



SOUTH NATION  
CONSERVATION  
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# Ontario Low Water Response SNC's Water Response Team

2025



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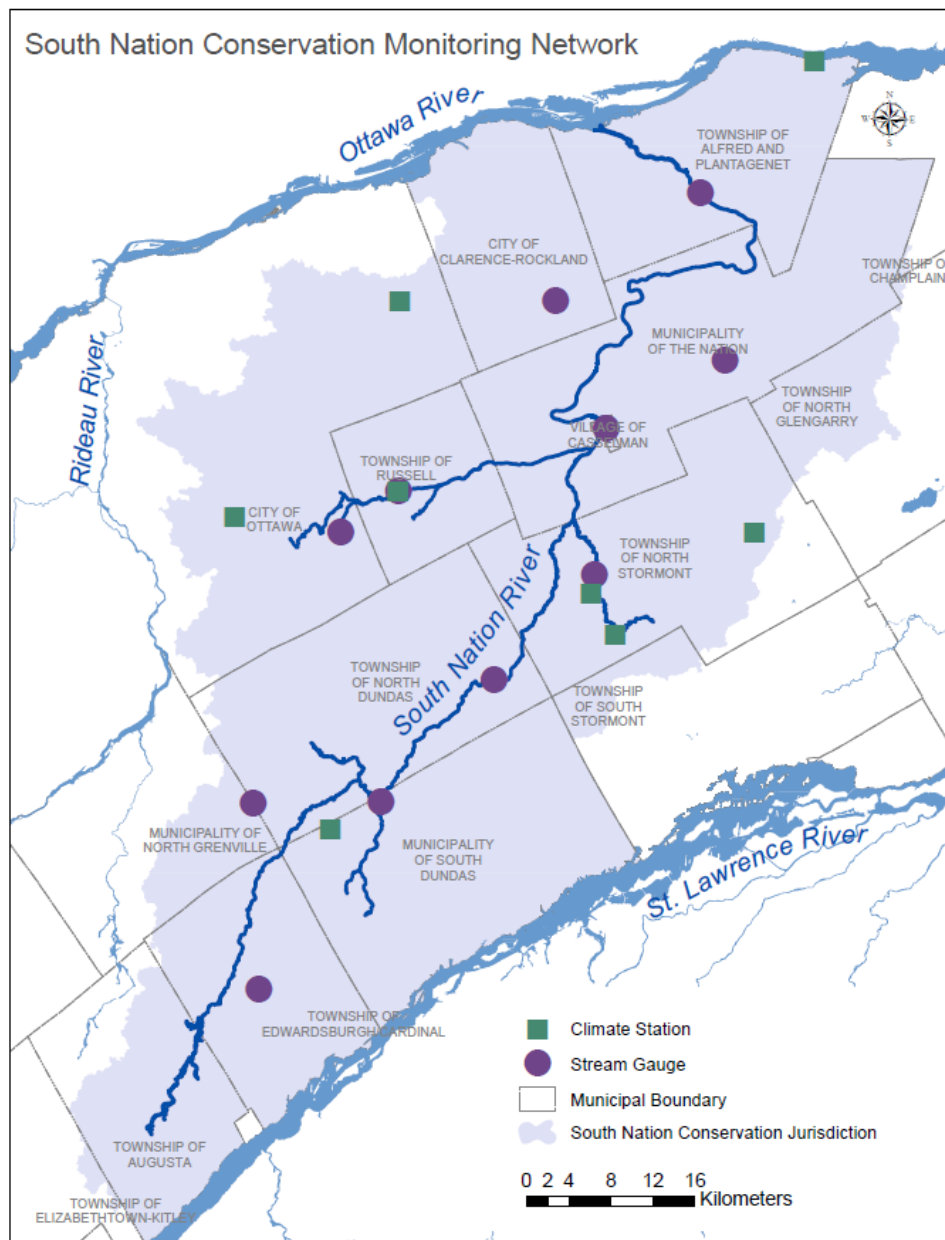
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## 1.0 Map of South Nation Conservation Jurisdiction

Figure 1 illustrates the South Nation Conservation (SNC) jurisdiction and the South Nation River watershed. Stream gauges and weather station locations can also be found on the map, which are used by SNC staff when monitoring the watershed conditions.



**Figure 1:** Location of stream gauges and weather stations within SNC jurisdiction



## 2.0 Ontario Low Water Response Plan

*Ontario Low Water Response* has been produced to ensure provincial preparedness, assist in coordination, and to support local response in the event of a drought. This plan recognizes the partnership between provincial and local authorities, and that natural resource and environmental management must be approached at both the provincial and local levels. See **Appendix A** for a copy of the plan.

The province provides overall direction for the plan and coordinates policies, science, and information systems. In extreme circumstances, support is provided where local declarations of an emergency have been made. At the local jurisdiction, the emphasis of this response plan is directed to collecting information, interpreting policy, and delivering programs to minimize the effects of low water conditions.

Condition	Response
<b>Level I</b> <i>Voluntary Conservation</i>	The potential for water supply problems is identified. <i>Target: 10% use reduction</i>
<b>Level II</b> <i>Conservation and Restrictions on Non-Essential Use</i>	Minor water supply issues are encountered. <i>Target: An additional 10% reduction, municipal by-laws enacted</i>
<b>Level III</b> <i>Conservation, Restriction, Regulation</i>	Supply no longer meets demand. Social and economic impacts are experienced. <i>Target: Reduce/manage water demands to the maximum extent (ex: amend PTTW, new by-laws)</i>

**Table 1:** The three low water conditions as part of the Ontario Low Water Response

Currently, there are 2 low water indicators: precipitation and water flow. The 3-month and 18-month averages of these indicators compared to a historical record may indicate if a watershed is experiencing low water conditions (see **Table 2**).

	Level I	Level II	Level III
<b>Rain</b>	<80% of the monthly average	<60% of the monthly average	<40% of the monthly average
<b>Stream flow</b>	<i>Spring:</i> Monthly flow <100% of the lowest average summer month flow	<i>Spring:</i> <70% of the lowest average summer month flow	<i>Spring:</i> <50% of the lowest average summer month flow
	<i>Other times:</i> Monthly flow <70% of the lowest average summer month flow	<i>Other times:</i> Monthly flow <50% of the lowest average summer month flow	<i>Other times:</i> Monthly flow <30% of the lowest average summer month flow

**Table 2:** The triggers for each low water conditions as part of the Ontario Low Water Response



Name	Agency	Telephone Number	Email Address
Steve Densham	SNC Board of Directors, Chair	(613) 361-2962	sdensham@northstormont.ca
Bill Smirle	SNC Board of Directors Member	(613) 448-1636	Wilson.smirle@sympatico.ca
<b>Provincial Government</b>			
Darren Bonenberg	Ministry of Natural Resources	(437) 881-9325	Darren.Bonenberg@ontario.ca
Cory Wiseman (Alternate)	Ministry of Natural Resources	(705) 271-7417	cory.wiseman@ontario.ca
James Peets	Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks	(613) 362-9119	james.peets@ontario.ca
Terrence Sauvé	Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs	(613) 676-2460	Terrence.sauve@ontario.ca
Amadou Thiam (Alternate)	Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs	(613) 447-6882	Amadou.thiam@ontario.ca



Name	Agency	Telephone Number	Email Address
<b>Municipal Government</b>			
Hans Werner-Mackeler	Augusta Township	(613) 925-4231 x204	Emergplan@augusta.ca
Katherine Beehler	United Counties of Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry	(613) 932-1515 x1257	Kbeehler@sdgcounties.ca
Pierre Paul Beauchamp	Village of Casselman	(613) 764-3139 x243	Ppbeauchamp@casselman.ca
Tessa Di Iorio	City of Ottawa	(613) 580-2424 x17658 Alt: 613-406-6465	Tessa.diiorio@ottawa.ca
Louis Prevost	United Counties of Prescott and Russell	1-800-667-6307	louisprevost@prescott-russell.on.ca
<b>Agricultural Community</b>			
Jacqueline Pemberton	Federation of Agriculture	(613) 720-4756	Pemberton.jacqueline@gmail.com
Terry Otto	Federation of Agriculture	(613) 821-1428	Otto@ncf.ca
<b>Special Interest</b>			
Dawn Crump	Ontario Clean Water Agency	(613) 223-2207	Dcrump@ocwa.com



Name	Agency	Telephone Number	Email Address
Gib Patterson	Golf Course Representative	(613) 850-5468	Gibpat@emeraldlinks.com
<b>South Nation Conservation Staff</b>			
Ronda Boutz, Secretary-Treasurer	South Nation Conservation (613) 984-2948		Rboutz@nation.on.ca
Sandra Mancini, Managing Director, Natural Hazards and Infrastructure			Smancini@nation.on.ca
John Mesman, Managing Director, Property, Conservation Lands, and Community Outreach			Jmesman@nation.on.ca
Katherine Watson, Coordinator, Early Warning Systems and Watershed Plans			Kwatson@nation.on.ca
Phillip Dagenais, Water Resources Specialist - Monitoring			pdagenais@nation.on.ca
Arielle Noonan, Stewardship Assistant			anoonan@nation.on.ca



Name	Agency	Telephone Number	Email Address
Andy Stefan, Resource Assistant	South Nation Conservation (613) 984-2948		astefan@nation.on.ca

**Table 3:** South Nation Water Response Team

## 3.0 South Nation Conservation Water Response Team

### 3.1 Water Response Team Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference  
Water Response Team  
March 2003

#### 1. Background

The provincial government has prepared a response plan to deal with low water conditions. *Ontario Low Water Response* was created in 2000 and is intended to ensure provincial preparedness, to assist in coordination and to support local response in the event of a drought. The province provides overall direction and coordinates policies, science and information systems and emergency support. At the local jurisdiction, the emphasis is directed to collecting information, interpreting policy, delivering programs, and responding to emergencies.

Three levels are used to determine drought conditions in a watershed:

- Level I (warning) - confirmed or determined by conservation authorities
- Level II (conservation) - confirmed or determined by Water Response Teams
- Level III (restrictions) - confirmed or determined by the province

#### 2. Role of the Water Response Team

Water response teams are focused on reacting to current low water conditions. Long term drought prevention efforts must be developed and are the responsibility of existing water management agencies and users.

South Nation Conservation's Water Response Team (WRT) will use a combination of water data, provincial and local legislation, communication techniques and local tools to advocate for conservation. The WRT will provide a coordinated response from provincial, conservation authority, private and special interest water managers and users. Members





of the team will work cooperatively, sharing all information and being accountable. In cases of extreme drought, the WRT will ensure that key local and provincial decision-makers participate actively in the process to see that water allocation decisions are understood, supported, and enforced.

### 3. Areas Outside SNC Watershed

The WRT is mainly setup for the South Nation River jurisdiction and its member municipalities. However, the WRT has invited representation from municipalities which are outside the SNC jurisdiction. Staff support for these municipalities will continue to be provided by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), Kemptville District Office. The MNRF will be responsible for coordinating activities outside the SNC jurisdiction.

### 4. Team Membership

The WRT will include provincial, municipal and conservation authority staff as well as representatives for local interests and users. Team membership will include representation from the following sectors:

- Conservation Authority - 2 members
- Provincial government - 3 members (non-voting members)
  - Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
  - Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs
  - Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
- Municipal government - 5 members
  - Stormont Dundas and Glengarry
  - Prescott-Russell
  - Leeds and Grenville
  - City of Ottawa
  - Outside of SNC Watershed
- Agricultural Community - 3 members, including 1 from SNC Clean Water Committee
- Special Interest - 2 members (e.g., Industry, OCWA, Ducks Unlimited, Golf Courses)

SNC will appoint the Committee Chair. SNC Chair and Vice Chair are ex-officio members. Membership may increase or decrease based on approval of the WRT.

### 5. Functions of the Committee:

Responsibilities for team members include attending meetings, communicating back to their



sector, sharing relevant data, and using drought management tools. Specifically, the WRT will

- Characterize the watershed
- Identify local water supply needs and concerns
- Identify severity of low water situation/condition
- Recommend water conservation and preservation
- Evaluate effectiveness of local actions
- Provide advice to local provincial decision-makers
- Apply for provincial funding for drought related expenses and projects

#### 6. Frequency of Meetings

- Level I - In consultation with the chair, once a Level I drought condition has been confirmed or determined by SNC, the WRT will be circulated information on watershed conditions and recommended action (i.e., press release, voluntary conservation). SNC staff will continue monitoring watershed conditions and keep the WRT informed.
- Level II - In consultation with the chair, when conditions warrant, the WRT will meet to confirm or determine a Level II drought condition and appropriate action.
- Level III - In consultation with the chair, when conditions warrant, the WRT will meet to discuss asking the province to confirm or determine a Level III drought condition.

#### 7. Administrative Procedures:

- Volunteer members of the Committee will be paid mileage in accordance with current rates of SNC. Mileage will be paid annually only if there is funding available from the MNRF for drought related expenses.
- Decisions of the Committee will be reached by parliamentary procedure.
- Minutes of all meetings will be recorded by SNC staff and distributed to the Committee members for review 1 week prior to the next meeting (whenever possible).
- Meeting agendas will be distributed in advance (whenever possible), complete with appropriate background information of agenda items. The agenda will be prepared and distributed by SNC staff, with consultation with the WRT Chair.



- Telephone or written (fax, email) votes may be accepted at the discretion of the Chair in the case of straight forward decisions to be made which do not justify a meeting.

## 4.0 Media Contacts

If drought conditions occur, SNC's communications department contains the emergency contact list for 2021. Contacts will be e-mailed about current water conditions and communicate a strong conservation message implementing restrictions through the municipalities on non-essential use.

## 5.0 Municipal Contact Information

Sixteen municipalities make up the SNC jurisdiction from the United Counties of Prescott-Russell, United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, United Counties of Leeds and Grenville, and the City of Ottawa. **Table 4** lists the municipalities within the region.

Municipality	Address	Phone	Fax
Alfred-Plantagenet	205 Old Highway 17, P.O. Box 350, Plantagenet, ON K0B 1L0	(613) 673-4797	(613) 673-4812
Casselman	751, rue St-Jean, P.O. Box 710 Casselman ON K0A 1M0	(613) 764-3139	(613) 764-5709
Champlain	948 Pleasant Corner Road E, Vankleek Hill, ON K0B 1R0	(613) 678-3003	(613) 678-3363
Clarence-Rockland	1560 Laurier Street, Rockland, ON, K4K 1P7	(613) 446-6022	(613) 446-1497
La Nation	958 Route 500 West, Casselman ON K0A 1M0	(613) 764-5444	(613) 764-3310
Russell	717 Notre-Dame Street, Embrun, ON, K0A 1W1	(613) 443-3066	(613) 443-1042
Augusta	3560 County Road 26, R.R. #2, Prescott, ON, K0E 1T0	(613) 925-4231	(613) 925-3499
Edwardsburgh-Cardinal	18 Centre Street, P.O Box 129 Spencerville, ON, K0E1X0	(613) 658-3055	(613) 658-3445
Elizabethtown-Kitley	6544 New Dublin Road Addison, ON, K0E 1A0	(613) 345-7480	(613) 345-7235
North Grenville	285 County Road #44, P.O. Box 130, Kemptville, ON K0G 1J0	(613) 258-9569	(613) 258-9620



North Dundas	636 St. Lawrence Street, P.O. Box 489, Winchester, ON K0C 2K0	(613) 774-2105	(613) 774-5699
North Glengarry	90 Main Street P.O. Box 700 Alexandria, ON K0C 1A0	(613) 525-1110	(613) 525-1649
North Stormont	15 Union Street, P.O. Box 99 Berwick, ON, K0C 1G0	(613) 984-2821	(613) 984-2908
South Dundas	34 Ottawa Street P.O. Box 740 Morrisburg, Ontario, K0C 1X0	(613) 543-2673	(613) 543-1076
South Stormont	P.O. Box 84, 2 Mille Roches Road, Long Sault, ON K0C 1P0	(613) 534-8889	(613) 534-2280
City of Ottawa	110 Laurier Avenue West, Ottawa, ON, K1P 1J1	(613) 580-2400 or (866) 261-9799	(613) 230-5808
United Counties Leeds Grenville	25 Central Ave., W., Suite 100, Brockville, ON, Canada, K6V 4N6	(613) 342-3840	(613) 342-2101
United Counties Prescott Russell	59 Court Street, P.O. Box 304, L'Original, ON, K0B 1K0	(613) 675-4661	(613) 675-1007
United Counties Stormont, Dundas Glengarry	26 Pitt Street, Cornwall, ON K6J 3P2	(613) 932-1515	(613) 936-2913

**Table 4:** Contact information for the municipalities within SNC jurisdiction

South Nation Conservation maintains an Emergency Contact list containing: media outlet information, municipality contacts, and neighbouring conservation authority contact information.



## 5.1 Current Municipal By-laws

During a low water condition, the municipalities are asked to activate their water conservation by-laws, if available. **Table 5** summarizes the current by-laws and their requirements.

Municipality	By-Law Number	Requirements
Alfred and Plantagenet	#86-97	<b>Summer Watering by-law Between June 1<sup>st</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup>:</b> Residents in odd numbered buildings shall be permitted to water lawns and gardens on odd numbered days between 7-10pm. Residents even numbered buildings shall be permitted to water lawns and gardens on even days between the hours of 7-10pm.
Clarence Rockland	#2000-43	<b>Prohibit Wrongful Use of Water:</b> No person shall run water wastefully as supplied by water works. No person shall water newly installed grass until a permit has been issued. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Urban area: Between May 1<sup>st</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup>, odd civic addresses allowed to water lawns etc. 'Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday' between 8-10pm. Properties with even civic addresses allowed to water lawns etc. on 'Monday, Wednesday and Friday' between 8-10pm.</li><li>• Hamlet area: between May 1<sup>st</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup>, no watering lawns, gardens or flowers, no public car wash, no filling of privately owned swimming pools through water works.</li><li>• No person may fill up privately owned swimming pools by water works.</li></ul>
Nation	#63-2003	<b>Watering:</b> Between June 1 <sup>st</sup> and September 30 <sup>th</sup> , persons at odd numbered buildings are permitted to water on odd numbered days between 7-10 pm. Persons at even numbered buildings are permitted to water on even numbered days of the month between 7 and 10 pm. Persons watering manually are permitted to water at any time. Total ban on watering may occur in emergency situations such as a drought, etc.
South Dundas	#2006-41	<b>Conditions of Water Use:</b> The use of water irrigation is limited between the hours 7pm-7am. The water use for



Municipality	By-Law Number	Requirements
		irrigation shall not exceed five hours in a twenty-four-hour period. Irrigation is restricted to even numbered houses watering on even numbered days of the month and odd numbered houses may water on odd numbered days of the month. The Township may by resolution restrict outdoor water usage as and when deemed necessary
Casselman	#2001-032	<b>Lawn Watering:</b> Year-round, residents having even-numbered civic addresses may lawn/garden sprinkle on Monday and Thursday from 7-8 pm only. Residents having odd-numbered civic addresses may lawn/garden sprinkle on Tuesday and Friday from 7-8pm only. Lawn watering is prohibited at all times on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday.
Russell	#84-99	<b>Water Restrictions:</b> Year-round, odd-numbered homes may water lawns, etc. on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 7-9pm. Even-numbered homes may water lawns, etc. on Mondays and Wednesdays between 7-9pm. Watering or car washing may be done at any time with a handheld hose. The Superintendent is authorized to suspend all lawn or garden sprinkling entirely.
South Stormont	#2007-18	<b>Water Restrictions:</b> Water use for Landscape and Irrigation purposes are restricted to even numbered houses watering on even numbered days of the month and odd numbered houses may water on odd numbered days of the month between the hours of 6:00 pm and 10:00 am. No person shall use or permit to use municipal water for landscape irrigation or the filling/refilling of swimming pools except as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A person may water flowers, shrubs, trees or vegetables on days other than and including their designated Watering Day, provided the watering is done using a hand-held container.</li><li>• Commercial Garden Nurseries and Commercial car washes and car dealerships conducting business in the Township may use municipal water for the purpose of conducting business.</li><li>• All public recreational parks, if failure to water will result in permanent loss of plant material or</li></ul>



Municipality	By-Law Number	Requirements
		adversely affect public safety, may use municipal water as deemed necessary. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Other uses as identified by the Public Works Manager or designate may use municipal water as deemed necessary from time to time.</li></ul> The Public Works Manager, by public announcement, may impose further temporary water conservation restrictions as required.
North Grenville		Do not have any water conservation by-laws in place. They will institute measures at the time of an incident if and when required
North Stormont		Do not have any water conservation by-laws in place. They will institute measures at the time of an incident if and when required
Edwardsburgh-Cardinal		Do not have any water conservation by-laws in place. They will institute measures at the time of an incident if and when required
Champlain		Do not have any water conservation by-laws in place. They will institute measures at the time of an incident if and when required
Augusta		Do not have any water conservation by-laws in place. They will institute measures at the time of an incident if and when required

**Table 5:** Water conservation by-laws of the municipalities within SNC jurisdiction

## 6.0 Brochures

See **Appendix B** for flyers and brochures providing information on the Ontario Low Water Response plan, water conservation practices, etc.

The brochures include the following:

- Ontario Low Water Response 2010
- Water Conservation Tips for Industry
- Managing your Water Well in Times of Water Shortage
- How to Prepare for Irrigation during Water Shortages
- 10 Ways to be More Water Wise