



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

April 1, 2015

CRCA ISSUES A WATERSHED CONDITIONS STATEMENT – FLOOD OUTLOOK

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

The gradual spring melt and runoff to area creeks that we've been experiencing this year will speed up momentarily with the warmer temperatures and rainfall expected at the end of this week and into the weekend. With frozen ground conditions, infiltration into the ground will be minimal resulting in runoff to area creeks.

Although some fields and areas exposed to the sun and wind lack snow, especially in southern locales, a significant snowpack remains in the bush and in other less exposed areas, especially in the more northern portions of the watershed.

The average SWE (snow water equivalent), measured on March 31, is about 50 mm. For comparison, last year at this time there was about 75 mm SWE on the ground.

Widespread flooding is **NOT** expected as a result of the forecast temperatures (up to 10⁰C) and rainfall (15-20 mm through Saturday). However, ice break-up along creeks may lead to the accumulation of ice chunks at constrictions in area watercourses (bridges, culverts, narrow channels) and the potential for localized flooding in these areas. The higher creek levels may also cause flooding of low lying areas. Some city streets may experience localized ponding.

Residents are asked to stay off of the thinning ice cover and away from the cold, deep, fast flowing watercourses and dams.

This statement is valid until: April 10, 2015.

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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