



# LOWER TRENT CONSERVATION

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August 2, 2018

**Memo to:** CAO's & Councils, Watershed Municipalities  
**From:** Glenda Rodgers, CAO  
**SUBJECT:** *Ontario Low Water Response – LEVEL I Low Water Condition*

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 is 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.

This correspondence is to advise you that Lower Trent Conservation has declared a Level 1 Low Water Condition (minor drought) for the Lower Trent Conservation watershed. This decision is based on the 3-month precipitation indicator and flow conditions in our local watersheds. The May to July 3-month rainfall totals recorded by Environment Canada at Trenton was 177 millimetres, which is 78 percent of normal precipitation for this time of year. A 3-month precipitation below 80 percent is the trigger for Level 1 Low Water.

Monthly streamflows in Butler Creek and Rawdon Creek have dropped below 70% of the Lowest Summer Month Average flows for these creeks, which is also another trigger for Level 1 Low Water.

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.

As part of your Emergency Response program and in an effort to reduce the demand on the water system, Lower Trent Conservation is requesting that municipalities with Restrictive Water Use By-laws undertake enhanced compliance monitoring to assist in meeting the 10 percent objective. Residents need to be aware of the situation and doing what they can to conserve water such as using rain barrels to capture rain for watering lawns and gardens, limiting vehicle washing, etc.

Water levels in local streams are showing signs of stress and, if the lack of rainfall continues, below normal water levels will persist. More serious restrictions may be needed if the Lower Trent Conservation watershed moves into a Level II Low Water Condition.

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.

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

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[www.ltc.on.ca](http://www.ltc.on.ca). Residents can report any low water observations using the Low Water Reporting Form on our website.

If you have any questions, please contact Janet Noyes, Manager – Development Services & Water Resources at 613-394-3915 ext. 211, [janet.noyes@ltc.on.ca](mailto:janet.noyes@ltc.on.ca).

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