



WATERSHED CONDITIONS STATEMENT

Lake Ontario Flood Watch Update Message # 2

Credit Valley Conservation

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Issued to: Municipalities, Police, Emergency Services, School Boards, Media, Local Conservation Authorities, CVC Staff and Board Members

Date: May 10, 2019

Time: 11:25 AM

The averaged Lake Ontario elevation for yesterday (Toronto, May-09-2019) was at 75.57 metres (m) above International Great Lakes Datum (IGLD). Today, the lake elevation is near 75.59 m. Lake Ontario's outflow was decreased to 7400 m³/s (261,300 cfs) at midnight and further decreased to 7000 m³/s (247,200 cfs) at 09:00 today, May-10-2019.

Flood damages in 2017 occurred at a Lake Ontario elevation of 75.45 m when waves generated during a storm event overtopped and damaged several shoreline structures. The latest forecast (May-08-2019) provided by the Lake Ontario St Lawrence River (LOSLR) Board of the International Joint Commission (IJC) is projecting maximum Lake Ontario elevations ranging from 75.65 to 75.95 m for late May to Early June with the upper range being 2 centimetres above the record set in 2017. The lake damage threshold elevation of 75.45m does not account for wave generated by winds which can increase flood elevations and cause additional damages; this is especially true with onshore winds associated with storms.

Information provided by the Surface Water Monitoring Centre (SWMC) of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) along with the IJC is indicating that rain and snow melt within the Great Lakes and St Lawrence River basin have resulted in high river and lake levels. Major flooding is currently (May, 2019) occurring in Eastern Ontario and Quebec due to a combination of high flows in the St Lawrence and Ottawa River.

The current Lake Erie water elevation is at a new record high for May. Flows discharging from Lake Erie via the Niagara River, over the Falls, into Lake Ontario are uncontrolled. Flows discharging out of Lake Ontario into the St Lawrence River are controlled at the Moses-Saunders (MS) Dam. The MS Dam is operated in accordance to Plan 2014 from IJC which takes into consideration, and balances, the impacts of downstream flooding with higher Lake Ontario levels.



Over next several weeks, Lake Ontario levels will increase and will remain high for the season due to high inflows from Lake Erie and restricted Lake Ontario outflows to mitigate downstream flooding along the St Lawrence and Ottawa Rivers.

For more information on the Lake-Ontario-St-Lawrence-River-Board and Plan-2014 please visit:

<https://ijc.org/en/loslrp>

Onshore winds, especially those associated with storms systems, can generate waves resulting in shoreline erosion, flooding and damages. Wind and wave conditions are provided by Environment Canada via the following website:

https://weather.gc.ca/marine/region_e.html?mapID=11

Wind gusts at Cawthra Park in south Mississauga are available through the CVC monitoring network:

<https://cvc.ca/watershed-science/watershed-monitoring/real-time-monitoring/cawthra-park/>

Current Lake Ontario level is available from (add 74.2m for IGLD):

<https://waterlevels.gc.ca/eng/find/region/6>

CVC will continue to monitor weather and lake conditions. This Flood Watch will be updated by Fri-Jun-14-2019.

Watercourses discharging directly into Lake Ontario may be impacted by backwater from the lake. Residents and visitors to the Lake Ontario shoreline areas should use extreme caution and obey all closure notices for trails and pathways. As lake levels increase, certain areas may be cut off or isolated.

CVC's role during a flooding event is to monitor watershed conditions and weather forecasts, predict river and Lake Ontario conditions, and communicate our findings to the public, municipalities and media. Based on our watershed knowledge, CVC also provides technical advice to municipalities in support of their flood response efforts.

Note to Public: For more information about this message please call CVC between 8:30 and 4:30 (Monday to Friday) at 905-670-1615 and ask for the Flood Duty Officer. If you are concerned about high water levels in your area outside of office hours, please contact your municipality. **For emergencies requiring police, fire or ambulance, call 9-1-1.**

Note to Municipal, MNR, MECP and CA staff: For after-hours inquiries, please phone our answering service at 1-800-215-8505 whom will forward your message to CVC's Flood Duty Officer.



Note to media: For more information about this message please call CVC between 8:30 and 4:30 (Monday to Friday) at 905-670-1615 and ask for the Media Information Coordinator. For after-hours inquiries, please phone our answering service at 1-800-215-8505 whom will forward your message to Media Information Coordinator.

Courtney Alexander
Flood Duty Officer

NOTE: A Watershed Condition Statement for Flood Outlook is issued as an early notice of the potential for flooding based on weather forecast of heavy rain, snow melt, high wind or other conditions that could lead to high runoff, ice jams, shoreline flooding or erosion.