



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

March 26, 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.

The unusually cold temperatures we have been experiencing are expected to break on Friday with near normal temperatures through the end of next week.

Although the melting of snow has occurred recently, a significant amount of water remains on the landscape in the form of snow and ice. With frozen ground conditions, the forecast of warmer temperatures, and the possibility of rainfall, runoff and higher creek levels are expected. In other words “spring” will finally arrive.

Ice break-up along creeks may lead to the accumulation of ice chunks at constrictions in area watercourses (bridges, culverts, narrow channels) and the potential for localized flooding in these areas. The higher creek levels may also cause flooding of low lying areas. Due to increased runoff into watercourses, dam operators will be increasing flows through dams, making areas around dams extremely dangerous.

Residents are asked to stay off of the thinning ice cover and away from the cold, deep, fast flowing watercourses and dams.

The CRCA expects a close to normal spring melt with the forecast rainfall and warm temperatures during the melt period. The CRCA continues to monitor conditions, and will update the Watershed Conditions Statement as needed.

This statement is valid until: April 7, 2014.

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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.



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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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