



News Release

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High Water Levels On Lake Ontario

An extremely wet beginning to 2017 in the great lakes watershed has resulted in high water levels across Lake Ontario – St. Lawrence River system. The International Lake Ontario – St. Lawrence River Board (www.ijc.org/en/_/islrbc) reports that Lake Ontario rose 39 centimetres (15.4 inches) since the beginning of April.

Elevated Lake Ontario water levels are causing the following issues along the shoreline within our watershed;

- a) Elevated water levels and porous beach material (sand & gravels) result in saturated building foundations for residents living on the shoreline,
- b) Elevated water levels combined with wave activity may lead to scouring of beach material away from beach walls, natural beach and bluffs,
- c) Storm events may exacerbate the effects of elevated water levels with storm surge and increased wave activity, resulting in flooding and increased erosion of shorelines.

Potential flooding issues along the shoreline are generally a combination of elevated water levels with storm surge and wave heights. Central Lake Ontario Conservation's Flood Forecasting and Warning Program, monitors weather forecasts for high winds & storm surge along with forecasted wave heights. Based on shoreline studies, staff will issue flood messages when combinations of critical Lake Ontario water level and wave height are forecasted.

"With the elevated lake levels, Central Lake Ontario Conservation (CLOCA) is monitoring the weather forecasts for potential dangerous wave heights" states Neil MacFarlane, Environmental Engineer Analyst with CLOCA. "We encourage the public to monitor our website for issuance of flood messages."

Lake Ontario water elevation is forecasted to peak in May, based on Environment Canada forecasts. See <https://www.ec.gc.ca/eau-water/default.asp?lang=En&n=FE6F872F-1> for more information.

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