



NEWS RELEASE

Lower Trent Conservation ■ 714 Murray Street, Trenton, Ontario K8V 5P4
Tel: (613) 394-4829 ■ Fax: (613) 394-5226 ■ Website: www.ltc.on.ca ■ Email: information@ltc.on.ca

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LEVEL 2 Low Water Condition Continues

Despite recent rainfall, a Level 2 Low Water Condition remains in effect across the Lower Trent Conservation watershed region, an area stretching from Grafton to Quinte West and from Lake Ontario to Rice Lake. Local residents are encouraged to continue to reduce their water use.

While total precipitation recorded to date for August at Environment Canada's Trenton station is slightly above average, the previous four months of extreme dry conditions continue to impact local waterways. Water flows in local streams range from 32 to 69 per cent of normal. In particular, the northeastern portion of the watershed region is exhibiting more drought symptoms.

"Trenton has been the hotspot for precipitation within our watershed with 46.2 mm of rain yesterday and 34.8 mm on Saturday, bringing this month's total to 82 mm so far," says Janet Noyes, Manager – Watershed Science & Services. "However, the Stirling, Ivanhoe, and Campbellford areas have received lower rainfall amounts."

Flows on Rawdon, Squires/Hoards, and Trout Creeks are extremely low and within the criteria for a Level 2 Low Water Condition. "Above normal precipitation will be required over the next few months to restore groundwater levels and stream flows to normal conditions," adds Noyes.

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 such as lawn watering, car washing, etc. 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.

Many municipalities have invoked water use bylaws. Residents should know what bylaws are in effect in their municipality regarding water use, as well as outdoor fire bans.

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 Low Water Condition, 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 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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For more information, contact:

[Marilyn Bucholtz](mailto:marilyn@ltc.on.ca)

Communications Coord. | (613) 394-3915 ext. 216

[Janet Noyes](mailto:janet@ltc.on.ca)

Manager, Watershed Science & Services | (613) 394-3915 ext. 211