



SOUTH NATION
CONSERVATION
DE LA NATION SUD



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SNC ADVISES CAUTION NEAR WATERCOURSES

March 22, 2010

With World Water Day recognized on March 22, South Nation Conservation would like to remind residents of its 4,000 square-km watershed to be wary of early spring runoff conditions.

“Water is the basis for life on earth... but it can occasionally be very dangerous,” said SNC Resource Technician Lisa Migneault.

She explained that the annual spring thaw is the most common cause of flooding due to snow melt and surface water runoff: “Floods are the most costly natural disasters in Canada in terms of property damage.”

Over the years, flooding has been greatly reduced in the watershed thanks to a series of strategically placed weirs and dams, with the largest one in the system located at Chesterville where the gate automatically rises and lowers depending on water levels.

“Water levels near an operated dam can suddenly change without warning,” Migneault observed. “SNC cautions residents – especially parents of young children - to be wary of changes in flows, high water levels and unstable ice.”

While levels are now normal, she emphasized that heavy precipitation could dramatically change the situation. Weather reports, along with rainfall and stream flow monitoring, are the most important tools in flood forecasting.

“SNC’s Flood Forecasting and Warning Team is monitoring conditions in the watershed and will issue flood advisories or warnings as required.” More information is available at www.watershedconditions.com.

Migneault noted that residents can do their part to acknowledge Water Day by participating in SNC’s volunteer Rain Gauge Network. Contact her at LMigneault@nation.on.ca.

FOR MORE INFORMATION – Lisa Migneault, SNC, 1-877-984-2948, ext. 294.

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