

Spring Flows: Stay Clear of Creeks, Ponds and Lakes

With March Break around the corner the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority would like to remind residents and especially children of the dangers that exist around local streams, rivers, ponds and lakes during the spring breakup.

We have experienced a winter with below normal temperatures and heavy snows in the month of February. Total snowfall amounts for the winter have been near normal; but with the persistent cold, most of the snow is still waiting for warm weather to melt and runoff. In addition, thick ice sheets have built up on rivers resulting in a potential for ice jams.

As spring approaches, we look forward to getting outdoors to enjoy the warmer weather. However, the onset of spring will again bring melting snow, rain and breakup of ice along rivers, streams, ponds and lakes. During this time of year we can expect higher, faster flowing water in most watercourses. In addition, slippery and unstable stream banks and extremely cold water temperatures can lead to very hazardous conditions close to any water body.

Please exercise caution and keep an eye out for children in your care around all bodies of water over the next few weeks and help make this a safe and enjoyable spring.

The Conservation Authority will continue to monitor stream conditions and will issue messages when necessary. If you notice an ice jam or potential flooding hazard please contact the GRCA office at (905) 885-8173.

