

# Watershed Conditions Statement:

## Emerging Drought Conditions in the Rideau Valley

(WCS - 3/2015)

**May 8, 2015** – Fields may be dry enough for farmers to get on their land relatively early but that lack of moisture may have repercussions in the weeks to come.

To the end of April, the three month precipitation totals recorded at climate monitoring stations in and around the Rideau River watershed were in the order of 65% of normal. Rainfall in July and August, 2014, were above normal. However, monthly precipitation totals started to decline in September with drought conditions (80% of normal precipitation) beginning in mid-November and persisting to the present.

Streamflows are still on the decline following the third lowest spring freshet flow since 1964 and are now below normal at all recording stations throughout the watershed. Target water levels in the Rideau Canal reservoir lakes have been reached but, in order to achieve the targets for Bobs Lake, outflows had to be reduced causing particularly low flows in the Tay River. This may have an impact on the success of fish spawning.

The RVCA encourages everybody to always use water wisely and apply water conservation measures, particularly during this period of low precipitation.

Authority staff will continue to monitor conditions and report new information as it becomes available.

To learn more about Ontario's Low Water Response program visit:

[http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Water/2ColumnSubPage/STEL02\\_164583.html](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Water/2ColumnSubPage/STEL02_164583.html). Also, visit the RVCA website for local conditions.

Any individuals or business in the Rideau Watershed who may be experiencing unusual problems or hardships due to low water are encouraged to contact the Conservation Authority by calling 613-692-3571 or 1-800-267-3504, ext. 1128 or 1132.

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### More Information:

Rideau Valley Conservation Authority  
contact: Patrick Larson, RVCA Senior Water Resources Technician  
613-692-3571 or 1-800-267-3504,  
ext. 1110 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."*