



LOWER TRENT
CONSERVATION

PRESS RELEASE

Working with Local Communities to Protect our Natural Environment

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 4, 2019

Low Water Condition – Level 1

With precipitation below normal over the past three months, Level 1 Low Water (minor drought) conditions are now being experienced across the Lower Trent Conservation watershed region, an area stretching from Grafton to Quinte West, and from Lake Ontario to Rice Lake.

As part of the declaration of a 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.

The June to August 3-month rainfall totals recorded by Environment Canada at Trenton was 142 millimetres, which is 65 percent of normal precipitation for this time of year (220 mm). A 3-month precipitation below 80 percent is the trigger for Level 1 Low Water. Monthly streamflows in our local creeks did not drop below the 70% of the Lowest Summer Month Average flows, which is another trigger for Level 1 Low Water. But the local creeks are nearing this low flow trigger as well.

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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For more information, contact:

**Janet Noyes – Manager, Development Services & Water Resources
(613) 394.3915 x211 (Lower Trent Conservation)**