/on/eelcreek

Elora Gorge

Summer Low, 10-40 cms: increase of water takes the bump and grind out of the river. Class 1-2

40-80 cms: Bumps the grade of most sets up a notch as the waves get bigger and the holes get stickier. Class 2-3.

80-120 cms: Big water run, with an overall grade hovering in the Class 3-4.

120+: Everything just keeps getting bigger and faster.

https://wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/report/real_time_e.html?stn=02GA016

Gull River at Norland

Low: 3.4 m summer, Ideal 3.5 to 3.8 m, high: 4.1 m peaks

https://wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/report/real_time_e.html?stn=02HF002

Head River at Sebright

Low: 8.9 m summer, Ideal 9.1 to 9.4 m, high: 9.7 m peaks

https://wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/report/real_time_e.html?stn=02EC022

Lower Madawaska/Palmers Rapids

Min: runnable down to 15 cms

Ideal: running: 30-60 cms is good, and runs to 100 are good but character of river changes to big features and less technical.

Max: 225. At higher flows many rapids become less technical and fairly washed out.

https://wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/report/real_time_e.html?stn=02KD004

Magnetawan

Summer low: 15

Idea:l 40-60 cms Class 3-4 river

Max:135 cms

https://wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/report/real_time_e.html?stn=02EA011

Mad River

Spring: 8-9 m3/sec is doable, 11.2m3/sec is a good level.

https://wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/report/real_time_e.html?stn=02ED015

Millhaven Creek near Kingston

Class 1-2, spring run, ideal 2.35m

Real-Time Hydrometric Data Graph for MILLHAVEN CREEK NEAR MILLHAVEN (02HM006) [ON] - Water Level and Flow - Environment Canada

Mississagua River

There is no online gauge for the Mississagua. There is a gauge on the bridge at the Hwy 36 takeout. Class 2-3. Normally a spring and possible fall run. Summer is typically a bump and grind unless a big rain the day before.

Mississippi River at Fergussons Falls

Class 1-2.5, Ideal 3.78m

Real-Time Hydrometric Data Graph for MISSISSIPPI RIVER AT FERGUSONS FALLS (02KF001) [ON] - Water Level and Flow - Environment Canada

Moira River at Foxboro

Low 7.5 m is bump & grind. Low to mid-8's m are ideal. Over 8.5 flow through the woods on shoreline could make boat recover danagerous in sections. At 9 m parking lot at Chisholm's Mill is flooded.

https://wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/report/real_time_e.html?stn=02HL001

Moira River – Electric Chair – Belleville

Electric Chair comes in around 7.85 on the gauge, flushes out at about 8.15

https://wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/report/real_time_e.html?stn=02HL001

Moon River

Depending on Georgian Bay water levels, the wave starts at about 1.6 m, really good above 2.6 m on the online gauge. Good flows are usually April/May with another season in late fall

The river is dam regulatated and you should contact the Bala dam site to find out what their water discharge rates are and if it is safe to paddle up and down stream to Georgian Bay.

https://wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/report/real_time_e.html?stn=02EB011

Opeongo River

Class 1-4. Narrow continuous river. No bail out or exit on the river. Once you start you have to finish at takeout.

There is no online gauge for the Opeongo. Check inflow into Bark Lake, it is usually about 1/3 Opeongo, 2/3 Upper Madawaska. Click on Eastern Ontario > Madawaska River (PDF) link. Read OPG Forecast for inflow. Note table data is the outflow, DO NOT USE.

In flow into Bark Lake; 20 cms boney min.), 45-90 cms ideal, 120 sporty max for open boats.

Hydroelectric power | Water system data portal – OPG

Ottawa River, Beachburg section

Spring levels can be as high as 26, which flush almost all the features, but give the river a BIG water feel.

8 and above is generally considered a good level for the Middle Channel

From 8 down to 5 is an in-between level with a few decent spots.

From 4 down, the big features start to form, with the best main-channel play levels being between 2 – -1

http://www.shaggydesigns.com/gauge/ottawa.htm

Ottawa River, Champlain and other town playspots

The waves are best between 58.4 and 58.7 on the Britannia Gauge. As levels fall the waves further downstream become shallower and there is the potential of hitting rocks.

https://wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/report/real_time_e.html?stn=02KF005

Oxtongue River

Minimum: 10 cms

Ideal: 15-20

30 cms: very beefy. Hogs trough is a full-on class 5+, Elbow develops river-wide holes.

https://wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/report/real_time_e.html?stn=02EB014

Petawawa, town run

The town run of the Pet offers some great class 3-4 big-water paddling in the spring, with 2 big class 4s and a mix of class 3s.

https://wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/report/real_time_e.html?stn=02KB001

Rouge River, Toronto

Class 1-2. Start at Milne Conservation, end at Lake Ontario. Level 3.38 m doable, but more would be better. 3.6m is ideal.

https://wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/report/real_time_e.html?stn=02HC022

Salmon River

Class 1 to 2.5. Two class 4's can be portaged. One of the mellower Hwy 7 spring time runs

https://wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/report/real_time_e.html?stn=02HM010

Sixteen Mile Creek

Fourth Line to Lake Ontario

At 1.7m, Cl I-II, At 2.0m, Cl II-III – ideal, At 2.2m, Cl IV flood level – strainers, logjams and bridge hazards

https://wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/report/real_time_e.html?stn=02HB004

Skootamata River

Class 2/3 with one 4. The Skoot is typical of other Hwy 7 spring runs, with narrow drops through small gorges mixed with easier rapids and flatwater.

https://wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/report/real_time_e.html?stn=02HL004

Trent-Severn Waterway

Website information at

www.pc.gc.ca/en/lhn-nhs/on/trentsevern/info/infonet

Water levels Interactive Map at

https://www.pc.gc.ca/apps/WaterLevels/?siteId=100419&lat=44.71941044950733&lng=-78.77162933349 61&z=9

Upper Madawaska River

Class 3/4/5 The most difficult section of the Madawaska, the Upper Mad can be paddled in several sections, with the lower section accessible by an old rail bed. The section from Whitney to Hermans chute is a class 3/4 run with longer rapids than many southern Ontario runs. Below Hermans are several large, difficult drops, including the seldom-run Little Niagara.Flow : approx 37 cms coming into Bark Lake (estimate based on outflow and lake level)

There is no online gauge for the Upper Madawaska. If you can find out the inflow into Bark Lake, it is usually about 1/3 Opeongo, 2/3 Upper Madawaska. Click on Eastern Ontario Madawaska River

https://www.opg.com/powering-ontario/our-generation/hydro/river-system-data/

Upper Petawawa River

The Upper Pet is fairly steep section with 26 rapids varying from class 3-5. It varies in nature from a technical run at flows from 25 cms down, to a bigwater run at higher levels.

Low: 13 cms (2.3 m online gauge)

Ideal: 25 cms and up (2.45 m online gauge)

High: Unknown. It does get significantly harder at flows above 40 cms, with more of a bigwater feel.

The online gauge is located in the town of Petawawa and is not related to the visual gauge on the highway bridge. Rain in Algonquin park will not affect the Pet town gauge for a couple of days, so there seems to be 2 day lag time between the online gauge and the actual level on the upper Pet. Especially at high, spring flows, the above gauge reading is probably best considered a rough estimate. The 2 day lag time could mean a difference, up or down, or 50 cms

https://wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/report/real_time_e.html?stn=02KB001

USA

New York State

Black River/Hole Bros/Route 3 wave: Watertown, NY

Min suggested level: 1000 cfs Max suggested level: 6000 cfs (Water town to Dexter)

Min suggested level: 2000 cfs Max suggested level: 5000 cfs (Route 3 Wave)

https://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River/view/river-detail/3595/flow

Moose River: Old Forge NY

The Moose has 3 distinct sections: Middle, Lower, and Bottom. Great descriptions and rapid-rapid analyisis can be found at the link above.

https://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River/view/river-detail/1352/main