



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

January 9, 2014

CRCA issues a Watershed Conditions Statement – Flood Outlook

Kingston – The Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA) has issued a Watershed Conditions Statement – Flood Outlook today.

With the combination of warmer temperatures and the possibility of heavy precipitation this weekend, and with layers of ice in the snow and on the ground, there could be considerable runoff to area watercourses, increasing water flows and depths, and potentially causing ice breakup in the watercourses, leading to flooding in low lying areas.

In particular, with high frozen snowbanks, roadways will accumulate the rain similar to conditions this past Monday and the CRCA wants to remind municipalities and residents that storm drains, catch basins and culverts should remain clear to limit localized flooding.

Residents are also reminded to stay away from fast flowing watercourses at this time.

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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.

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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