



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

January 29, 2014

**CRCA issues a Watershed Conditions Statement – Flood Outlook
Millhaven Creek – Update**

Kingston – The ice jam flooding on Millhaven Creek is continuing, affecting six houses in the Odessa area, along with three roads. With the cold weather, things appear to be stable at the moment, but the cold weather is also not allowing the ice jam to break up at this time.

Loyalist Township and CRCA staff continue to monitor and assess the situation.

As the water levels and flows change, an air gap could form under the ice layer, weakening it, and making it very unstable and unsafe to walk on. CRCA staff recommends staying away from the ice cover on the creek.

There has been some suggestion that the CRCA water control structure at Wilton Road could be operated to alleviate the flooding. This dam was not designed to be operated in the winter, and is therefore inoperable in these ice conditions.

With the warmer temperatures forecast for the weekend, it is again hoped that they will allow some ice jam breakup to occur, and water levels to fall.

This statement is valid until: Monday February 3, 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.

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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