



News Release

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Central Lake Ontario Conservation Downgrades to Level 1 Low Water Conditions



Mild weather in periods in December and January have helped with low water conditions across the Central Lake Ontario Conservation (CLOCA) watershed. Stream flows have recovered and some shallow groundwater recharge has occurred after several rain and snow melt events. The Central Lake Ontario Water Response Team is downgrading the Level 2 Low Water Condition to a Level 1 for watersheds within their jurisdiction. Residents are still asked to continue with their water conservation efforts.

“December and January precipitation amounts were 83% and 90% of our historical normal respectively. For the 3-month period of November through January, our watershed received about 69 % of the normal precipitation, and our streamflow is above normal for this time of year,” states Neil MacFarlane, Environmental Engineering Analyst for Central Lake Ontario Conservation.

Although precipitation and streamflow conditions have improved, groundwater levels in shallow aquifers marginally improved through the beginning of January. Groundwater levels will be slow to recover with current frozen ground conditions. For residents experiencing problems with their shallow wells, information is available through the Ontario Ministry of Environment and Climate Change website at www.ontario.ca/page/managing-your-water-well-times-water-shortage#section-2 . Residents with well problems are also encouraged to map their well on the Interactive Drought Reporting Map. A link may be found at www.cloca.com/resources .

“Unfortunately, the low water condition is not expected to recover in the near future as it will take an extended period of rain or snow melt to bring water reserves back to normal,” says MacFarlane. “In 2016, the watershed only received two thirds (67%) of our average annual precipitation.”

For more information please contact Neil MacFarlane at Central Lake Ontario Conservation (905) 579-0411, ext. 134 or email: nmacfarlane@cloca.com.

Healthy watersheds for today and tomorrow.