

LAKE ONTARIO SHORELINE FLOOD WATCH

To: 1) Emergency Services
2) School Boards
3) Municipalities
4) Local Media
5) Local Conservation Authorities & MNRF
6) Interoffice Memo to all Authority Staff



Date/Time: Wednesday, May 10, 2023, at 9:00 AM
Subject: Notice of Potential Flood/ Hazardous Shoreline Conditions

The Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority advises that Environment and Climate Change Canada -Great Lakes - St. Lawrence Regulation Office National Hydrological Services – East, in their monthly report dated May 5th, 2023, state that:

- Well-above-average precipitation was received throughout a large portion of the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River region in April, particularly in the Lake Superior basin and the Ottawa River basin.
- **Lake Ontario** is expected to reach its seasonal peak in May or June, which is the average seasonal pattern. The level of Lake Ontario has risen rapidly in the latter half of April, but at this time, the level is expected to remain 30-50 cm below the record-highs observed in 2017 and 2019.
- The average water level in Lake Ontario rose 28 cm over the month of April when the normal or average April rise is 20 cm, and is 24 cm above the April monthly mean.
- The International Lake Ontario – St. Lawrence River Board (ILOS RB) (<https://ijc.org/en/loslrb>) advises that much of the region received 40-90 mm of rain (about a month's worth) over the past several days. The persistent rain and continued runoff, combined with recent and ongoing outflow adjustments in response to these conditions, continue to cause water levels in Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River to rise.
- Considering the recent and expected outflow adjustments, and if near-average water supplies are received in the basin, the lake level may reach a seasonal peak around 75.45 m in the next couple weeks.

The Surface Water Monitoring Centre of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry issued a Provincial Shoreline Conditions Statement on May 8th noting that:

- The start of May average water level for Lake Ontario was 75.27 m and as of May 8th, the average level is 75.39 MASL, International Great Lakes Datum 1985 (IGLD).
- Heightened risks, while water levels remain above 75.30 MASL, include shoreline flooding, beach submersion, crawl space and septic system inundation, and wave-driven erosion along some reaches of Lake Ontario and the St Lawrence River shoreline.

More information on Lake Ontario water levels and regulation can be found here:

<https://ijc.org/en/loslrb/watershed/water-levels>

CLOCA monitors water levels and weather forecasts and issues flood messages for our portion of the Lake Ontario shoreline when either of the following criteria are met:

1. Static water level equal to or greater than 75.5 m
2. Static water level equal to or greater than 75.1 m AND projected (offshore) wave heights of 2.0m or greater.

The water level reported on the May 8th is 75.4 MASL, with levels rising. Residents and property owners in locations susceptible to shoreline flooding should make preparations for flooding.

Information on flood preparedness can be found here:

<https://www.clarington.net/en/town-hall/resources/Emergency-and-Fire/Flooding-Preparedness-Guide-AODA.pdf>

<https://www.durham.ca/en/news/be-prepared-know-your-risks-emergency-preparedness-week-may-7-to-13.aspx>

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/floods>

Residents are advised to avoid and/or exercise caution around all Lake Ontario shoreline areas. Elevated water levels, waves, and eroded bluffs and shorelines all pose safety concerns. Use extra caution, stay away from any areas experiencing erosion or any areas that are flooded, and alert any children under your care of these dangers and supervise their activities.

This Flood Watch Statement will be in effect through Friday June 14th, 2023, or until further notice. The Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority will continue to monitor conditions and will provide updates as required.

For further information, please contact the following person at (905) 579-0411 ext. 134.

Holly Whittington
Flood Duty Officer

Note: A **Flood Watch** is a notice of the potential for flooding to occur. The information is based on weather forecasts and the Conservation Authority's monitoring system, and is intended to provide notice to municipalities, emergency services and individual landowners that measures should be taken to prepare for a possible emergency.

Flood Forecasting and Warning Program

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority
100 Whiting Avenue, Oshawa, Ontario L1H 3T3
(905) 579-0411

24 Hour Flood Line

To report flooding after work hours, please call:
(905) 579-0411 ext. 200

Email

For questions or concerns related to flooding, or post pictures of flooding or request data, use the following email address:
floodforecast@cloca.com

CLOCA Twitter

Receive flood messages via Twitter:
@CLOCA_Flood