



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

April 10, 2017

FLOOD WATCH STATEMENT UPDATE

Kingston – The Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA) has updated their Flood Watch Statement today.

With minimal rain since last Thursday, stream levels across the CRCA have been falling steadily since Friday, and are now much closer to normal spring levels.

Over the weekend lake levels continued to rise, as expected, but have been slowing down and rising at a much slower rate each day. Several lakes have reached their peak and are now starting to fall while others are at peak levels and continuing to hold. A few lakes are continuing to slowly rise.

The current forecast shows the possibility of thunderstorms Monday night/Tuesday morning and showers moving into our area later in the week. If those occur only as showers it is expected to have minimal impact on stream flows and will likely cause lake levels to hold at their current levels longer. If we do experience thunderstorms, it may have a larger impact on lake levels and cause them to rise further.

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

Some specific locations where the water levels are exceptionally high include:

- Sydenham Lake – now starting to fall
- Loughborough Lake - holding
- Cranberry Lake - holding
- Gananoque River – the reach between Marble Rock Dam and Gananoque Dam
- Gananoque Lake - holding
- Charleston Lake – still slowly rising
- Black Creek/Wiltse Creek – Russell Road between the bridges over these creeks

A reminder to everyone that stream and river banks are slippery, water currents are strong, and the water itself remains dangerously cold. The CRCA urges residents to exercise caution outdoors around lakes and streams, and to stay off the thinning ice cover and away from 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 Flood Watch Statement will remain in effect until Friday April 14, 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.

Media contact for more information:

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