



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

February 18, 2016

**CRCA ISSUES A WATERSHED CONDITIONS STATEMENT – WATER SAFETY
(SPECIFICALLY FOR MILLHAVEN CREEK)**

KINGSTON ON – The Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA) has issued a Watershed Conditions Statement today.

The cold temperatures we've been experiencing recently have caused the formation of ice dams along parts of Millhaven Creek. Ice dams along Millhaven Creek are a relatively common occurrence that restricts the creek's ability to convey flows at normal levels, causing them to elevate. The affected area is the vicinity of County Road 4 and Millhaven Road. This includes the area immediately west (downstream) and a stretch of the creek east of County Road 4 (upstream).

Residents may notice inundation of low lying areas next to creek banks as the creek tries to cope with the flows.

The forecast rainfall and warmer temperatures this coming weekend are not expected to generate considerable runoff. The current snow pack will likely soak up much of the rain and consolidate somewhat. The warmer temperature may however weaken ice along creek banks increasing the potential for ice jams to occur at restrictions (e.g. ice dams), further elevating creek levels.

Widespread flooding is **NOT** expected at this time.

Local residents are reminded to stay off the ice and away from the unstable creek banks.

CRCA staff will continue to monitor conditions and forecasts, and update our messaging to suit.

This statement is valid until: Wednesday, February 24, 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.

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