



News Release

100 Whiting Avenue, Oshawa, ON, L1H 3T3
(905) 579-0411, fax (905) 579-0994

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Central Lake Ontario Conservation Downgrades to Normal Low Water Conditions



A very mild winter and a wet spring has improved low water conditions across the Central Lake Ontario Conservation (CLOCA) watershed. Stream flows have recovered and shallow groundwater recharge has occurred after consecutive snow melt events and high precipitation months this spring. The Central Lake Ontario Water Response Team is downgrading the Level 1 Low Water Condition to normal for watersheds within their jurisdiction.

“Our watershed has recovered very quickly from the extreme drought conditions experienced from April through October 2016,” states Neil MacFarlane, Environmental Engineering Analyst for Central Lake Ontario Conservation.

Mild winter months, very shallow frost levels and several precipitation-melt events initiated the recovery beginning with of shallow aquifer recharge. Adding to this, a wet spring has continued to maintain saturated soil conditions and monthly average streamflows are well above historical averages. March, April and May precipitation amounts were 118%, 115% and 164% of our historical normal, respectively with an average of 123 % of the normal precipitation. This in turn has contributed to streamflow in our creeks measuring above normal for this time of year. Groundwater levels in the shallow aquifers have begun to recover with several of our monitoring wells recording water levels at the historical average.

For residents still experiencing problems with their shallow wells, information is available through the Ontario Ministry of Environment and Climate Change website at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/managing-your-water-well-times-water-shortage#section-2>. Residents with well quantity problems are also encouraged to map their well on the Interactive Drought Reporting Map. A link may be found at www.cloca.com/resources .

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.