



Long Point Region Conservation Authority

LPRCA Media Release

July 8, 2016

Water conservation urged throughout Long Point Region watershed

Water users throughout the Long Point Region watershed are being asked to reduce their water consumption by 10 per cent, because of the unusually dry weather in recent months.

Based on the cumulative lack of rainfall since mid-April and lower than typical stream flow and groundwater levels for this time of year, the Long Point Region Joint Low Water Response Team (WRT) has issued a Level 1 Low Water Advisory for all areas in the Long Point Region watershed.

Long Point Region Conservation Authority (LPRCA) requests that people comply with all municipal water use restrictions in their area. In addition, we encourage people to cut back on non-essential uses, both around the home and at work.

“Under the Ontario Low Water Response Program, when stream flows fall to less than 70 per cent of their lowest average summer month flow, or when rainfall is less than 80 per cent of the three-month average, the WRT can call for a ‘Level 1’ response,” notes Craig Jacques, LPRCA’s Water Resources Specialist. Jacques points out that “This declaration results in a request for a voluntary 10 per cent reduction in water consumption by all water users.”

Urban and rural residents can help by restricting water use, such as lawn watering and car washing, and taking care to conserve water indoors.

Farmers can reduce consumption and the impact on creeks and groundwater aquifers by following best practices for irrigation:

- Arrange with their neighbor to stagger irrigation times
- Pump at a lower rate over a longer period of time, and store water in a pond if possible
- Ensure that their equipment is running efficiently and not leaking
- Minimize daytime irrigation to reduce the amount of water lost to evaporation

By following these and other best practices, residents in the Long Point Region proactively assist in minimizing the impacts of low water on aquatic ecosystems; conserving water supplies in the event conditions worsen; and hopefully limiting or reducing the need for further water restriction measures.

The Low Water Response Team is made up of representatives from watershed municipalities, the local agricultural sector, other major water users, several provincial ministries and the LPRCA.

The LPRCA will continue to monitor stream flow, groundwater levels and precipitation, and will provide updates as watershed conditions change.

More information on the Low Water Response Program is available on the LPRCA website at www.lprca.on.ca

For further information about watershed conditions contact the Long Point Region Conservation Authority at 519-842-4242.