Cataraqui Conservation to Close Conservation Areas Effective April 8

Kingston – Cataraqui Conservation values the health and wellbeing of its staff, volunteers, visitors and clients, and under the current circumstances, has broadened and enhanced a number of practical steps put in place to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Most significantly, as of 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, April 8, ALL Conservation Areas and trails owned by Cataraqui Conservation will be CLOSED to the public until further notice. These closures extend to two Lake Ontario boat ramps, Hay Bay in the Town of Greater Napanee and Henry St. in the City of Brockville. This is in line with other closures in those respective municipalities. Inland lake boat ramps and water access points will remain open at this time.

Cataraqui Conservation continues to monitor the COVID-19 situation in Ontario closely and remains committed to working with our local municipalities, public health officials, and the community to do our part to ‘flatten the curve.’ The difficult decision to close trails and properties was made after staff observed a significant increase in visitor traffic to our conservation areas. While many visitors have respected physical distancing measures, staff have observed and the public has reported concerns that some visitors are disregarding these protocols and gathering in groups larger than the provincially mandated five individuals.

“The next several weeks are critical. We encourage residents to stay at home and practice social distancing,” said Katrina Furlanetto, General Manager. “We sincerely hope that by taking these steps now, everyone can get back to enjoying these properties, trails and facilities as soon as possible.”

As previously announced, all public events at our Conservation Areas were cancelled and the following closures are still in place and have been EXTENDED to May 4, 2020.

- The Cataraqui Conservation Administration Office (1641 Perth Road, Kingston) is remaining closed to the public until May 4. Staff will still be available during regular business hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. by telephone or email.

- The Outdoor Centre at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area and the Nature Centre at the Mac Johnson Wildlife Area in Brockville remain closed to the general public until May 4. This includes all education and weekend programs.
• Programs and services, including Cataraqui Conservation’s flood forecasting and warning, dam operations and planning and permitting remain active, with staff available by telephone or email.

Community members are asked to utilize phone or e-mail if they need to contact or correspond with staff during this time. Please note that response and processing times may be delayed. Permits or other hard copy documents can be dropped in the mail slot at the Administration Office or emailed to the appropriate staff member.

Cataraqui Conservation continues to monitor this developing situation to prioritize the wellness and safety of our staff, colleagues, and watershed residents. Please check our website at www.crca.ca/coronavirus, for updates. Your patience, support and cooperation are appreciated.

-30-

For further information contact:
Krista Fazackerley, Supervisor Communications & Education
613-546-4228 ext. 243
kfazackerley@crca.ca