



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

March 7, 2016

CRCA ISSUES A WATERSHED CONDITIONS STATEMENT – WATER SAFETY

Kingston – The Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA) issued a Watershed Conditions Statement – Water Safety today.

With temperatures warming up this week, area residents are urged to stay clear of any ice-covered surfaces, open waterways, ponds, lakes and ditches.

The forecast warmer weather is expected to lead to snow and ice melting, meaning creeks will begin to rise and flows will increase, particularly during the day. The possibility of rain later in the week could speed up the melt, and increase water levels and flows. Increased flows may lead to ice breakup, and the potential for ice jams at constrictions in creeks such as bridges and culverts.

Widespread flooding is **NOT** expected as a result of the forecast. The higher creek levels may cause flooding of low lying areas.

Stream and river banks will be slippery, water currents will get stronger, and the water itself will remain dangerously cold. The CRCA is urging residents to exercise extra caution outdoors around lakes and streams, and to stay off of the thinning ice cover and away from the cold, deep, fast flowing watercourses, and dams. The dangers of drowning and hypothermia are heightened at this time of year because of the unpredictability of water flows, ice thickness and near-freezing temperatures.

This Watershed Conditions Statement will remain in effect until March 11, 2016.

Newsrooms please note:

A watershed conditions statement is **NOT** a flood warning. Its purpose is to raise public awareness about a change or potential change in watershed conditions. 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.

Media contact for more information:

Sean Watt, Water Resources Engineer

(613) 546-4228 ext. 241

Shawn Fairbank, Watershed Engineering Technologist

(613) 546-4228 ext. 284

Toll-free (613 area code)

1-877-956-CRCA (2722)



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