

News Release

For immediate release
August 15, 2024



Cataraqi Conservation Issues Watershed Conditions Statement – Water Safety for Inland Lakes and Streams

Kingston – Cataraqi Conservation has issued a Watershed Conditions Statement – Water Safety today due to elevated flows on streams, higher than average discharge rates through water control structures, and more rain in the forecast. Residents and visitors to the Cataraqi Region should exercise caution around water bodies.

Weather Situation:

Another wet weather system is expected to bring heavy rain to the region August 16 – 18. Local rainfall amounts of 30 – 60 mm are possible through Aug 17, with additional rain possible Aug 18 and 19.

The remnants of Tropical Storm Debby dropped nearly a month's worth of rain on some parts of the region on April 8 and 9. Some areas have already received more than a month's worth of rain for the month of August, and the month is only half over.

Risks:

Streamflows and discharge rates through water control structures could increase further from the forecasted rain. Some streams will rise quickly, especially if the higher rainfall amounts are received. Localized inundation of low-lying, poorly drained, and urbanized areas is possible.

Increased discharge through water control structures at dams on managed lakes may result as Water Managers make adjustments to manage excess flows and limit, as much as possible, negative impacts.

Cataraqi Conservation is urging caution, particularly around all dams (inflow and outflow channels), fast-flowing watercourses, and stormwater ponds. Respect the hazards in these areas by obeying all warning signs, and keep away from booms, buoys, and barriers. Stay well back from the water's edge above and below dams and hydroelectric stations. Creek banks and lake shorelines may be slippery, increasing the chance of falling in.

Widespread flooding is **NOT** expected at this time. However, localized inundation of low-lying and poorly drained areas is possible. If you witness flooding and/or require assistance, your first point of contact is the local municipality.

Cataraqi Conservation

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Staff will continue to monitor conditions and forecasts and will update statements as needed. This Watershed Conditions Statement will remain in effect until (or updated before) Wednesday, August 21, 2024, at 11:59 PM.

For up-to-date flooding information, please visit our flood forecasting and information page at <https://cataraquiconservation.ca/pages/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.

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