

“Minor” Drought Status Rescinded

(WCS - 14/2017)

April 19, 2017 – The drought status in the Rideau River watershed that was left at “Minor” after a dry year in 2016 is, by this statement, reduced to “Normal”.

The uncertainty that prompted holding the Minor status through the winter was because it wasn't clear what state groundwater resources had been left at as the onset of winter arrived. With a period of warmer temperatures and the loss of much of the snow cover by late March, there was an opportunity to access the monitoring wells in the Rideau River watershed. Measurements indicated that groundwater levels had been restored to about the long term average.

By this time in mid-April last year, farmers were able to get on their fields to start ploughing and planting. This year, flooding is still a concern and precipitation since the start of the year is 5% above normal. Dry conditions can at any time return, of course, and RVCA staff will continue to monitor conditions and issue statements as warranted.

All watershed residents are encouraged to conserve water at all times not just when drought conditions prevail.

Relevant information sources are as follows:

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/managing-your-water-well-times-water-shortage>

Ontario's Low Water Response program: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/low-water-response-program>.

RVCA website: (www.rvca.ca)

Hourly and daily streamflows and water levels: <http://his.rvca.ca/rvcafwl/> .

In order that we can track impacts of the drought conditions in the watershed, we request that any individuals or businesses in the Rideau Watershed who may be experiencing difficulties with their wells please contact the Conservation Authority by calling 613-692-3571 or 1-800-267-3504, ext. 1128 or by email (instructions at http://www.rvca.ca/low_water/index.html). There is also the Drought Impacts Map application on the RVCA website under Watershed Conditions.

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More Information:

contact: Patrick Larson, RVCA Senior Water Resources Technician
Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
613-692-3571 or 1-800-267-3504
ext. 1210 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."