

NEWS RELEASE

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

July 5, 2016

Drought Condition Moves to Moderate

Kingston – The Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA) Water Response Team agreed today to move the local drought condition declaration from “Minor” to “Moderate”, due to ongoing drought conditions.

The total rainfall across the CRCA for June was just over normal, but there have been long dry periods between each rain event, allowing the soils and streams to dry out between events. Every rain event helps restore moisture in the soils, vegetation, lakes and streams, but considerable rainfall is needed to bring conditions back to normal.

Drought conditions take long periods to develop, and consequently take long periods to recover. The CRCA watersheds are in a 3 month precipitation deficit of about 75 mm, and without additional rainfall, will reach close to 100 mm within a week or two.

Stream flows across the CRCA have been at or below normal August levels for much of the last month, and have been well below normal for the time of year since April.

Inland lake levels, which had been holding steady through the early part of the drought, have started to decline below target levels. With the continued lack of precipitation, and warm sunny weather, evaporation will be high, and lake levels will continue to fall. Care should be taken with navigation, as lower water levels will expose boaters to hazards that are normally well below the water surface, boat hulls and boat props.

These conditions persist across eastern Ontario (and much of southern Ontario).

Low water conditions are determined by the Cataraqui Region Water Response Team (WRT) convened by the CRCA. Membership includes water managers, major water users, public health, agriculture, school boards, marina operators, golf courses, government agencies, dam operators and others.

The **Water Response Team recommends water conservation across the jurisdiction, for all water users**, residential and commercial, especially those areas that are supplied by a ground water well or shore well. The team is asking residents and businesses of the region to be wary of water usage, and try to conserve water where they can; this includes the outside watering of plants and lawns, and washing driveways, sidewalks, cars, etc. Permit To Take Water holders



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are also encouraged to reduce water takings during this exceptionally dry time. Those residents relying on wells and shore wells should be concerned that, as the drought conditions, their water supply may run dry.

Municipalities may invoke water use bylaws and residents should find out what bylaws are in effect in their municipalities regarding water use as well as outdoor fires (many municipalities have extended or re-invoked total fire bans).

The CRCA WRT declared a Minor drought condition on May 26th, and has maintained that declaration until this upgrade.

The CRCA has numerous water conservation web links on their website at www.crca.ca/resources-for-wise-water-use.

A “Minor” drought condition is the first of three levels and reflects concern. “Moderate” suggests a potentially serious problem. “Severe” indicates a failure of the water supply to meet demand.

The CRCA will continue to monitor conditions, and will provide updates as conditions change.

In order that we can track impacts of the drought conditions in the watershed, we request that any individuals or businesses in the Cataraqui Region who may be experiencing difficulties with their wells (groundwater and shore) please contact the Conservation Authority by calling 613-546-4228 or 1-877-956-CRCA(2722), ext. 241.

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**For more information call:
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