



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

April 10, 2014

CRCA Issues a Flood Watch Update

Kingston – The Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA) has issued a Flood Watch Update today.

Most of the creeks in the CRCA area have reached their peak, and have started to fall after the rain and snowmelt over the last few days. The exceptions are the lakes across the watershed, which continue to rise.

At the end of March, the water contained in the snow pack across the CRCA was around 75 mm. On Friday April 4th, the CRCA area received around 25 mm of rain. On Monday April 10th and Tuesday April 11th, the CRCA area received between 25 and 40 mm of rain. All combined, area watercourses have had to deal with almost 150 mm of runoff over the last week or so, which is quite unusual, 150 mm is close to two months' worth of average precipitation.

While a number of roadways have been impacted with water flowing over them, there have been minimal problems reported so far. With continued rise in lakes across the watershed as the remaining snow melts and the water moves from lake to lake towards Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River, there could still be additional impacts due to shoreline flooding and road overtopping.

The current forecast includes warm temperatures to melt the remaining snow over the next few days, 15 mm of rain this evening and overnight, and as much as another 40 mm of rain from Sunday to Tuesday.

The rain overnight will cause water levels to remain high, but is not expected to raise them to the levels seen on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week. However, if the additional rain forecast for Sunday to Tuesday does fall, that could cause the creeks to rise quite high again early next week.

Area water control structure managers continue to operate their structures to pass as much water as possible through the system to minimize flooding potential.

CRCA staff continue to recommend that residents stay away from cold, deep, fast flowing creeks and the thinning ice cover on lakes. In addition, removal of items stored in the floodplains of area watercourses is also recommended.

CRCA continues to monitor conditions, and will update the Flood Message as needed.

Valid until: April 17, 2014

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CATARAQUI REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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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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