



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

February 21, 2017

CRCA ISSUES A WATERSHED CONDITIONS STATEMENT – WATER SAFETY

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

With temperatures continuing above zero this week, area residents are urged to stay clear of any ice-covered surfaces, open waterways, ponds, lakes and ditches.

The forecast warmer weather is expected to lead to snow and ice melting, meaning creeks will begin to rise and flows will increase, particularly during the day. The possibility of rain later in the week could speed up the melt, and increase water levels and flows rapidly. Increased flows may lead to ice breakup, and the potential for ice jams at constrictions in creeks such as bridges and culverts.

Widespread flooding is NOT expected as a result of the forecast. The higher creek levels may cause flooding of low lying areas.

Stream and river banks will be slippery, water currents will get stronger, and the water itself will remain dangerously cold. The CRCA is urging residents to exercise caution outdoors around lakes and streams, and to stay off of the thinning ice cover and away from the cold, deep, fast flowing watercourses, and 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.

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

This statement is valid until: March 1, 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.

Media contact for more information:

Sean Watt, Water Resources Engineer
Shawn Fairbank, Watershed Engineering Technologist
Toll-free (613 area code)

swatt@crca.ca
(613) 546-4228 ext. 284
1-877-956-CRCA (2722)



CATARAQUI REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
1641 Perth Road, P.O. Box 160 Glenburnie, ON K0H 1S0
Phone: 613-546-4228 Toll-free: 1-877-956-CRCA (2722)
Email: info@crca.ca Website: www.crc.ca