



# NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## LEVEL 2 Low Water Condition Confirmed

Lower Trent Conservation (LTC) confirms that Level 2 Low Water conditions are now being experienced in the Lower Trent Conservation watershed region, an area stretching from Grafton to Quinte West and from Lake Ontario to Rice Lake. This replaces the previous declaration of Level 1 conditions of June 14.

As part of the declaration of a Level 2 Low Water Condition, local municipalities, residents, industries and businesses are asked to voluntarily reduce their water use by 20 percent. Lower Trent Conservation encourages everyone to continue to use water wisely and apply water conservation measures. Non-essential water uses should be suspended until natural water supplies recover.

Indicators of Level 2 Low Water Condition is based on monthly total precipitation being less than 60 per cent of normal precipitation or stream flows dropping to below 50 percent of the lowest summer monthly average.

The Trenton weather station recorded 40 millimetres of rain in August which is close to 58 per cent of the normal monthly precipitation of 77 millimetres. With below average precipitation for most of the past eight months, water levels on local waterways are now starting to be impacted. Stream flow on Rawdon Creek is 46 per cent of normal for the month of August. Cold Creek is fairing slightly better (66 percent of normal) as its headwaters originate in the Oak Ridges Moraine and is being fed by deep underground water sources.

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.

The last time LTC issued an Ontario Low Water Condition was 11 years ago. A Low Water Condition was first declared on August 20, 2001 and was maintained for close to three months through to November 28, 2001.

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](http://www.ltc.on.ca) or [www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Water](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Water) and follow the links "Water: Too Much or Too Little".

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