

## Beware of the dangers of flooding as the snow melts

By Inspector Tim Melanson

Detachment commander

Caledon OPP

Environment Canada is forecasting warmer weather and showers over the next couple of days and weeks.

Due to the ice storm and large amount of snowfall in the Caledon area, I wish to provide you with safety tips as flooding in certain areas is imminent.

Local streams and waterways will become dangerous, especially in the vicinity of culverts and bridges. The forecasted rainfall and warm temperatures in the next week may result in the partial melting of the snow and can result in increased stream flows.

? Remind children to keep away from all bodies of water, regardless of depth. Do not walk through moving water. As little as six inches of moving water can make you fall.

??If you are in a car, do not drive through flood waters or underpasses. The water may be deeper than it looks and your car could get stuck or swept away by fast water.

? Be aware of areas where floodwaters have receded, roads may have weakened.

? Stay away from downed power lines, and report them to the power company.

? Pay attention to local radio and keep up to date with changing weather information.

? Flash floods can occur within minutes or hours of excessive rainfall.

? Know the difference between a flood watch and a flood warning. A watch means flooding is possible. A warning means flooding is occurring or will occur soon.

? Be prepared. Build an emergency kit which includes, water, food, can opener, flashlight and batteries, battery operated radio, first aid kit, medications and cash.

OPP reminds all members of the public to be aware of their personal safety at all times. The OPP's website, [www.opp.ca](http://www.opp.ca), contains a number of useful resources, tips and links.