



LOWER TRENT
CONSERVATION

PRESS RELEASE

Working with Local Communities to Protect our Natural Environment

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 14, 2018

Low Water LEVEL 1 Condition Update

The precipitation received in the Lower Trent Conservation Watershed has been well below normal for the months of March, May and July. The months in-between have seen more normal rainfall depths but in intermittent storms. The three month average rainfall for June, July and August is 225 mm, which is very close to the 3-month average summer precipitation total of 220 mm. Therefore there is no longer a precipitation trigger for Low Water Conditions.

However, this intermittent rainfall and low rainfall in some months has resulted in very low flows in some of our local streams, especially in the northern and eastern portions of the Lower Trent Watershed. Flows in Trout Creek, Hoards/Squires Creek and Rawdon Creek are below 70% of the lowest summer month average (LSMA) flows and therefore trigger the Level 1 Low Water Status. These affected creeks are located in the following Municipalities: Trent Hills, Stirling-Rawdon and Centre Hastings.

Level 1 Low Water (minor drought) conditions continue to be experienced across the Lower Trent Conservation watershed region, an area stretching from Grafton to Quinte West, and from Lake Ontario to Rice Lake. Based on the continuing Level 1 Low Water Condition, local municipalities, residents and businesses are expected to voluntarily reduce their water usage by 10 percent. Residents can help conserve water by using rain barrels to capture rain for watering lawns and gardens, limiting vehicle washing, etc.

Droughts can cause many severe impacts on the environment and communities including:

- Water shortages for human consumption, industrial, business and agriculture use
- Decline of water quality
- Increase in wildfires
- Increases in insect infestations and plant disease

Following lower than average precipitation and low water levels in 1998, the Ontario government developed the *Ontario Low Water Response* program to ensure the province was prepared for future low water conditions. The response plan was developed to help coordinate and support local response in the event of a drought. There are three levels of Low Water Conditions with Level 1 being the least severe and Level 3 being the most.

Conservation Authority staff will continue to monitor conditions and report new information as it becomes available. To learn more about Ontario's Low Water Response program visit our website at www.ltc.on.ca. You can also report any low water observations using the Low Water Reporting Form on the website.

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