

Rideau Valley Conservation Authority Watershed Conditions Statement:

Level I Low Water Condition

(WCM - 12/2011)

December 2, 2011 – The Level I Low Water Condition in the Rideau River watershed that was declared on September 27 will remain in effect despite the rain and snow that has fallen in the past week.

The three month rainfall at the weather recording stations in and around the Rideau River watershed was less than 80% of the normal total. This is one indicator threshold for the Level I Low Water Condition. About 42 millimetres of precipitation fell in the last four days of November. Unfortunately, that was almost all that fell through the month. Following the rain that fell in October, nearly three weeks passed when there was virtually no rain at all.

There is some precipitation forecast over the next week but it is not likely to be enough to offset the present deficit. To get out of the Level I Low Water Condition, a generalized rainfall of 20 millimetres over the entire watershed is needed.

Good news is that the increased levels in area waterbodies as a result of the rain last week will make it easier for aquatic animals to find good over-wintering sites. Nonetheless, more rain to raise the moisture levels throughout the watershed would help before winter freeze-up.

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:

http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Water/2ColumnSubPage/STEL02_164583.html.

Also, visit the RVCA website for local conditions.

Any individuals or business in the Rideau Watershed who may be experiencing unusual problems or hardships due to low water are encouraged to contact the Conservation Authority by calling 613-692-3571 or 1-800-267-3504, ext. 1128 or 1132.

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More Information:

Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
contact: Patrick Larson, RVCA Senior Water Resources Technician at
613-692-3571 or 1-800-267-3504,
ext. 1110 or cell 613-799-9423

"Rideau Valley Conservation Authority is a partnership of municipalities within the Rideau Valley watershed created under the Conservation Authorities Act to deliver a range of programs in watershed management and natural resource conservation."

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