December 12, 2019

CRCA ISSUES A WATERSHED CONDITIONS STATEMENT – WATER SAFETY FOR INLAND LAKES AND STREAMS

Attention: Brockville and the Buell’s and Butlers Creeks

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

The rainfall forecast for Saturday, Dec. 14 predicts that 25 to 35 mm or more of rain could fall in the Cataraqui Region. A level of uncertainty remains as to the total rainfall amounts and distribution. Currently soils are saturated and/or partly frozen and there is a small amount of snow cover hence a rainfall event could result in a greater quantity of runoff than in summer conditions. Higher than normal flows are expected in area watercourses and through dams for Saturday and into next week. Should the forecasted amounts occur, there is the potential for inundation of low-lying areas.

Water managers continue to operate area dams to pass flows down through the system to achieve winter water levels. Inland lake levels may rise for several days following this significant rainfall event.

Widespread flooding is NOT expected at this time. However, if you witness flooding and/or require assistance your first point of contact is the local municipality. The CRCA wants to know what residents are seeing and invite you to fill in a brief questionnaire on our website, crca.ca, under watershed management, flood forecasting and warning https://crca.ca/watershed-management/watershed-information/flood/.

There is a concern for the City of Brockville within the Buell’s and Butlers Creek watersheds. Based on monitoring and observations of similar storm events in this area, we know that the Buell’s and Butlers Creek systems produce runoff rapidly reacting quickly even from the start of a rainfall event.

CRCA is urging caution around all dams (inflow and outflow channels) and fast flowing watercourses. Respect the hazards in these areas by obeying all warning signs, keeping away from booms, buoys, and barriers. Stay well back from the edge of waters above and below dams.
and hydroelectric stations. Creek banks and lake shorelines may be slippery, increasing the chance of falling in.

Staff will continue to monitor conditions and forecasts and will update statements as needed. This Watershed Conditions Statement will remain in effect until Monday, December 16, 2019 until 11:59 PM.

For up to date flooding information, please visit the CRCA’s flood forecasting and information page at www.crca.ca/flood.

See below for watershed conditions terminology:

**Normal:** No flood conditions exist

Watershed Conditions Statement – Water Safety: High flows, unsafe banks, melting ice or other factors that 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.

**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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