



A News Release
from the
**Cataraqui Region
Conservation Authority**

June 22, 2016

Minor Drought Conditions Persist

Kingston – The Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA) Water Response Team has continued the “Minor” drought condition declaration, due to continuing dry conditions. While the total rainfall for June has been close to normal, there have been long dry periods between rain events, and the dry April and May are still being felt across the watershed, with dry soils, and well below normal stream flows.

Over the last ten days, with minimal rainfall, stream flows have been falling sharply, and the Water Response Team is watching conditions very closely, and may have to upgrade the drought condition to “Moderate” if dry conditions continue.

The western part of the watershed received a helpful amount of rain on Monday evening (25mm+) while the eastern part of the watershed received minimal rainfall. This certainly helped wet the soils, and provided needed moisture for thirsty vegetation, though stream flows rose only a minimal amount, and fell back again within a day or two. Inland lake levels seem to be holding steady, but will decline with continued dry conditions.

Drought conditions take long periods to develop, and consequently take long periods to recover. The CRCA watersheds are still in a 3 month precipitation deficit of about 50 mm, and without additional rainfall, will reach close to 100 mm by early July.

Low water conditions are determined by the Cataraqui Region Water Response Team convened by the CRCA. Membership includes water managers, major water users, public health, agriculture, school boards, marina operators, golf courses, government agencies, dam operators and others.

The Water Response Team (WRT) recommends water conservation across the jurisdiction, for all water users, residential and commercial, especially those areas that are supplied by a well. The team is asking residents and businesses of the region to be wary of water usage, and try to conserve water where they can; this includes the outside watering of plants and lawns, and washing driveways, sidewalks, cars, etc. Permits To Take Water holders are also encouraged to reduce water takings during this exceptionally dry time.

Municipalities may invoke water use bylaws and residents should find out what bylaws are in effect in their municipalities regarding water use as well as outdoor fires.

The CRCA WRT declared a Minor drought condition on May 26th, and has maintained that declaration since.

The CRCA has numerous water conservation links on their website at www.crca.ca/resources-for-wise-water-use.

A “Minor” drought condition is the first of three levels and reflects concern. “Moderate” suggests a potentially serious problem. “Severe” indicates a failure of the water supply to meet demand.

The CRCA will continue to monitor conditions, and will provide updates as conditions change.

In order to track impacts of the drought conditions in the watershed, we request that any individuals or businesses in the Cataraqui Region who may be experiencing difficulties with



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their wells please contact the Conservation Authority by calling 613-546-4228 or (in a 613 area code) 1-877-956-CRCA(2722) , ext. 241.

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**For more information call:
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