

HHFD rescues/assists 17 from Credit River

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The Halton Hills Fire Department, Halton Regional Police Service and Credit Valley Conservation Authority are warning people to stay off the Credit River until water levels recede to safer conditions.

In separate tweets on Saturday (June 24), both the Halton Hills Fire Department (HHFD) and the Halton Regional Police Service (HRPS) indicated those who attempted to float or kayak down the river on Saturday ran into some trouble.

"HHFD rescued/assisted 17 people from the Credit today. Current high water levels and velocities are dangerous for floating down the river," tweeted the fire department on Saturday at 4:28 p.m.

HRPS indicated two kayakers also found themselves in trouble while trying to battle the strong

currents.

"High water levels & strong currents on the Credit River. HRPS EMS & Halton Hills fire are in Norval preparing for a water rescue of 2 kayakers," tweeted Burlington detachment of the HRPS.

That was followed by a tweet by the Milton detachment shortly after reading: "Halton Hills detachment missing kayakers have been accounted for @HRPSMiltHH urging the public to stay off of the river until conditions change."

"Police are asking the public to be mindful of the rivers and waterways when the levels are elevated. Public safety is always of utmost importance and police are encouraging the public to stay off the rivers/waterways when levels are dangerously high," said HRPS Sgt. Barry Malciw.

One person pulled from the water by firefighters, who asked not to be identi-



Metroland file photo

High water, fast current on the Credit River

fied, said her group of 13 floaters got in the water in Terra Cotta, with three of them eventually pulled out of the water by emergency crews near Confederation Street and Main Street in Georgetown.

She and two other people were swept away and separated from the larger group almost immediate-

ly and their fate was unknown to the rest of the group until after HHFD firefighters rescued them.

She said the distance, which usually takes about three hours, was traversed in less than an hour as a result of the strong currents.

The high water and heavy currents were

brought on by heavy rains, which caused flooding in many areas.

A report from the Orangeville Banner last week said an average month's worth of rain fell overnight Thursday (June 22), causing flooding and forcing operators at the town's sewage treatment plant to dump wastewater

into the Credit River. The river's banks swelled even further after more rain Friday.


According to the Credit Valley Conservation Authority, waters had receded enough as of Tuesday (June 27) to reduce the danger level around the Credit River to a "water safety statement," down from flood warnings and watches between last Thursday and Sunday.

"Watershed is currently saturated and any additional precipitation could result in increased water levels. Heavy downpour associated with thunderstorms may cause flooding in urbanize areas," read the conservation authority's statement.

"The high water levels and velocities along the water courses can be dangerous for kayaking, canoeing, tubing or any other form of recreational activity. The public is urged to stay away from fast-flowing waters," it adds.

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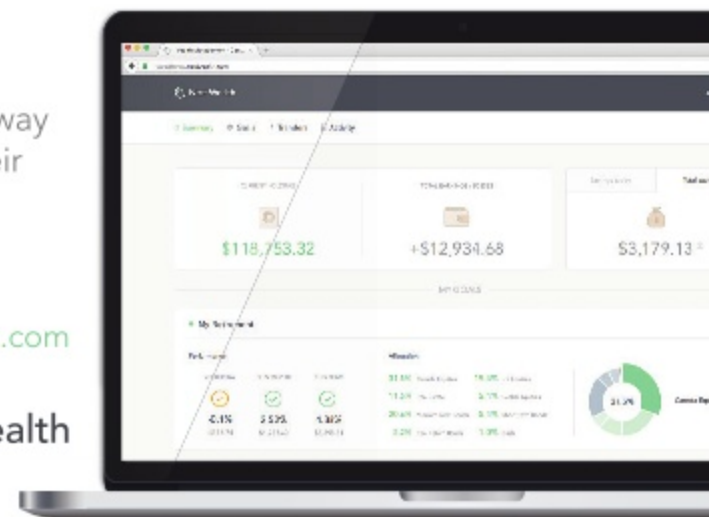
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*Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, The High Cost of Canada's Mutual Fund Based Retirement System, March, 2013