



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

May 26, 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 increasing outflow to minimize flooding and erosion impacts when possible. The current outflow volume at Cornwall (10,200 cubic metres per second) equals the maximum outflow observed since recording began at that location in 1900.

The Board reports that the average water level for Lake Ontario was 75.86 metres (m) as of May 25, 2017. This is 8 cm above the record high of 75.78 m for this time of year set in 1952, and remains above the highest water levels observed since recording began in 1918.

Lake wide average water levels have been fairly stable over the past week; however, levels may rise over the next few days depending on the amount of rain received. Level increases are expected to be much less than seen since the start of April. 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 75.4 m. This is just 0.4 m below the 100-year level of 75.8 metres in that area along the River.

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

Residents in flood prone and low lying areas may experience further water level increases through the end of May, and 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, and note that the above mentioned 100-year flood elevations do not include wave uprush (increased water levels resulting from high waves).

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



CATARAQUI REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
1641 Perth Road, P.O. Box 160 Glenburnie, ON K0H 1S0
Phone: 613-546-4228 Toll-free: 1-877-956-CRCA (2722)
Email: info@crca.ca Website: www.crca.ca

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 2, 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.

Contact for more information:

Krista Fazackerley, Communications Coordinator

Toll-free (613 area code)

(613) 546-4228 ext. 243
kfazackerley@crca.ca
1-877-956-CRCA (2722)