

March 19, 2009

Lakehead Region Conservation Authority Watches Spring Melt

The Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) is monitoring conditions for the potential of spring flooding.

“Warmer weather in recent days means the spring melt is well underway,” says Chairman Bill Bartley. “Snow surveys indicate higher than average snow depth and water content for this time of year which means there is the potential for flooding if there is a quick melt or heavy rainfall before the ground thaws.”

The most recent snow survey conducted on March 13th, following this month’s snow storm, indicated average snow depths that were 38% above average. However, recent warm daytime temperatures have resulted in a considerable drop in the snow pack.

The LRCA conducts bi-monthly snow surveys around the region as part of its role in Flood Forecasting.

The Lakehead Region Conservation Authority is also urging everyone to be cautious around ice and area waterways. Warmer weather will result in creeks and rivers starting to open up. Ice that looks stable along banks probably isn’t. Even the narrowest drainage ditch poses a threat to small children at this time of year. Parents are urged to discuss the dangers and to make sure they know where their children are playing.

LRCA Staff will continue to monitor conditions and, when necessary, the Authority may issue Bulletins, Advisories or Warnings related to watershed or flood conditions.