



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Low Water Conditions Continue

Precipitation in August has provided minor relief from the extreme dry conditions experienced during this year's spring and summer months throughout the Trent River valley, an area stretching from Grafton to Quinte West and from Lake Ontario to Rice Lake.

Rainfall totals for August as recorded at Environment Canada's Trenton station reached 95 mm, or 131% of normal for the month. Areas to the north of Trenton, including Roseneath, Hastings, Warkworth, Campbellford and Stirling have received less precipitation (50 to 60 mm, or 70-83% of normal).

Because of the varying physiography across the watershed region and variable precipitation amounts, streams have responded quite differently to the recent rainfall. Streams west of the Trent River within Northumberland County with headwaters in the Oak Ridges Moraine have risen into the 61% to 77% range of normal monthly flows. However, Rawdon and Squires/Hoards Creeks, northeast of Trenton, remain extremely low (29% to 31% of normal).

Based on this data and a long range forecast with very little precipitation anticipated through early September, a Level 2 Low Water Condition remains in place for most of the watershed region. Due to the extreme dry conditions in the northeastern section of the watershed, a Level 3 Low Water Condition has been declared for the Townships of Stirling-Rawdon and Centre Hastings within Lower Trent Conservation's watershed region (see map below).

Under these conditions, residents, businesses, industries, and municipalities are asked to continue to reduce water use by at least 20%. For the Townships of Stirling-Rawdon and Centre Hastings, residents are being asked to reduce water use by 50%. Residents should contact their municipality to find out what bylaws are in effect regarding water use.

Lower Trent Conservation encourages everyone to use water wisely and apply water conservation measures. Non-essential water uses such as lawn watering, car washing, etc. should be suspended until natural water supplies recover.

"Above normal precipitation will be required over an extended period of time to restore groundwater levels and stream flows to normal conditions," says Janet Noyes, Manager – Watershed Science & Services.

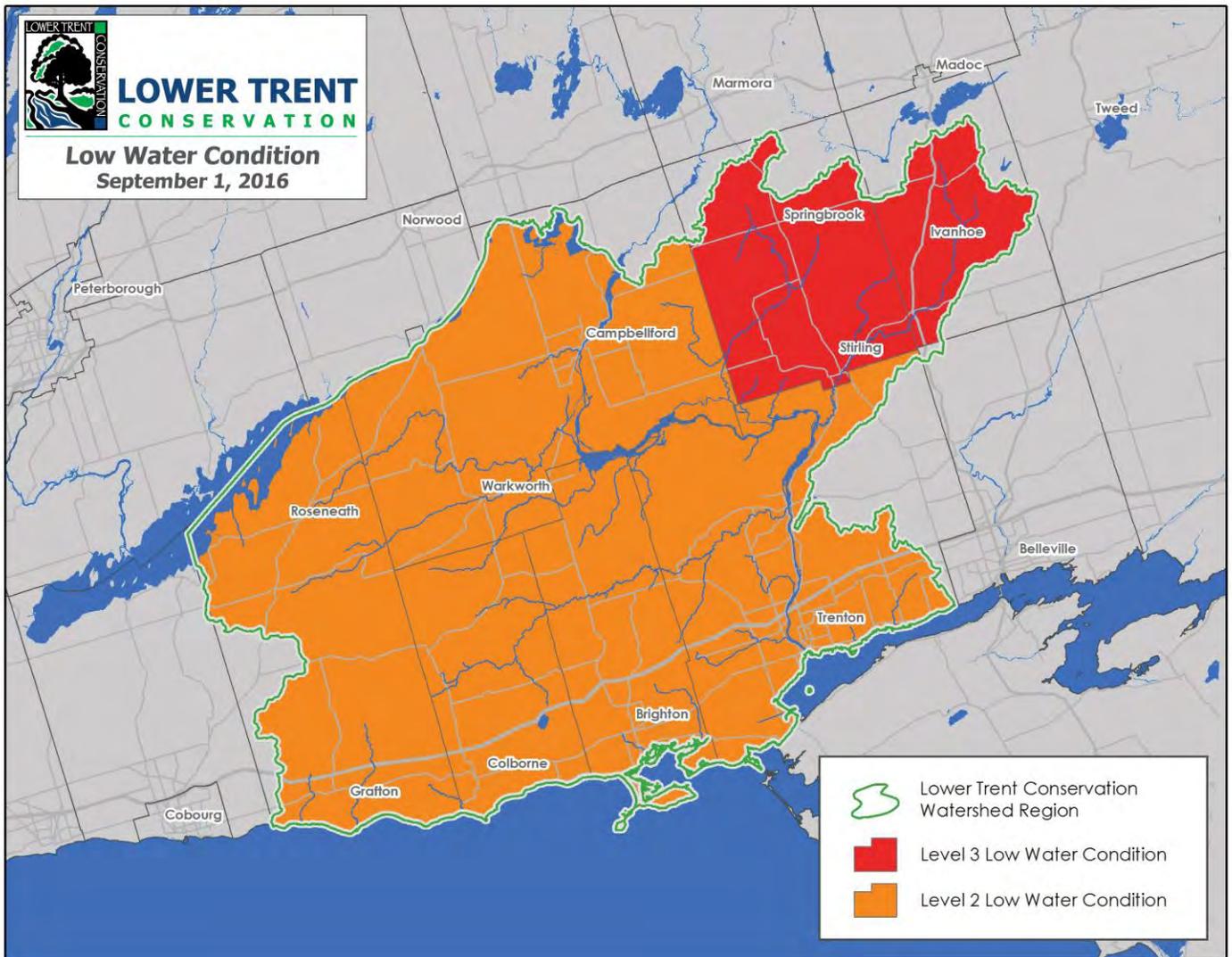
Water is a shared resource. While one homeowner may have an abundant water supply, excessive water use could be drawing down groundwater aquifers that could impact nearby wells.

To assist with tracking the impacts of the drought, Lower Trent Conservation is encouraging individuals or businesses who are experiencing problems or hardships as a result of the dry conditions to contact them at 613-394-4829 or information@ltc.on.ca.

A Level 1 Low Water Condition for the Lower Trent Conservation watershed region was declared on June 3rd, and was upgraded to Level 2 on July 4th.

The Ontario Low Water Response Program was developed by the Province to help coordinate and support local response in the event of a prolonged period of low stream flows or precipitation. There are three levels of Low Water Conditions with Level 1 being the least severe and Level 3 being the most severe.

Lower Trent Conservation will continue to monitor conditions and will provide updates as conditions change. To learn more about Ontario's Low Water Response program visit our website at www.ltc.on.ca.



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