Flood Watch

Credit Valley Conservation
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LAKE ONTARIO SHORELINE
Flood Watch Message #4

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

Date: June 21, 2019

Time: 9:58 AM

The average DAILY water elevation across Lake Ontario for Jun-19-2019 was at 75.90 metres (m) above International Great Lakes Datum (IGLD). A new DAILY peak for Lake Ontario was set at 75.92 m on Jun-06-2019. The previous DAILY peak level of 75.88 m was recorded in late May 2017. Flood damages in 2017 occurred at a threshold elevation of 75.45 m when waves generated during a storm event overtopped and damaged several shoreline structures. The local damage threshold elevation does not account for waves which can increase flood elevations and cause additional damages; this is especially true with onshore waves associated with storms.

Lake Erie elevations continue to set new record highs. 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 the International Joint Commission (IJC) which takes into consideration, and balances, the impacts of downstream flooding with higher Lake Ontario levels. The Surface Water Monitoring Centre of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry reported that flooding along the Ottawa River had subsided. As a result, discharge from the MS Dam was increased to 10,400 cubic metres per second on Jun-13-2019.

Further increases in discharge may jeopardize the safety of ships navigating up the St Lawrence River.

The latest forecast (Jun-19-2019) provided by the Lake Ontario St Lawrence River (LOSLR) Board of the IJC suggests that Lake Ontario levels may start to decline slowly depending on future rainfall amounts. It is projected that levels may fall below the damage threshold of 75.45 m by Aug-23-2019.

For more information on the Lake-Ontario-St-Lawrence-River-Board and Plan-2014 please visit: https://ijc.org/en/loslrb

Storm surge can increase lake levels. 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 Lake Ontario Shoreline Flood Watch will end on Fri-Aug-23-2019 or updated prior to.

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.

Jeff Wong
Flood Duty Officer

NOTE: A Flood Watch is issued when flooding and/or erosion is possible along specific watercourses, shorelines or in municipalities. Municipalities, emergency services and individual landowners in flood prone areas should prepare.

Note to Public: CVC's role during a flooding event is to monitor current watershed conditions and weather forecasts, predict river, creek and lake conditions, and communicate our findings to the public, municipalities and 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 Flood Duty Officer. If you are concerned about high water levels in your area, please contact your municipality. For emergencies requiring police, fire or ambulance, call 9-1-1.

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Note to Municipal, Provincial and Conservation staff: 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. For after-hours inquiries, please phone our answering service at 1-800-215-8505.

Note to Media: For further information or questions regarding this message contact the Senior Manager of Marketing and Communications. During office hours call 905-670-1615 and 1-800-215-8505 for after-hours inquiries.