



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

June 2, 2017

FLOOD WARNING EXTEND FOR LAKE ONTARIO & ST. LAWRENCE RIVER

KINGSTON ON – The Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA) has extended the Flood Warning today for Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River.

Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River remain under a Flood Warning due to record high water levels. The International Lake Ontario – St. Lawrence River Board is continuing operations and maintaining high outflow volumes to minimize flooding and erosion impacts when possible.

The Board reports that the average water level for Lake Ontario was 75.87 metres (m) as of May 31, 2017. This is 5 cm above the record high of 75.82 m for this time of year set in 1952, and remains above the highest water levels observed since recording began in 1918. Lake Ontario's provisional monthly mean water level was 75.80 m in May. This is the highest monthly mean in any month since 1918.

Lake wide average water levels have been fairly stable over the past 10 days; however, levels may vary locally due to changing wind patterns. The Board predicts that water levels will start to gradually decline at some point over the next several weeks.

The water level measured today at Kingston is currently 75.8 m which is just 0.2 m below the Lake Ontario 100-year flood elevation of 76.0 m. The current level of the St. Lawrence River measured at Brockville is 75.5 m. This is just 0.3 m below the 100-year level of 75.8 metres in that area along the River.

The CRCA is urging residents to pay close attention to forecasts for approaching storms with high winds from the southeast, south or southwest, and note that the above mentioned 100-year flood elevations do not include wave uprush (increased water levels onto the shoreline resulting from high waves). Flooding and erosion damage from high waves is possible during periods of strong winds.

For up-to-date Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River water levels in your area visit the following Fisheries and Oceans Canada links:

<http://tides-marees.gc.ca/eng/Station/Month?type=1&sid=13988&tz=EST&pres=0&date=2017%2F05%2F31>

(Kingston) – 613-544-9264 for real time water levels

<http://tides-marees.gc.ca/eng/Station/Month?type=1&sid=14400&tz=EST&pres=0&date=2017%2F05%2F31>

(Brockville) – 613-345-0095 for real time water levels

For up-to-date wind and wave forecasts visit the following links to marine forecasts:

http://weather.gc.ca/marine/forecast_e.html?mapID=11&siteID=08203 (Eastern Lake Ontario)

http://weather.gc.ca/marine/forecast_e.html?mapID=11&siteID=07200 (Kingston to Cornwall)

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. They can be contacted to inquire about physical/material assistance (e.g. sand and sand bags).

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



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For up to date flooding information, 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 will remain in effect until Friday June 16, 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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