



**Re: WATERSHED CONDITIONS STATEMENT – Flood Outlook –  
March 5, 2019**

**Potential for above average flooding across the Mississippi and  
Carp River watersheds**

**March 5, 2019 MISSISSIPPI AND CARP RIVER WATERSHEDS**—Well above average snow pack conditions across the Mississippi Valley watershed could lead to above average flooding this spring. Current conditions at several MVCA snow course sites are indicating record water content amounts in the snow for this time of year. While snow is not the primary driver for spring flooding, it is one of several major contributors, along with rainfall and temperature.

With future forecasts suggesting a quick switch from cold to warm temperatures, there is also a concern for potential ice jams, as flows could quickly increase before the ice can melt. Residents are advised to monitor the river closely as spring progresses for signs of ice jams. There could potentially be significant ice damage along lake shorelines if winds accompany the spring breakup period.

**Parents are encouraged to remind their children about the dangers of playing on or near ice covered surfaces or fast flowing water in ditches and smaller creeks.**

**Residents in flood prone or low lying areas, historically susceptible to flooding, should take the necessary precautions to protect their property, such as:**

- **Ensuring sump pump is clear, in good working condition and has a backwater valve on it**
- **Portable backup generator and pump**

- **Ensuring downspouts are clear and the outlet is at least 3 m from the dwelling**
- **Removing or securing items that might float away as flows increase**
- **Removing valuable items from basements or lower floors that could be subject to flooding**
- **Keep emergency phone numbers handy**
- **Familiarize yourself with your municipality's emergency preparedness plan**

Daily water levels and flows are available on the MVCA website at [www.mvc.on.ca](http://www.mvc.on.ca). Updates to the watershed conditions will be issued as required.

This watershed conditions statement is in effect until March 18, 2019 and will be updated at that time unless the forecasts change.

The Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority flood forecasting and warning program monitors weather conditions, snowpack water content, estimates expected river flows and water levels and issues flood advisories or warnings as required. MVCA provides early warning and continuous monitoring to municipal and provincial emergency response personnel through a flood event.

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