
LAKE ONTARIO FLOOD WATCH

Message #2

Credit Valley Conservation
1255 Old Derry Road, Mississauga, ON., L5N 6R4
Telephone: (905) 670-1615 Fax: (905) 670-2210

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

Date: June 5, 2017 (Update of May 28, 2017 Message)

Time: 1:30 P.M.

On 25 May 2017, Lake Ontario was at a provisional 75.88 m. The water level of Lake Ontario is the highest it has been since reliable records began in 1918. Locally, this exceeded the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's 1 in 100 year instantaneous lake level of 75.8 m.

Precipitation within the Lake Ontario basin and storm surge could result in temporary increases in lake levels. Winds originating from the south and east could generate waves to intensify the impacts of the high lake levels. The elevated lake levels combined with wave action can exacerbate flooding and the erosion of natural beaches, bluffs and structures along the shoreline. Water levels in the Credit River and other Lake Ontario tributaries have experienced local increases due to backwater from Lake Ontario.

Damages to the waterfront trails and structures along the shorelines have been reported. Some disruptions to businesses operating near the shorelines were also reported.

Residents are urged exercise caution along the shoreline and lakefront areas. Elevated lake levels combined with wave activity will make these areas dangerous. Trail closures are to be respected.

It may take weeks to lower the lake levels given the enormous size of the lake and the uncertainties related future precipitation. The water levels in Lake Ontario are expected to remain high. Gradual decline of lake levels may commence in the upcoming weeks. Lake levels may be within the upper limits of the normal range by the end of July. Credit Valley Conservation staff will continue to monitor weather and lake conditions. This Lake Ontario Flood Watch will be in effect until July 15, 2017 or until further notice.

Additional information regarding current and forecasted Great Lakes water levels are available from the following websites:

- May 18, 2017 the International Lake Ontario – St. Lawrence River Board media release: http://ijc.org/en_/islrbc/news?news_id=603&myID=1
- Great Lakes water levels and related data from Environment Canada: <https://www.ec.gc.ca/eau-water/default.asp?lang=En&n=F6F3D96B-1>
- Tides, currents and water levels from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans: <http://tides-marees.gc.ca/eng/find/zone/45>
- USACE Hydraulic Engineering Center Great Lakes Data: <http://w3.lre.usace.army.mil/hh/ForecastData/DailyLevelsMetric.pdf>
- NOAA Lake Ontario Operational Forecast System: <https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/ofs/loofs/loofs.html> (imperial units)

For more information on this Lake Ontario Flood Watch message, contact CVC during office hours at 905- 670-1615. To report a flood afterhours, please call 1-800-215-8505.

Jeff Wong
Flood Duty Officer

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