



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

June 4, 2019

FLOOD WARNING UPDATE FOR LAKE ONTARIO & ST. LAWRENCE RIVER

KINGSTON ON – The Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA) has updated its Flood Warning Statement today for Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River.

The International Lake Ontario – St. Lawrence River Board (ILOSLRB) is reporting a lake-wide water level of 75.90 m, which is 2 cm above the record daily peak level recorded in late-May 2017.

The ILOSLRB expects that Lake Ontario “may continue rising gradually over the next several days; however, the increase of outflows from the lake and drier conditions in the forecast later this week, it seems likely that Lake Ontario is near or approaching its peak level, and any additional rise is likely to be less than 5 cm, depending on rainfall.”

The current water levels measured at Kingston and Brockville are 75.84 metres and 75.60 metres respectively, which are higher than the peaks in 2017, but still below the 100-year flood levels of 76.0 meters and 75.8 metres in those areas.

An Updated Provincial Flood Watch Statement, issued by the Surface Water Monitoring Centre (SWMC) of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry on May 10, remains in effect.

Impacts that are imminent or already occurring included submerged and/or damaged docks, boathouses and boat ramps, inundated/eroded shorelines, submerged gas docks (at marinas), flooding around homes and cottages in a few locations, and closed or constrained municipal roads.

What this means in simple terms is that the high water levels witnessed in 2017 are here again, resulting in localized flooding and erosion impacts in flood prone and low-lying areas. Depending on rainfall amounts, water levels are likely to increase slightly and stabilize before they begin a gradual decline.

Municipalities have been advised and are assessing the situation to determine appropriate response. If you witness flooding and require assistance your first point of contact is the local municipality. CRCA does not provide sandbags. However, information about where to purchase sandbags is provided at www.crca.ca/flood.



CATARAQUI REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

1641 Perth Road, P.O. Box 160 Glenburnie, ON K0H 1S0

Phone: 613-546-4228 Toll-free: 1-877-956-CRCA (2722)

Email: info@crca.ca Website: www.crca.ca

Flooding and erosion damage from high waves are possible during periods of strong winds. The CRCA is urging residents to pay close attention to forecasts for approaching storms with high winds from the southeast, south or southwest, and note that the above mentioned 100-year flood elevations do not include wave uprush (increased water levels resulting from high waves).

Property owners are also reminded to turn off electricity to buildings or structures in flood prone or low-lying areas and to move gasoline and other chemicals to higher ground. Any work along shorelines (e.g. placement of fill, armour stone, etc.) will require a permit from the CRCA. Call our office or visit our website www.crca.ca for further information.

CRCA appreciates feedback from the public and municipal staff detailing flooding and erosion impacts. Please report observations on the online form at www.crca.ca/flood.

Staff will continue to monitor ILOSLRB forecasts and SWMC Provincial Statements, and update CRCA messaging as needed. This Flood Warning Statement will remain in effect until (or updated before) July 3, 2019.

For further information on water levels, wind and wave forecasts, and Provincial flood messages visit www.crca.ca/flood.

See below for watershed conditions terminology:

Normal: No flood conditions exist

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.

Media contact for more information:

Krista Fazackerley, Communications & Education Supervisor
(613) 546-4228 ext. 243
kfazackerley@crca.ca

Municipalities contact for more information:

Shawn Fairbank, Water Resources Technologist
(613) 546-4228 ext. 284
sfairbank@crca.ca

Steve Knapton, Operations Planning Coordinator
(613) 546-4228 ext. 223
sknapton@crca.ca

Toll-free (613 area code) 1-877-956-CRCA (2722)