

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Lisa Hastings, Communications Specialist
905-579-0411, ext. 142 (office) | 289-685-7998 (cell)
lhastings@cloca.com

NOTICE OF LEVEL 1 LOW WATER CONDITIONS

OSHAWA, ON — The Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority (CLOCA) is issuing a Level 1 Low Water conditions statement for watersheds within the CLOCA jurisdiction as a result of persistent dry conditions and below average rainfall in May and June.

The Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority's hydrologic monitoring program looks at streamflow and precipitation within the watershed over 30- and 90-day periods to determine low water status. Between April and June (to date), our watershed received below 80 per cent of the normal precipitation for this time of year. Drier conditions and minimal rainfall are expected to continue for the duration of June according to recent weather forecasts.

Low water conditions are especially important for surface water takers and shallow well users. For residents experiencing problems with their shallow wells, information is available through the Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) website at: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/managing-your-water-well-times-water-shortage#section-2>

Under the Ontario Low Water Response Program, residents and businesses are encouraged to conserve water by voluntarily reducing non-essential uses, both at home and at work, to help achieve a 10 per cent reduction in overall water use.

To reduce water use by 10 per cent, CLOCA offers the following water conservation tips:

- Adhere to regional/municipal watering restrictions that may apply.
- Reduce non-essential water use.
- Make use of water storage (e.g., use rain barrels to water gardens).
- Withdraw water more slowly over a longer period of time (e.g., reduce pumping rate and time of day).
- Schedule surface water withdrawals with neighbouring water-takers.

The Level 1 Low Water Conditions will remain in effect until further notice. The Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority will continue to monitor rainfall and streamflow conditions to determine if further water restrictions will be necessary throughout the summer months. Updates will be provided as required.

For more information, please contact:

Alana McDonald
Environmental Engineering Technologist
Cell: (905) 259-4579
Email: amcdonald@cloca.com

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About Central Lake Ontario Conservation (CLOCA)

Central Lake Ontario Conservation (CLOCA) is a local, community-based, environmental organization and one of 36 Conservation Authorities responsible for managing watershed resources across Ontario. Established in 1958, CLOCA's jurisdiction is based on the watershed boundaries of four major watercourses and 18 minor watercourses draining an area of over 639 square kilometres. Central Lake Ontario Conservation's watershed stretches from the municipal boundaries of Ajax/Pickering to Clarington, and north from Lake Ontario to the crest of the Oak Ridges Moraine.

Central Lake Ontario Conservation provides a wide variety of science-based watershed management programs and services, delivered in partnership with their municipal partners, local landowners, environmental agencies and all levels of government. Central Lake Ontario Conservation's municipal partners include the Region of Durham, the cities of Oshawa and Pickering, the towns of Ajax and Whitby, the Municipality of Clarington, and the townships of Scugog and Uxbridge.