

Rideau Valley Conservation Authority

Watershed Conditions Statement:

Level 1 Low Water Condition

(WCM - 11/2011)

November 8, 2011 – The Level 1 Low Water Condition in the Rideau River watershed that was declared on September 27 remains in effect. Under this condition, all residents and industrial water users are encouraged to voluntarily reduce their water use by at least 10%.

The Level 1 status will be maintained because the three month precipitation amounts at some of the monitoring stations are still below the 80% of normal that indicates Level 1 Low Water Condition. There were nearly two weeks of daily rainfall, sometimes heavy, through the middle of October. However, the total rainfall for October at most of the monitoring sites the Conservation Authority uses was still below average and there has been no significant rainfall at any of the monitoring sites for the past two weeks. Rainfall has been below normal throughout the watershed since July so there is a deficit that was not satisfied by the October rainfall.

To get out of the Level 1 Low Water Condition, a generalized rainfall of 20 to 30 millimetres over the entire watershed is needed. Periodic rainfall after that will be needed to raise the moisture levels in the soil and increase water levels in lakes and streams. The prolonged lack of rainfall caused many minor streams and wetlands to dry up. Some aquatic animals may have difficulty finding good over-wintering sites unless there is more rain before 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."