



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

January 21, 2014

**CRCA issues a Watershed Conditions Statement – Flood Outlook
Millhaven Creek – Hwy 401 to Lennox & Addington County Rd 4**

Kingston – The weather conditions this week, very cold and clear, are ideal conditions to form frazil ice in watercourses. Frazil ice looks like slush flowing in streams and can easily stick to bedrock channel bottoms, bridges, culverts, and create ice jams. These ice jams can form very quickly causing water levels to rise and resulting in flooding.

Millhaven Creek, between Highway 401 and Lennox & Addington Country Road 4, is a stretch of creek that is very prone to ice jamming. Current conditions and the conditions over the last few weeks have built a number of small ice jams along this length of creek. In particular, there are some low-lying areas in Odessa that are currently experiencing some minor flooding due to ice jams. With the forecast calling for cold conditions for the rest of the week, it is expected that the potential for ice jams in Odessa (and along this stretch of Millhaven Creek in general) is high. This could result in additional minor low-lying areas being flooded, or potentially more serious flooding, similar to what has happened in the past. Major flooding is not expected at this time.

CRCA and Loyalist Township staff are monitoring the situation, and Loyalist Township has opened the ice jam in Odessa, where public land allowed access to the jam. Ice jams on private properties are the responsibility of the property owners, but contact with the Township and CRCA is recommended before any removals take place.

With unstable, and constantly changing, ice conditions, it is recommended that people stay away from area watercourses, and their cold, deep, fast-flowing water.

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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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