



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Low Water Condition Upgraded to Level 2

Rainfall continues to be in short supply across the Trent River valley. As a result, Lower Trent Conservation confirms Level 2 Low Water Conditions are now being experienced across the watershed region, an area stretching from Grafton to Quinte West and from Lake Ontario to Rice Lake. This replaces the previous declaration of a Level 1 Low Water Condition made on June 3, 2016.

Under a Level 2 Low Water Condition, residents, businesses, industries, and municipalities are asked to voluntarily reduce their water use by 20%. Lower Trent Conservation encourages everyone to use water wisely and apply water conservation measures. Non-essential water uses should be suspended until natural water supplies recover. Those who hold a *Permit to Take Water* from the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change are asked to reduce their water taking by 20% as well.

Based on data from Environment Canada (Trenton), the 3-month average monthly precipitation for April through June was 36 mm which is 47% of the Long Term Average. A 3-month precipitation below 60% of average is a trigger for Level 2 Low Water Condition.

Butler Creek has also reached a Level 2 trigger with respect to stream flow data. Streams with less than 70% of the lowest summer month average flow is a trigger for Level 2 conditions.

“With rainfall falling well below normal for the past three months, we are starting to see impacts on local waterways”, says Janet Noyes, Manager – Watershed Science & Services. “While flows on Butler Creek for the month of June were only 39% of normal, Butler Creek has also dropped to 70% of the lowest summer month average flow. Our summer water monitoring staff team are reporting the headwater areas of many streams have already dried up. If below normal precipitation conditions through July, we will start to see water levels on many more creeks and streams drop dramatically.”

Minimum flows are being sustained on the Trent River with navigation levels currently being maintained by Parks Canada.

Drought conditions 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

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.

Conservation Authority staff will continue to monitor conditions and report new information as it becomes available. Updates on the Low Water status will be provided as conditions warrant. To learn more about Ontario’s Low Water Response program visit our website at www.ltc.on.ca.

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For more information, contact:

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