



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

March 13, 2013

CRCA issues a Watershed Conditions Statement – Water Safety

Kingston – The Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA) has issued a Watershed Conditions Statement – Water Safety this morning.

The warm temperatures over the weekend, along with the rain Monday night and Tuesday morning, has caused some of the snow in the CRCA watersheds to melt. This has resulted in some flooding in low-lying areas and areas where culverts have been blocked by snow and ice.

Some of the larger creeks have been rising quite steadily over the last 24 hours, and are currently very close to spilling over their banks, potentially causing flooding in low lying areas.

The colder temperatures over the next few days will cause ice to form in some of these flooded areas.

The CRCA wants to remind residents that with the snowmelt and runoff, creeks are flowing quickly with cold deep water and ice is thin across the watershed. Residents are advised to stay off the ice, and away from the fast flowing watercourses.

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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 watercourses 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

For more information call:

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