



LAKE ONTARIO SHORELINE Flood Watch Cancelled Safety Statement in Effect, Message #5

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: August 22, 2019

Time: 3:30 PM

The average DAILY water elevation across Lake Ontario for Aug-21-2019 was at 75.49 metres (m) above International Great Lakes Datum (IGLD). The new DAILY peak for Lake Ontario of 75.92 m was last recoded on Jun-15-2019.

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. This 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. From Jun-13-2019 through Aug-20-2019, the discharge out of the MS Dam was at a record 10,400 cubic metres per second (cms). As of Aug-21-2019 the discharge was reduced to 10,110 cms to maintain safe conditions for marine traffic along the St Lawrence River.

The latest forecast (Aug-22-2019) provided by the Lake Ontario St Lawrence River (LOSLR) Board of the IJC suggests that Lake Ontario levels will continue to decline at the current reduced discharge rate. It is projected that levels may fall below the local damage threshold of 75.45 m by Aug-30-2019.

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

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

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

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. Areas along the shoreline could be cut off or isolated as a result of storm surge or wave action.

CVC will continue to monitor weather and lake conditions. This Lake Ontario Shoreline Safety Statement will be in effect through Sep-05-2019 or updated prior to.

Jeff Wong
Flood Duty Officer

NOTE: Watershed Conditions Statement for Water Safety may persist with the cancellation of Flood Water as high flows, unsafe banks, melting ice or other factors could still pose dangers to recreational users such as anglers, canoeist, hikers, children, pets, etc.

Note to Public: CVC's role during a flooding event is to monitor current watershed conditions and weather forecasts, predict river and creek conditions, and communicate our findings to the public, municipalities and media. For more information about this message please call CVC between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm (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.

Note to Municipal, MNR and CA staff: For more information about this message please call CVC between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm (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.