

Environment Committee Report – May 9th

What a difference a month makes! Last month we were expecting a normal mild spring melt to dissipate the heavy winter snow in a manageable fashion. The record April rainfall of 137 mm vs. the average of 34 mm has raised the lakes well above the high water warning level and brought significant damage to docks and shoreline structures. All lakes in the Park are experiencing levels above the high water event of 2019.

Current lake levels are as follows:

LAKE	LAST MEASUREMENT	LEVEL IN FEET *	COMMENTS
			Target levels
Falcon	May 5 th	1067.70 +	Summer 1065.50–1066.25 Winter 1065.0
Star	May 5 th	1017.70 +	Summer 1115.00
West Hawk	May 5 th	1093.85 +	Summer 1091.00 – 1091.50 Winter 1090.25
Caddy	May 5 th	1050.10 +	Summer 1044.75 – 1045.75 Winter 1044.0
Brereton	November 19 th	1036.60 +	Summer 1037.00 Winter 1036.5
Big Whiteshell	May 5 th	1019.50 +	Average summer level 1018.75 (2020)
Jessica	May 5 th	1019.05 +	Summer 1017.50 Winter 1017.0
White	May 5 th	1005.45 +	Summer 1003.40 Winter 1002.7
Betula	May 5 th	989.50 +	Summer 988.20
Nutimik	May 8 th	905.50 +	Average summer level 900.26 (2020)
Dorothy	May 8 th	904.00 +	
Eleanor	May 8 th	902.80 +	

* change from the previous reading, shown as Increasing +, Decreasing -, or Same =

Many of the gauges are still impacted by ice; these readings are estimated by visual reference to known elevations of surrounding points such as adjacent roadways, top of dam abutments and bridges.

Parks have been active providing sand bags and equipment to fill them. Check the WCA website for the nearest location if you need sand bags. Cottagers are using them to weigh down wooden dock and shoreline deck tops preventing them floating away. Ice remains on many of the lakes but has melted back from the shore. Many cottagers have provided photos of their own issues and these have been posted on the WCA website and our social media.

The last two weeks have accounted for most of the increased lake levels on both the Falcon and Whiteshell River systems. As 99% of the snow has melted, only rainfall can impact these lake levels.

Those lakes on the Winnipeg River system are expected to see a further rise as Lake of the Woods has been forced to release more water in accordance with their operating guidelines. For those cottagers on this system Manitoba Hydro has a website which is updated daily.
www.hydro.mb.ca/corporate/facilities/water_levels/

The flow rate on the Whiteshell River is currently at 1271 cubic feet per second compared to 77 cubic feet per second on April 1, 2022.

The flow rate on the Winnipeg River is currently at 68,000 cubic feet per second compared to 27,000 cubic feet per second on April 1, 2022.