



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

January 10, 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 warmer temperatures and rainfall forecast for Thursday and Friday this week is expected to cause increased flows and water levels on creeks and inland lakes. Forecasts vary on the expected precipitation amounts, but it looks like periods of rain Thursday and rain changing to snow on Friday as temperatures drop considerably, back down to the minus 10°C range.

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 temps and changing water levels could potentially block culverts, causing localized drainage issues. In urban areas, catchbasins and storm drains that may be covered by snow, should be cleared to reduce urban ponding.

The CRCA is urging residents to exercise caution around lakes and streams, stay off the ice, away from unstable creek banks, as well as any dams and outflow channels. Stream banks and lake shores 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, January 25, 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

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

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