



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

April 5, 2017

CRCA ISSUES WATERSHED CONDITIONS STATEMENT – FLOOD OUTLOOK

Kingston – The Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA) has issued a Watershed Conditions Statement – Flood Outlook today.

CRCA watersheds have received as much as 50 mm of rain on Monday and Tuesday causing area streams to rise considerably. Urban streams peaked on Tuesday and have been falling since then, while the larger rural streams have been peaking today and are starting to recede. Area lakes have been rising steadily. Water control structure managers have been proactively operating structures and moving water between lakes to prepare for the runoff, and any additional rainfall, to minimize the potential for flooding.

Current conditions are typical of spring rain events, and low-lying areas are expected to experience flooding based on the rising levels.

There is considerable rain forecast throughout the day for Thursday and into the morning on Friday (potentially an additional 50 mm), and that is expected to result in rapid increases in stream levels and lake levels. Stream levels are expected to rise to above normal levels, and inundated areas are expected to exceed a normal spring event. The urban streams will likely peak late on Thursday, while the rural streams will not peak until Saturday or Sunday.

Lake levels have been steadily rising over the last few days with the rainfall and are expected to continue to rise through the weekend, stabilizing early next week. Flooding is expected to be greater than a usual spring event.

There is still ice on some lakes, and the changing water levels will lead to ice breakup. The potential still exists for ice jams at constrictions such as bridges and culverts.

Widespread flooding is **NOT** expected as a result of the coming rainfall. Watershed Managers will continue to monitor conditions and forecasts, and update statements as needed. The removal of items stored in the floodplains of area watercourses and lakes is recommended.

Stream and river banks are slippery, water currents are strong, and the water itself remains 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, as well as any 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 April 10, 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.



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- 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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