



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

May 8, 2017

FLOOD WARNING FOR LAKE ONTARIO & ST. LAWRENCE RIVER

KINGSTON ON – Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA) advises municipalities and the public that the Surface Water Monitoring Centre of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry has updated their Provincial Flood statement today May 8, 2017 at 12:00 PM.

Water levels for the beginning of May on Lake Ontario began as being approximately 55 cm higher than average. The water level measured at Kingston is currently 75.7 metres which is just 0.3 metres below the Lake Ontario 100-year flood elevation of 76 metres. Current levels are at or above record highs for this time of year.

The current level of the St. Lawrence River measured at Brockville is 75.5 metres. This is just 0.3 metres below the 100-year level of 75.8 metres in that area along the River.

Water levels on Lake Ontario and the upper St. Lawrence River are managed by the International Lake Ontario – St. Lawrence River Board. According to Rob Caldwell, *Canadian Regulation Representative, International Lake Ontario – St. Lawrence River Board*, the Board has begun to increase the outflows of the Moses-Saunders Dam. “This will help lower levels on the River over the next few days,” says Caldwell. “Levels may be slow to drop initially, and may in fact rise a bit more at first”.

Shoreline flooding, beach submersion, and wave-driven erosion has been reported. Residents in flood prone and low lying areas should anticipate further water level increases through May, and possibly into June if wet weather continues. Flooding and erosion damage from high waves is possible during periods of strong winds. The CRCA is urging residents to pay close attention to forecasts for approaching storms with high winds from the southeast, south or southwest.

Property owners are also reminded to turn off electricity to buildings or structures in flood prone or low lying areas and to move gasoline and other chemicals to higher ground. Any work along shorelines (e.g. placement of fill, armour stone, etc.) will require a permit from the CRCA. Call our office or visit our website (www.crca.ca) for further information.

Municipalities have been advised and are assessing the situation to determine appropriate response.

For further information on the Lake Ontario Flood Watch visit www.ontario.ca/flooding

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

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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