



A News Release  
from the  
**Cataraqui Region  
Conservation Authority**

January 18, 2018

**CRCA ISSUES A WATERSHED CONDITIONS STATEMENT – FLOOD OUTLOOK**

**KINGSTON ON** – The Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA) has issued a Watershed Conditions – Flood Outlook Statement today.

The combination of rain and melting snow that occurred between January 11 – 13 saw some areas receiving over 60 mm of precipitation. This caused creek and lake levels to rise very quickly last weekend. Ice jams, dams, and obstructions have been reported and observed causing nuisance flooding of low lying areas and local road closures in some areas.

Water managers have had to increase outflows to spring levels in some cases to manage impacts on lakes. Because of these conditions there may be damage to structures along inland lakeshores (e.g. when the ice goes out in the spring).

Water control structures are passing high volumes of water in response to this rainfall and rapid snow melt. Ice conditions are expected to be very unsafe due to the higher than normal flows for this time of year.

Current weather forecasts are calling for daytime temperatures to rise above zero degrees Celsius over the next five days, although a rapid melting of snow and ice is not anticipated for our region. Widespread flooding is NOT expected, but the projected 10 to 25 mm of rain predicted for Jan. 22 and 23 is considered to be significant.

With higher than normal water levels and flows on area creeks and lakes, the expected rainfall will likely cause many to begin rising again. As with last weekend, ice jams, dams and obstructions on creeks could lead to localized flooding of low-lying areas.

The CRCA is urging residents to exercise caution around lakes and streams, stay off the ice, away from unstable or slippery creek banks and shorelines, as well as any dams and outflow channels.

CRCA does not measure ice thickness for advising the public about ice conditions for recreational activities. Ice conditions can vary considerably from one waterbody to the next and within a single waterbody.

In urban areas, catchbasins and storm drains that may be covered by snow, should be cleared to reduce urban ponding.

CRCA staff will continue to monitor conditions and forecasts, and will update statements as needed. This Watershed Conditions Statement will remain in effect until Thursday, February 1, 2018.

**Newsrooms please note:**

A watershed conditions statement is **NOT** a flood warning. Its purpose is to raise public awareness about a change or potential change in watershed conditions. See below for watershed conditions terminology:

**Watershed Conditions Statement:** general notice of weather conditions that could pose a risk to personal safety or which have the potential to lead to flooding. There are two variations of these:

- Watershed Conditions Statement – Water Safety: High flows, unsafe banks, melting ice or other factors could be dangerous for recreational users such as anglers, canoeists, hikers, children, pets, etc. Flooding is not expected.



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- Watershed Conditions Statement – Flood Outlook: Early notice of the potential for flooding based on weather forecasts calling for heavy rain, snow melt, high wind or other conditions that could lead to high runoff, cause ice jams, lakeshore flooding or erosion.

**Flood Watch:** Flooding is possible in specific watercourse or municipalities. Municipalities, emergency services and individual landowners in flood-prone areas should prepare.

**Flood Warning:** Flooding is imminent or already occurring in specific watercourses or municipalities. Municipalities and individuals should take action to deal with flood conditions. This may include road closures and evacuations.

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