



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

February 16, 2018

CRCA ISSUES A WATERSHED CONDITIONS STATEMENT – WATER SAFETY

KINGSTON ON – The Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA) has issued a Watershed Conditions Statement – Water Safety today.

The weather forecast for next week predicts that temperatures will remain above 0°C from Monday morning (February 19) through Wednesday evening (February 21). Snowmelt is expected, and precipitation in the form of rain is forecasted for Monday and Tuesday with a total accumulation of approximately 25 to 35 mm. There is also a chance of rain on Wednesday. These conditions are expected to increase water levels and flow rates in creeks and inland lakes for the next few weeks.

Widespread flooding is NOT expected. However, weaker ice conditions in the Cataraqui Region can be expected. The break-up of creek ice associated with the warmer temperatures and changing water levels could potentially block culverts or form ice jams at constrictions in the creeks, causing localized flooding in low-lying areas. In urban areas, catchbasins and storm drains may be covered by snow or ice and should be cleared to reduce urban ponding.

Water managers are conducting operations to minimize the effects of this rainfall and pass flows down through the systems. CRCA staff is urging residents to stay away from fast flowing watercourses, as well as any dams and outflow channels and to exercise caution around lakes, creeks and stay off the ice. Creek banks and lake shorelines may be slippery, increasing the chance of falling in.

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.

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, March 8, 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.
- 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.



CATARAQUI REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
1641 Perth Road, P.O. Box 160 Glenburnie, ON K0H 1S0
Phone: 613-546-4228 Toll-free: 1-877-956-CRCA (2722)
Email: info@crca.ca Website: www.crca.ca

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.

Media contact for more information:

Krista Fazackerley, Supervisor, Communications and Education
kfazackerley@crca.ca – (613) 546-4228 ext. 243

Municipal contact for more information

Shawn Fairbank, Technologist, Water Resources
sfairbank@crca.ca – (613) 546-4228 ext. 284

Russell Wiginton, Technologist, Water Resources
rwiginton@crca.ca – (613) 546-4228 ext. 252

Steve Knapton, Coordinator, Operations Planning
sknapton@crca.ca – (613) 546-4228 ext. 223

Toll-free (613 area code) 1-877-956-CRCA (2722)