GRCA Issues Watershed Conditions Statement

Water Safety
Flood Potential: Low

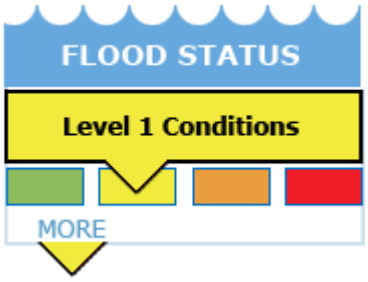
The Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority advises that a messy winter storm is moving into southern Ontario bringing with it periods of heavy rain, snow and mixed precipitation.

Previous mid-winter thaws have completely melted the snowpack in the lower half of the watersheds while some patchy snow remains in the headwaters in shaded areas, forests and fence rows. With the rainfall and temperatures rising above zero this remaining snow will be melting. Also, the ground is frozen and will not absorb the rainfall causing it to runoff more rapidly to local watercourses.

With total rainfall amounts forecast to be in the range of 15 to 35 mm over the next 36 hours, water levels and flows in local streams will be on the rise. The melting snowpack and frozen ground conditions will likely exacerbate the situation causing all water bodies, including ponds, streams and many ditches to be flowing higher than normal. No flooding is anticipated at this time.

Additionally, slippery stream banks, and fast flowing, cold water will create hazardous conditions around bodies of water. As a result, local streams and rivers will become dangerous, especially in the vicinity of culverts and bridges. Children should be warned to stay away from all watercourses.

This Watershed Conditions Statement will be in effect through Friday, February 26, 2016. Conservation Authority staff will continue to monitor watershed conditions 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