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The Crowe Valley Conservation Authority is issuing the following **WATERSHED CONDITIONS STATEMENT** – effective immediately, **Friday, 13 April 2018**.

## **WATER CONDITIONS STATEMENT – WATER SAFETY**

Precipitation received in the last 24 hours will increase lake levels, stream and river flows throughout the Crowe Valley Conservation Authority watershed. Further precipitation in the next 72 hour period will continue to raise levels and flows.

Mixed precipitation for the next three days will determine the extent of the increases. More snow in the northern portion of the Crowe Valley watershed and freezing rain may temper the increase in lake levels and flows. However, the freezing rain will create an impermeable layer and subsequent rain on Monday may enter into the watershed system at a faster than normal rate. Therefore, the effect of this rainfall event will be dependent on the type of precipitation received and how quickly the freezing rain and snow melts. Below seasonal average and overnight temperatures will also determine the rate of melt.

There is potential for minor flooding in flood prone areas of the Crowe Valley watershed, typical at the start of the spring freshet. However, this weather system has the potential to create more severe flooding depending on when, and which precipitation type dominates the watershed.

Flows around dams and hydro generation plants have increased and the ice thinning could be severe for a considerable distance from the dam. Structures such as culverts and bridges with fast flowing water going through or underneath them must be avoided as well. Ice which was used recreationally or walked on only days ago will begin to wear away and may not be safe. CVCA staff strongly advise residents, especially children stay away from these dangerous zones.

Hypothermia is also a threat for anyone who ignores the warnings and either falls through the ice or into open water. Avoid banks of rivers and streams where snow and ice make slippery or unstable walking conditions which could lead to accidentally falling into water. Smaller tributaries such as streams, creeks and ditches with fast flowing water must be avoided to eliminate exposure to hazardous conditions.

The Crowe Valley Conservation Authority has issued this Water Safety Statement to inform the public of current water levels, flows and changing ice conditions.

CVCA staff will continue to monitor levels and flows daily and this Watershed Conditions Statement will be updated as conditions warrant. If there are any questions or concerns, contact Tim Pidduck, CVCA General Manager or Neil McConkey, Water Resources Supervisor at 613-472-3137. The CVCA includes portions of the municipalities of Trent Hills, Stirling-Rawdon, Marmora and Lake, Havelock-Belmont-Methuen, North Kawartha, Wollaston, Limerick, Tudor and Cashel, Faraday and Highlands East.

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