



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

July 27, 2016

## **Moderate Drought Conditions Continue in Cataraqi Region**

**Kingston** – The Cataraqi Region Water Response Team is maintaining the Moderate Drought declaration across the Cataraqi Region Conservation Authority (CRCA) jurisdiction, despite the rainfall on Monday. While the Cataraqi region did get rain, it was a minimal amount (only a few millimetres), enough to green some grasses and vegetation, but not enough to raise stream flows or lake levels, or provide respite from the drought conditions of the past few months.

The CRCA from Kingston and west has received minimal rainfall in July (only about 15 mm of the average 70 mm), though the eastern part of the CRCA, around Brockville, has received much closer to normal precipitation for the month. Most of the days of June and July have had no rain at all, so even with rainfall, things dry up again quite quickly. Stream flows have been well below normal summer low flows for multiple months now, and continue to fall.

Lake levels across the CRCA, and eastern Ontario, have been falling due to evaporation, and are lower than normal in most cases, potentially exposing hazards that are normally irrelevant. Recreational users (swimmers, boaters, etc.) should exercise caution.

The long term forecast appears to predict a continuation of hot and dry conditions through the fall, which means current conditions may continue for a number of months to come. Steady, sustained, significant rainfall for a number of days is needed to bring conditions back towards normal. Across the CRCA, watersheds are in a deficit of about 100 mm over the last 3 months, slightly greater in the Kingston area, and slightly smaller in the Brockville area.

With the continued dry conditions, residents using shore wells, or private ground water wells, should be practicing water conservation, as they are likely the most vulnerable users across the jurisdiction. The CRCA recommends water conservation for all residents, across the CRCA region and eastern Ontario, as good practice, even in normal conditions.

Low water conditions are determined by the Cataraqi Region Water Response Team (WRT) 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.



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The Water Response Team recommends water conservation across the jurisdiction, for all water users, residential and commercial, especially those areas that are supplied by a ground water well or shore 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. Permit To Take Water holders are also encouraged to reduce water takings during this exceptionally dry time. Those residents relying on wells and shore wells should be concerned that, as the drought continues, their water supply may run dry.

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 (many municipalities have extended or re-invoked total fire bans).

The CRCA WRT declared a Minor drought condition on May 26th, and upgraded that condition to Moderate on July 5th.

The CRCA has numerous water conservation web links on their website at [www.crca.ca/resources-for-wise-water-use](http://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 that we can 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 their wells (groundwater and shore) please contact the Conservation Authority by calling 613-546-4228 or (in 613 area code) 1-877-956-CRCA(2722), ext. 241.

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**For more information call:  
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