



LOWER TRENT
CONSERVATION

PRESS RELEASE

Working with Local Communities to Protect our Natural Environment

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 2, 2019

Low Water Condition – Level 1

With precipitation below normal over the past three months, 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.

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 July to September 3-month rainfall totals recorded by Environment Canada at Trenton was 142 millimetres, which is 61 percent of normal precipitation for this time of year (231 mm). A 3-month precipitation below 80 percent is the trigger for Level 1 Low Water. Monthly streamflows in most of our local creeks are still above the 70% of the Lowest Summer Month Average flows for the creeks, which is also another trigger for Level 1 Low Water. However, Rawdon and Squires/Hoards Creeks are below this trigger, further confirming that the low precipitation is now affecting the streamflows, especially in the northeastern portion of our watershed (Centre Hastings, Stirling-Rawdon and the eastern portion of Trent Hills).

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:

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