Rideau Valley Conservation Authority

Watershed Conditions Statement:

Low Summer Stream Flows

(WCM-09/2011)

August 8, 2011 – Water levels and flows on monitored streams in the Rideau River watershed were below long term averages for the end of July because of the recent prolonged dry weather. These can be expected to continue to decline with no significant rain in area weather forecasts.

Excess precipitation through April and May that kept stream flows and lake levels above normal have given way to below normal rainfall in June and July. However, while low, flows are within the range of variability that is expected for the time of year and are not yet at the thresholds as defined under the Ontario Low Water Response for Level 1 low water conditions.

The Conservation Authority advocates wise water use and conservation measures at all times and particularly during the summer months. Authority staff will continue to monitor conditions and, should it be warranted, will issue notice of the declaration of Level 1 low water conditions as part of the Ontario Low Water Response program. At that level, voluntary water conservation measures are recommended. Should Level 2 and 3 conditions occur, mandatory cutbacks may have to be imposed.

The declining water levels will cause more obstacles to navigation to be exposed on watershed lakes. Boaters need to proceed with caution.

The last time the RVCA issued a Level 1 Low Water declaration was in September, 2005.

To learn more about Ontario's Low Water Response program visit: http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Water/2ColumnSubPage/STEL02_164583.html and visit the RVCA's website for local conditions.

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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."*