



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

April 4, 2017

CRCA ISSUES WATERSHED CONDITIONS STATEMENT – WATER SAFETY

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

The CRCA watersheds have received around 40 mm of rain over the last 24 hours, much of it falling through the night and early morning. This has resulted in increased flows and levels. Urban creeks have risen very quickly, and will likely peak today, and start to fall again. Larger rural creeks will take a few days to peak, and then start to fall. Lake levels typically take a few days to peak as well. With the amount of rain overnight, we are expecting typical spring time inundation of low lying areas close to streams and lakes over the next two days.

There is still a considerable amount of rain in the forecast for the rest of the week, and if we receive this rain, additional areas of flooding may occur, including shoreline areas around the lakes of the Cataraqui and Gananoque River watersheds. Water Control Structure managers have been proactively moving water between lakes to prepare for the forecast rainfall, and to minimize the potential for flooding.

Most of the snow in the CRCA watersheds has melted, and this should not be a factor in the potential for flooding. There is still ice on some lakes, and the changing water levels will lead to ice breakup, and the potential still exists for ice jams at constrictions in creeks such as bridges and culverts.

Even with the rainfall overnight, widespread flooding is **NOT** expected. But with additional rain, flooding that is already occurring in certain areas is expected to continue and even increase. 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 caution outdoors around lakes and streams, and to stay off 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 7, 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.



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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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