



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

January 8, 2016

**CRCA ISSUES A WATERSHED CONDITIONS STATEMENT  
– FLOOD OUTLOOK & WATER SAFETY**

**KINGSTON ON** – The Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA) has issued a Watershed Conditions Statement today.

The rainfall amounts forecast for this weekend (January 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>) - much of it expected to fall Sunday, Jan 10<sup>th</sup> - have the potential to cause stream flows to rise rapidly, and the potential to cause flooding in low lying areas.

Current forecasts indicate the possibility of as much as 30 to 35 mm of rainfall by Sunday evening. The frozen ground condition will prevent efficient infiltration of rainfall into the ground resulting in additional runoff. The top layer of ice over the current snowpack will also encourage runoff.

Above zero temperatures forecast for this weekend will also produce some snow-melt before consistently colder temps arrive, expected Sunday night.

Widespread flooding is **NOT** expected at this time. However, some low areas close to stream banks may become inundated as stream levels rise. Residents and municipal staff are reminded that unobstructed storm sewer inlets and catchbasins will do a better job of draining temporary urban ponding, commonly experienced after rain events.

Ice has formed on many lakes and covers some sections of creeks, but remains unstable and weak. Increased stream flows and warmer temps will cause ice conditions to worsen. Local residents are reminded to stay off the ice and away from the unstable creek banks.

CRCA staff will continue to monitor conditions and forecasts, and update our messaging to suit.

This statement is valid until: Wednesday, January 13, 2016

**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.

**Media contact for more information:**



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