

# Watershed Conditions Statement:

## **Level 1 Low Water Condition Declaration**

(WCM - 10/2011)

**September 27, 2011** – Based on streamflow and precipitation indicators, the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) is declaring a Level 1 Low Water Condition in the Rideau River watershed. Under this condition, all residents and industrial water users are encouraged to voluntarily reduce their water use by at least 10%.

Precipitation amounts in the Rideau River watershed for the last three months are less than the Level 1 indicator of 80% of normal for this date. Parts of the Rideau watershed have had less rainfall than others through the summer but this week, the rainfall amount recorded at four of the five climate stations that RVCA refer to for data reached an average of 70% of the long term normal for late September.

Two stations on the Jock River and Kemptville Creek are used to estimate the impact of the dry conditions on streamflow in streams that do not have flows supplemented from reservoir lakes as the Rideau Canal does. Flows at the two stations are, respectively, 66% and 85% of the 30 day indicator for Level 1. A further indication of dry conditions is the water level in the Ottawa River, which is presently close to the lowest recorded since 1950.

While some rain is forecast through this week, it is not expected to be sufficient to improve flow conditions. Prolonged low rainfall has caused several minor streams and wetlands to dry up which will have impacts on both the plants and animals resident in those areas particularly if conditions persist into the winter. The declining water levels will cause more obstacles to navigation to be exposed on watershed lakes. Boaters need to proceed with caution.

The Conservation Authority advocates wise water use and conservation measures at all times and particularly during dry periods.

Authority staff will continue to monitor conditions and work with the local Water Response Team to respond to new information. The Water Response Team, consisting of municipal, provincial and federal government representatives responsible for water management operations and regulation in the Rideau River watershed, will be meeting to share information and coordinate action to avoid problems associated with low water conditions, if and where possible.

To learn more about Ontario's Low Water Response program visit:  
[http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Water/2ColumnSubPage/STEL02\\_164583.html](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 Water Response Team 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