



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Be water wise during spring breakup

UTOPIA, Ontario, Mar. 5, 2009 – The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority reminds everyone to stay well back from waterways, ditches, ponds and lakes during spring breakup.

Spring is quickly approaching and we look forward to warmer weather and being outdoors. We have experienced a winter that began in mid-November with major thaws occurring in late December and mid-February. These thaws resulted in most of the snowpack melting. The February thaw also resulted in the breakup of much of the ice on rivers and creeks. However, winter weather has returned and in some areas significant snowpack remains and ice has reformed over some water bodies.



Pine River in Angus, February 2009

Along with warmer temperatures and rain we can expect spring to bring us melting snow, high stream flows and ice break-up of our rivers, streams, ponds and lakes. Slippery and unstable stream banks and extremely cold water temperatures can lead to very hazardous conditions close to any water body that can cause life threatening injury if a person falls into the water.

"Safety around our rivers and streams is everyone's responsibility," says Brian Smith, Water Resource Technologist and Flood Warning Coordinator. "Being cautious and staying away from waterways will help keep everyone out of harms way. Especially during March break, supervision of children and alerting them to the dangers is crucial."

Please exercise caution around any water body over the next few weeks and help make this a safe and enjoyable spring.

The NVCA continues to monitor waterways and will issue flood messages as conditions warrant.

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For more information please contact Brian Smith, Water Resources Technologist, at 705-424-1479 ext. 226 or visit our website at www.nvca.on.ca.

About the NVCA

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority is a public agency dedicated to the preservation of a healthy environment through specialized programs to protect, conserve and enhance our water, wetlands, forests and lands.



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NOTTAWASAGA VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY • Centre for Conservation

John Hix Conservation Administration Centre • Tiffin Conservation Area • 8195 8th Line • Utopia, On L0M 1T0

Telephone: 705.424.1479 • Fax: 705.424.2115 • Web: www.nvca.on.ca • Email: admin@nvca.on.ca