Frequently Asked Questions

The CRCA already commented on my development; do I still need a permit?
Yes. There are two separate aspects to most applications near waterbodies: planning approvals and the regulation. We may have commented on your application under the Planning Act (e.g. for a minor variance). A permit under the regulation may also be required.

Is there a cost for permit applications?
Yes, the fee schedule is on our website. We can confirm the fee during consultation or when the application is submitted.

Do I also need a permit from other agencies?
Maybe. You must also comply with federal, provincial or municipal requirements. We might be your first point of contact. For instance, the CRCA screens for fish habitat on behalf of Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Please note that other agencies require additional time to review applications.

How long does this process take?
About two weeks once you submit a completed application. Longer if the application is incomplete or needs revision.

Do any applications take priority over others?
No. We review them in the order they arrive.

What if I do work without a permit?
It may result in legal action. The contractor or landowner can be required to pay substantial fines and to restore the site.
Know Your Obligations

Are you planning work along or near a lakeshore, river, stream or wetland?

Ontario Regulation 148-06: Development, Interference with Wetlands, and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses may apply. The regulation prevents or restricts development or site alteration near water and wetlands to protect you and your neighbours from flooding, erosion and other hazards.

Plan ahead
Contact the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA) to see if you need a permit before you begin work. This saves you time and money.

You may require a permit if your project is:
- in the channel of a watercourse or municipal drain, or in a waterbody or in a wetland;
- within 15 m of a floodplain;
- within 50 m of the top of bank of a watercourse or waterbody, even if it only flows part of the year;
- within 120 m of a provincially significant wetland; or
- within 30 m of all other wetlands greater than 0.5 ha.

Activities requiring approval:
- construction, reconstruction or placing a building or structure of any kind;
- any change to a building or structure that alters its use, increases its size or increases its number of dwelling units;
- site grading;
- temporary or permanent placing, dumping or removal of material originating on site or elsewhere;
- alteration to watercourses (including municipal drains), new infrastructure and infrastructure maintenance, and channel and shoreline alterations; or
  - in-water works (e.g. docks, boathouses, dredging).

Find permit applications at www.cataraquiregion.on.ca, at the CRCA office or your municipal office.

Call CRCA staff if you have questions. Your permit may be delayed if your application is incomplete.

The Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority works with its member municipalities to protect residents and their property from natural hazards and to conserve natural resources.