



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

May 10, 2017

FLOODING UPDATE FOR THE CATARAQUI REGION

KINGSTON ON – The Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA) has updated its Flood Statements today for Buells/Butlers Creek in Brockville, Inland Lakes, and Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River.

Flood Watch for Buells/Butlers Creek – Downgraded to Water Safety

The Flood Watch for Buells/Butlers Creek and the Detention Basin (Between Laurier Blvd. and the Memorial Centre) in Brockville has been downgraded to a Watershed Conditions Statement – Water Safety. CRCA staff has been conducting operations to lessen the impacts of the recent rainfall however, water levels remain high. Levels will continue to fall over the next few days; flooding is not expected. The CRCA is urging residents to exercise caution in this area, especially downstream of the Detention Basin, and to stay away from the cold, deep, fast flowing water.

Flood Warning Update – Inland Lakes and Streams

Most of the streams and creeks in the Cataraqui Region have peaked and are starting to fall. However, many inland lakes including those in the Gananoque and Cataraqui River watersheds are generally very high, and well above 2014 levels in the Cataraqui River system. High levels are expected to remain for several days and could potentially rise further with another 15 – 20 mm of rain forecast for the coming weekend. Water managers continue to conduct operations and work together to minimize effects and pass flows down through the system.

Specific Locations where water levels are exceptionally high include*:

Cataraqui River Watershed – Buck Lake, Canoe Lake, Colonel By Lake, Cranberry Lake, Devil Lake, Dog Lake, Kingsford Lake, Loughborough Lake, Newboro Lake, Opinicon Lake, Sand Lake.

Gananoque River Watershed – Charleston Lake, Delta, Gananoque Lake, Graham Lake, Lyndhurst Lake, Marble Rock Road.

Millhaven Creek Watershed – Sydenham Lake

*connected lakes and watercourses associated with the above list may also be affected.

Flood Warning Update – Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River

Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River remain under a Flood Warning. The International Lake Ontario – St. Lawrence River Board is continuing operations and increasing outflow to minimize flooding and erosion impacts when possible. The Board has indicated that the current water levels are 6 centimetres higher than the previous record for this time of the year, which was set in 1973. They have indicated that water levels may continue to rise as a result of rain, but not at the rates of increase seen in recent days.

The water level measured today at Kingston is currently 75.7 metres which is just 0.3 metres below the Lake Ontario 100-year flood elevation of 76.0 metres. 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.

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



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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 Lake Ontario 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.

CRCA staff will continue to monitor conditions, forecasts, and update statements as needed. This Flood Warning and Water Safety Statement will remain in effect until Monday May 15, 2017.

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.

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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