



A News Release
from the
Cataraqui Region
Conservation Authority

April 30, 2017

**CRCA ISSUES LAKE ONTARIO/ST. LAWRENCE RIVER FLOOD OUTLOOK STATEMENT
WIND DRIVEN FLOODING AND EROSION POTENTIAL**

Kingston – The Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA) has issued a Flood Outlook Statement today for Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River shoreline.

The water levels on Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River remain well above average for this time of year. A storm event will be moving through the CRCA area over Sunday, Monday and Tuesday.

The forecast includes the potential for heavy rainfall, but the larger concern with this event is not flooding of streams and inland lakes, but with the potential for high waves along the Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River shoreline.

The winds associated with this storm event are expected to be in the range of speeds that will cause shoreline damage and wave uprush flooding along the Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River shoreline. The winds are expected to start from the north-east, but switch to south-east, south, and south-west (the critical directions for our area) by Monday morning, and continue through Tuesday.

High Lake Ontario levels typically last for weeks, or months, and it is possible that these higher than normal levels will last well in to the summer season, and all subsequent high wind events may cause similar conditions.

Widespread flooding is **NOT** expected as a result of current conditions.

This Watershed Conditions Statement will remain in effect until Wednesday May 3, 2017.

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.

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