



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

February 23, 2016

**CRCA ISSUES A WATERSHED CONDITIONS STATEMENT – WATER SAFETY**

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

A brief winter storm is expected to pass through the region on Wednesday and Thursday (Feb 24 & 25) bringing a mix of precipitation. Forecast models suggest that precipitation may begin as snow, change to rain, then back to snow before the system departs. Forecast highs for the next two days range from 1 - 7°C, with rainfall amounts from 20 to 45 mm, and snow accumulation from 3 to 20 cm.

Current creek levels in the region are at or above normal for this time of year.

The amount of runoff expected from this storm will be dependent on temperature and the type of precipitation. Although temperatures and precipitation amounts are not certain, creeks are expected to respond in the form of increased levels and flows. Melting snow is expected to contribute to runoff volumes.

Widespread flooding is **NOT** expected at this time, however if temperatures and rainfall amounts fall into the upper ranges or above what has been forecast flooding of low lying areas next to creek banks may occur.

Rising creek and lake levels have the potential to further degrade creek and lake ice that continues to be unstable and weak. The potential exists for ice chunks to be carried downstream and collect on obstructions (culverts, bridges, etc.), potentially causing localized flooding.

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

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

This statement is valid until: Monday, February 29, 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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