



## Use extra caution during spring thaw

(Lindsay, March 10, 2009) Spring is quickly approaching and we look forward to warmer weather and being outdoors. As children begin their March break, Kawartha Region Conservation Authority (KRCA) is reminding parents and caregivers to be alert to the dangers that exist near water and frozen lakes, rivers and ditches.

We have experienced a winter that began in late November with major thaws occurring in late December and mid-February. These thaws resulted in most of the snowpack melting, and then partially building up again with the return of winter weather at the end of February.

The onset of spring and warmer temperatures will again bring melting snow, rain and the breakup of ice on rivers, streams, ponds and lakes. During this time of year we can expect higher, faster flowing water in most watercourses. In addition, slippery and unstable stream banks, dangerous ice conditions and extremely cold water temperatures can lead to very hazardous conditions close to any water body.

“Use extra caution around any water body and be especially mindful of where your children are playing,” says KRCA Hydrologist Iryna Shulyarenko. “Even storm water ditches and culverts can be dangerous. Rapidly moving water that is 15 cm deep is enough to cause an adult to lose balance.”

KRCA monitors water levels daily as part of its flood forecasting and warning program, and issues flood messages to advise watershed municipalities and the public when conditions change. A Flood Advisory is currently in effect, as water is expected to accumulate in low-lying areas, areas adjacent to watercourses and road ditches, with possible flooding over some roads.

For more information, call KRCA at 705-328-2271, toll free at 1-800-668-5722, or visit [www.kawarthaconservation.com](http://www.kawarthaconservation.com).

***Kawartha Region Conservation Authority*** is a watershed based, non-profit environmental organization that provides conservation, restoration and responsible management of water, land and natural habitats through programs and services that balance human, environmental and economic needs. It is governed by the six municipalities that overlap the natural boundaries of the Kawartha Conservation watershed, which include the City of Kawartha Lakes; Township of Scugog; Township of Brock; Municipality of Clarington; Township of Galway-Cavendish & Harvey; and Township of Cavan Monaghan.  
[www.kawarthaconservation.com](http://www.kawarthaconservation.com)