



MEDIA RELEASE
For Immediate Release
December 21, 2020

Winter Safety Message: Exercise Caution Near All Waterways

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority reminds residents of dangers that can exist near streams, rivers, ponds and lakes around this time of year and urges people to keep family and pets away from the edges of all waterways.

Those of us in the environmental field know the call of the great outdoors only too well, this year more than ever, we want to remind all nature seekers to be extremely cautious when outside this winter. We ask that you “Target Trails and Steer clear of Streams”.

While temperatures have declined since November’s unseasonably warm days, we are experiencing frequent freeze-thaw cycles, resulting in the melting of accumulated snow and ice cover. This runoff will create hazardous conditions near all waterways, by contributing to higher water levels and increased velocities in local watercourses. As well, slippery and unstable streambanks and extremely cold water temperatures can also lead to very hazardous and dangerous conditions close to any body of water.

Be safe this winter and remember the following tips:

- Keep family and pets away from all bodies of water
- Avoid all recreational activities in or around water and unsafe ice
- Tailor your winter outdoor activities to trails at your local parks and Conservation Areas

For more information, contact your local Conservation Authority.

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| • Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority | (905) 895-1281 |
| • Toronto & Region Conservation Authority | (416) 661-6514 |
| • Conservation Halton | (905) 336-1158 |
| • Credit Valley Conservation | (905) 670-1615 |
| • Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority | (905) 579-0411 |
| • Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority | (905) 885-8173 |
| • Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority | (705) 424-1479 |
| • Kawartha Conservation | (705) 328-2271 |

About CLOCA's Flood Forecasting and Warning Program

CLOCA provides a flood forecasting and warning program to reduce the risk of property damage and loss of life due to flooding.

When flooding is possible or about to occur, CLOCA flood messages to municipal emergency management officials, school boards, police and EMS as well as the media. The municipal officials then take action to warn local residents.

Central Lake Ontario Conservation (CLOCA) is a local, community based, environmental organization and one of 36 Conservation Authorities responsible for managing watershed resources across Ontario. Established in 1958, CLOCA's jurisdiction is based on the watershed boundaries of four major watercourses and 18 minor watercourses draining an area of over 639 km². CLOCA's watershed stretches from the municipal boundaries of Ajax/Pickering to Clarington, and north from Lake Ontario to the crest of the Oak Ridges Moraine.

Central Lake Ontario Conservation provides a wide variety of science-based watershed management programs and services, delivered in partnership with their municipal partners, local landowners, environmental agencies and all levels of government. Central Lake Ontario Conservation's municipal partners include the Region of Durham, the cities of Oshawa and Pickering, the towns of Ajax and Whitby, the Municipality of Clarington, and the townships of Scugog and Uxbridge.

CONTACTS:

Flood Duty Officer:

Holly Whittington
Environmental Engineering Technologist
905-579-0411, ext. 134
hwhittington@cloca.com

Website: www.cloca.com