

NEWS RELEASE

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

December 19, 2013

CRCA issues a Watershed Conditions Statement – Flood Outlook

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

Although freezing rain and snow are also expected, a significant amount of the precipitation forecast for this Friday, Saturday, and Sunday has the potential to arrive as rainfall.

Stream flows are currently normal for this time of year and temperatures are not expected to rise much above zero, so the main risk is for potential localized flooding due to blocked catch basins, storm drains and culverts.

The CRCA wants to remind municipalities and residents that storm drains, catch basins and culverts should remain clear to limit localized flooding.

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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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