

TheSpec.com - Local - Rain, rain, go away ...

Laura Mueller
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If dreary skies and endlessly sprouting lawns aren't enough of an indicator, it's official: Hamilton is being walloped by a very wet summer.

Downpours have drenched the city with more than twice the amount of rain Hamilton received in May, June and July of 2007, according to Environment Canada.

A total of 250.2 millimetres has fallen since May, to the delight of gardeners but few others.

Last year, a relatively dry summer saw only 93 mm dumped on Hamilton from May through July.

Unhappy golfers were soaked out of their chance to play with the pros Monday at Oakville's Glen Abbey when the pro-am portion of the Canadian Open was cancelled because of flooding on the course.

Almost 80 per cent of the 78.4 mm of rain that has deluged the city so far this month fell over a three-day period from July 19 to 21.

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Precipitation levels "far above historic values" have boosted the water flow in streams to twice their normal volume, according to Patrick Ragaz of the Hamilton Conservation Authority.

Ragaz said Hamilton has not issued any high water bulletins this summer, but Halton Conservation Authority officials have issued five high water warnings.

On top of all the rain, there were more lightning flashes in Hamilton last month than all of 2007, according to Environment Canada.

Relief from constant downpours might be in sight, said Environment Canada meteorologist Geoff Coulson.

lamueller@thespec.com

905-526-3484

With files from Daniel Nolan