



## FLOOD OUTLOOK – Lake Ontario Shoreline

Flood Potential: Low

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**TO:** LOCAL MEDIA, SCHOOL BOARDS,  
MUNICIPALITIES, & LOCAL CA's.

**ISSUED:** May 1, 2017 1:00PM

**SUBJECT:** WATERSHED CONDITIONS STATEMENT (WCS\_04\_17)

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The Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority advises that heavy spring rains in the Lake Ontario watershed have caused higher than normal water levels across Lake Ontario. The lake level is currently at 75.5 meters above sea level, which is 60cm above average for this time of year and 40cm above where it was at this time last year.

High water levels in Lake Ontario are influenced by outflows from Lake Erie, precipitation, snowmelt and runoff from tributaries that flow into Lake Ontario as well as wave action. With these high water levels, there is a greater potential for erosion and shoreline flooding particularly during periods of high winds and wave action.

Many of our beaches are currently submerged and waves are affecting bluff areas by scouring away material from their base during periods with high winds. Bluffs and other shorelines may become unstable due to erosion and should be avoided as much as possible. River and stream outlets are also affected by high lake levels which could result in minor flooding around their shorelines.

The public and especially children are warned to stay well back from the shorelines of Lake Ontario and the outlets of streams near the shoreline to avoid hazards associated with shoreline flooding and erosion.

It is expected that high Lake Ontario water levels will persist through May and possibly into June before receding. This Flood Outlook Statement will be in effect through Wednesday May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017. Conservation Authority staff will continue to monitor weather forecasts, particularly for high wind events and provide updates as necessary. Should you have any questions or wish to report flooding, please contact the following GRCA staff at 905-885-8173.

Mike Smith  
Flood Operations Officer

Mark Peacock, P.Eng.  
Flood Forecasting and Warning Coordinator

**Note: A Watershed Condition Statement for Flood Outlook is issued as 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.**

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