



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

April 8, 2014

CRCA Issues a Flood Watch Update

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

The CRCA watershed received between 25 and 30 mm of rain overnight and early this morning, very similar to the forecast amounts. In addition to the rain, snow has continued to melt, resulting in very high water levels across the watersheds. Most watercourses are now at higher than normal spring levels, and low-lying areas are flooded.

The larger creeks in the CRCA area will continue to rise over the next 24 to 48 hours, expected to peak on Wednesday and Thursday.

Smaller creeks have either already peaked from the rain last night, or will peak soon. They will continue to remain high as any remaining snow melts over the next few days.

Area lakes have been rising very quickly over the last few days with the rain and melt, and water managers are trying to pass the water through the watersheds as quickly as possible to minimize the flooding potential. With the higher than normal snowpack this year, water managers have been busy operating structures in preparation of the melt, and trying to minimize the impacts of the spring freshet. It is now expected that many lakes in the CRCA watersheds will reach levels not seen very often, and many shoreline areas will be flooded.

The longer term forecast (7 to 14 days) includes more rain, which will keep stream and lake levels high for the time being.

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 11, 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:



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- 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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