



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

September 5, 2019

**FLOOD WATCH DOWNGRADED TO WATERSHED CONDITIONS STATEMENT – WATER  
SAFETY FOR LAKE ONTARIO & ST. LAWRENCE RIVER**

**KINGSTON ON** – The Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA) has downgraded the Flood Watch (in effect since August 7, 2019) to a Watershed Conditions Statement – Water Safety for Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River.

The International Lake Ontario – St. Lawrence River Board (ILOSLRB) who manage Lake Ontario Outflows is reporting a lake-wide water level of 75.41 m as of August 29, about 51 cm below this year's peak of 75.92 m which was last recorded June 15. Water levels continue to decline this week, however, there remains a risk of flooding and high-water impacts during periods of active weather. Residents in flood prone and low-lying areas should continue to pay attention to forecasts for approaching storms with high winds from the southeast, south and southwest.

The current water levels measured at Kingston and Brockville of 75.31 metres and 74.90 metres respectively, are still above average (average annual peak on the Lake is about 75.0 m), but considerably lower than the highs experienced in June of this year. Kingston saw a peak of 75.88 m on Lake Ontario on June 14. Brockville saw a peak of 75.61 m on St. Lawrence River on June 3.

What this means in simple terms is that water levels, measured in Kingston and Brockville, have fallen 57 cm and 71 cm respectively, from this year's peaks in June. The current levels present a much lower risk to flooding and erosion impacts along area shorelines. Though declining steadily, higher than average water levels are expected to persist for weeks to come.

The CRCA is urging residents to take care along the shoreline and on the water as levels decline further. Unsafe/unstable banks have been reported due to recent erosion. High water and wave action have deposited debris along shorelines and beaches, and floating debris could cause hazardous conditions for boaters.

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](http://www.crca.ca/flood). Residents are reminded that it is the property owners' responsibility to properly dispose of sandbags and sand, which is considered hazardous waste, and any other debris that may have been deposited along the shoreline.



**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](mailto:info@crca.ca) Website: [www.crca.ca](http://www.crca.ca)

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](http://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](http://www.crca.ca/flood).

Staff will continue to monitor ILOSLRB forecasts, SWMC Provincial Statements, and local water levels, and update CRCA messaging as needed. This Watershed Conditions Statement will remain in effect until (or updated before) 11:59 PM Oct. 08, 2019.

For further information on water levels, wind and wave forecasts, and Provincial flood messages visit [www.crca.ca/flood](http://www.crca.ca/flood).

See below for watershed conditions terminology:

**Normal:** No flood conditions exist

**Watershed Conditions Statement – Water Safety:** High flows, unsafe banks, melting ice or other factors that 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.

**Media contact for more information:**

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

**Municipalities contact for more information:**

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

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

Janice Teare, Water Resources Engineer  
(613) 546-4228 ext. 252, [jteare@crca.ca](mailto:jteare@crca.ca)

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