



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

June 10, 2015

**LACK OF RAIN CAUSING LOW WATER CONDITIONS IN CRCA WATERSHED**

**KINGSTON ON** – Despite the rainfall over the past few days, low water conditions persist in the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA) watershed.

Lower than normal precipitation totals have been recorded around the CRCA watershed this spring. May was a very dry month seeing only 15% of normal precipitation for much of the month, though thanks to a rainfall event at the end of the month it ended up with about 50% of normal precipitation overall. This spring has been generally dry overall with about 60% of normal precipitation in March, April and May.

As a result of these dry conditions, area streams are flowing much lower than normal for this time of year, similar to 2012 levels which saw the CRCA declare a Level II Low Water Condition. Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River levels are also around 2012 levels for this time of year, about 20 cm lower than average. Inland lakes are close to normal right now, but without rainfall inputs to keep them filled, the evaporation from the lakes will cause the levels to fall.

Water control structure operators had tried to bring water levels a little higher than normal this spring, but with a less than average freshet and the dry May, levels are now around or just below normal, and without regular rainfall they will fall below normal. Most water control structures have been set to maintain water levels for a number of weeks now.

The CRCA recommends water conservation at all times of the year, but in particular during dry conditions like we are experiencing now. We are asking residents to be mindful of their water usage for outdoor watering (gardens and lawns), and washing of driveways and sidewalks.

The CRCA has convened the Water Response Team (WRT) to keep track of low water level conditions, and has had a meeting to discuss conditions and what could be happening over the summer. Given that the last week has had some good rainfall events, the WRT decided there is not an immediate need to declare a Low Water Level Condition, but the CRCA will be monitoring conditions to keep the WRT up to date. Any Low Water declarations will be posted to the CRCA website and social media accounts.

Ontario Low Water Response (OLWR) is a program guided by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR), and run by the Conservation Authorities across the Province. Each Conservation Authority sets up a Water Response Team (WRT) that is representative of the water users and managers including municipalities, agriculture, golf courses, and other industries. For more information on OLWR and WRT, please visit the MNR website at [www.ontario.ca/environment-andenergy/low-water-response-program](http://www.ontario.ca/environment-andenergy/low-water-response-program) and the CRCA low water response page at [www.crca.ca/low-water-response](http://www.crca.ca/low-water-response).

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