

Stay away from waterways as spring approaches

Following one of the coldest winters in recent memory, conservation authorities remind residents of the dangers near streams, rivers, ponds and lakes as spring gets closer.

Slippery, unstable stream banks and frigid water temperatures lead to hazardous conditions close to any body of water. This year more than ever it will be important to keep family and pets away from the edge of all waterways.

Environment Canada monitoring shows this winter has been the third coldest in 50 years. Bone-chilling cold through December, January and February has led to widespread ice cover in GTA rivers and streams, as well as the Great Lakes.

Warming temperatures and spring rainfall are likely to speed up melting ice and snow. This will lead to higher, faster flowing water and potentially quicker ice break-up in watercourses. There could be increased risk of localized flooding in low-lying areas and in areas where ice jams might occur.

Credit Valley Conservation (CVC), Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) and conservation authorities in the GTA will continue to closely monitor changing conditions.