



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

March 11, 2016

CRCA CONTINUES WATERSHED CONDITIONS STATEMENT – WATER SAFETY

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

The warmer weather this week has led to snow and ice melting, meaning creeks and lakes have been rising and flows have been increasing. The rain yesterday sped up the rise in flows and levels. Increased flows have been leading to ice breakup, and the potential still exists for ice jams at constrictions in creeks such as bridges and culverts.

Widespread flooding is **NOT** expected as a result of the warm weather, or the current forecast. However, the higher creek and lake levels may cause flooding of low lying areas.

The current forecast means continued melting of snow, which may all be gone by early next week. Creek flows are expected to peak over the weekend (no higher than usual spring levels), and start to fall. Lakes will likely continue to rise for a number of days before they stabilize. The forecast does include more rain for early next week. If that rain occurs, creeks will start to rise again, and lakes will likely take longer to stabilize.

Stream and river banks are slippery, water currents are strong, and the water itself remains dangerously cold. The CRCA is urging residents to exercise extra caution outdoors around lakes and streams, and to stay off of 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 March 18, 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.

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.



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