

SPRING FLOODING IN THE LAKE CHAMPLAIN RICHELIEU RIVER BASIN

FACT

National, provincial and state agencies provide information on immediate flood risks, preventative actions and strategies to lessen the impacts of flooding.

The US National Weather Service provides weather watches when conditions are right for severe weather. Warnings indicate that a flood is happening and direct people to take immediate action to protect themselves, others and their property.

Visit www.weather.gov/nerfc to receive updates from the Northeast River Forecast Centre or www.weather.gov/safety/flood for safety tips and resources. View current water levels and forecasts for Lake Champlain at <https://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph.php?wfo=btv&gage=roun6>

In Canada, Sécurité Publique Québec [<https://www.securitepublique.gouv.qc.ca/en/civil-protection/floods-information-citizens.html>] provides bilingual resources to prepare for flooding, as well as current information, in French only, on high-risk locations [<https://geoinondations.gouv.qc.ca/>] in Quebec and water levels [<https://www.securitepublique.gouv.qc.ca/home.html>].

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation offers information on preventing flood damage: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/311.html>

The Vermont Department of Public Safety offers tips on how to prepare and respond to floods: <https://vem.vermont.gov/preparedness/floods>

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In the spring, rain and snowmelt can cause water levels to rise in lakes and rivers. Flooding occurs when lakes and rivers become overwhelmed and water spreads over adjacent land. In the past several decades, average water levels have increased, but the incidence of flooding has not increased appreciably.

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Following extensive flooding in the basin in 2011, the governments of Canada and the United States requested that the International Joint Commission study the causes and impacts of flooding in the Lake Champlain-Richelieu River system. In 2021, the binational study will recommend measures to reduce the impacts of future flooding in the watershed.



Port Kent ferry dock on New York side of Lake Champlain during minor flooding in 2019.
Photo Credit: Eric Day

Do you have a question for the Lake Champlain-Richelieu River Study Board?

Send us an email at lcrr@ijc.org and we'll do our best to answer it.

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