

## Environment Committee Report – July 5<sup>th</sup>

Reports and photos have been pouring in to the WCA over the last two months showing increasing water levels and property damage. The news media have carried a number of stories on the damage to cottage property in the Whiteshell Park. Employees of Environment, Climate and Parks; Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure; Manitoba Hydro; Lake of the Woods Control Board, Manitoba Emergency Measures Organization and Members of the Legislature have all been involved in helping cottagers and resort owners to make the best of a record breaking event.

Fortunately we have turned the corner and all the lake levels are decreasing. The middle of June is normally the end of the spring rainy season. There are no estimates of how long it will take to return to the normal summer target levels.

Current lake levels are as follows:

LAKE	LAST MEASUREMENT	LEVEL IN FEET *	PEAK LEVEL	COMMENTS
				Target levels
Falcon	July 5 <sup>th</sup>	1066.45 -	1067.90 May 11	Summer 1065.50–1066.25 Winter 1065.0
Star	July 5 <sup>th</sup>	1115.45 -	1117.70 May 5	Summer 1115.00
West Hawk	July 5 <sup>th</sup>	1092.15 -	1095.00 May 15	Summer 1091.00 – 1091.50 Winter 1090.25
Caddy	July 5 <sup>th</sup>	1046.10 -	1050.70 May 12	Summer 1044.75 – 1045.75 Winter 1044.0
Brereton	July 1 <sup>st</sup>	1036.80 -	1038.75 May 2	Summer 1037.00 Winter 1036.5
Big Whiteshell	July 5 <sup>th</sup>	1020.25 -	1022.30 May 31 <sup>st</sup>	Average summer level 1018.75 (2020)
Jessica	July 5 <sup>th</sup>	1018.45 -	1019.90 May 23	Summer 1017.50 Winter 1017.0
White	July 5 <sup>th</sup>	1004.20 -	1007.25 May 23	Summer 1003.40 Winter 1002.7
Betula	July 1 <sup>st</sup>	989.30 -		Summer 988.20
Nutimik	July 7 <sup>th</sup>	908.65 -	911.09 June 1	Average summer level 900.26 (2020)
Dorothy	July 7 <sup>th</sup>	905.84 -	907.96 June 1	
Eleanor	July 7 <sup>th</sup>	903.25 -	905.41 June 1	

\* Change from the June report, shown as Increasing +, Decreasing -, or Same =

PEAK LEVEL is a new column showing the highest recorded lake level this year and the date.

The flow rate on the Whiteshell River is currently at 790 cubic feet per second down from 1264 cubic feet per second on June 21, 2022.

The flow rate on the Winnipeg River is currently at 100,000 cubic feet per second compared to 125,000 cubic feet per second on June 1, 2022. The June 1<sup>st</sup> rate is unprecedented in the history of the Seven Sisters dam. 125,000 cubic feet per second is equivalent to 750,000 gallons per second passing through the gates of the dam.

The two main contributors to the Winnipeg River are Lake of the Woods and Lac Seul, both in northwest Ontario. All major lakes in these drainage basins are down from their peak levels.

Drier than normal weather conditions in the last weeks have brought down the level of Lac Seul. As inflows to the lake slow, it is projected to drop 2-3 inches in the next week.

Inflows to Lake of the Woods are also slowing, but more gradually. Lake of the Woods is only projected to drop 1 inch in the next 7 days.