



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

March 13, 2015

CRCA ISSUES A WATERSHED CONDITIONS STATEMENT – WATER SAFETY

KINGSTON ON – The Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA) is issuing a Watershed Conditions Statement today.

With March Break on the horizon, many families will be heading outdoors for some fun early spring activities. Area residents are urged to stay clear of any ice-covered surfaces, open waterways, ponds, lakes and ditches.

The recent warmer weather has led to a significant snow and ice melt, meaning creeks are beginning to rise and flow a little more, particularly during the day. With the rise in water levels, there could be flooding in low-lying areas. The possibility of rain over the March Break could speed up the melt.

This means stream and riverbanks could be slippery, water currents will get stronger but the water itself will remain dangerously cold. With children out of school and naturally curious, the CRCA is urging parents and/or caregivers to exercise extra caution when taking kids outdoors. The dangers of drowning or hypothermia are heightened at this time of year because of the unpredictability of water flows and its near-freezing temperature.

This Watershed Conditions Statement will remain in effect until March 23, 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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