

Environment Committee Report – June 22nd 2023

Last month the ice left and temperatures have climbed substantially setting new records in some parts of the Province for this time of year. Most of the lakes in the Park have dropped in the last three weeks due to lack of rainfall and high temperatures causing increased evaporation. The average loss has been three inches on all the lakes.

Lake levels are as follows:

| LAKE | LAST MEASUREMENT | LEVEL IN FEET * | 2022 PEAK LEVEL | COMMENTS |
|----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|---------------------|--|
| | | | | Target levels |
| Falcon | June 22 nd | 1065.80 - | 1067.91 May 13 | Summer 1065.50–1066.25 Winter 1065.0 |
| Star | June 22 nd | 1114.85 - | 1117.67 May 11 | Summer 1115.00 |
| West Hawk | June 22 nd | 1091.40 - | 1094.99 May 17 | Summer 1091.00 – 1091.50 Winter 1090.00 |
| Caddy | June 22 nd | 1044.25 - | 1050.55 May 13 | Summer 1044.75 – 1045.75 Winter 1044.0 |
| Brereton | June 22 nd | 1036.70 - | 1038.74 May 5 | Summer 1037.00 Winter 1036.5 |
| Big Whiteshell | June 22 nd | 1017.55 - | 1022.30 # May 31 | Average summer level 1018.75 (2020) |
| Jessica | June 22 nd | 1017.30 - | 1019.87 May 21 | Summer 1017.50 Winter 1017.0 |
| White | June 22 nd | 1003.00 - | 1007.33 May 26 | Summer 1003.40 Winter 1002.7 |
| Betula | June 22 nd | 988.05 - | 991.95 May 9 | Summer 988.20 |
| Nutimik | June 8 th | 901.28 - | 911.02 June 1 | Average summer level 900.26 (2020) |
| Dorothy | June 8 th | 900.75 - | 907.97 June 1 | |
| Eleanor | June 8 th | 900.03 - | 905.42 June 1 | |

* Change from May 30th, shown as Increasing +, Decreasing -, or Same =

Earlier May data is missing, therefore the level could have been higher.

PEAK LEVEL shows the highest recorded lake level last year and the date.

The following information about the plan for the Winnipeg River basin has been taken from the Lake of the Woods Control Board website.

“Summer/Fall Strategy”

“On June 15, the LWCB held its spring Regulation Meeting, attended by specific interest groups and resource agencies, and adopted its [Summer/Fall Regulation Strategy](#). The strategy outlines regulation targets for various inflow conditions for the period of June to the end of October. The Secretariat provided a review of how inflows developed this spring and the refill status of the major lakes. Recent dry conditions and outlooks for summer precipitation and temperature were also reviewed.

For Lake of the Woods, the strategy targets a return to slightly lower summer lake levels given naturally receding inflows due to the dry conditions and an ongoing desire for lower levels to assist with property repairs following the 2022 flood.

For Lac Seul, with drought conditions developing this spring, the strategy is focused on lake refill to the preferred summer levels. The strategy also specifies avoiding outflow reductions unless necessary, to ensure adequate water downstream on the English River.”

The Lake of the Woods Control Board has just released a final summary report of the flooding in the Winnipeg River basin on their website. For those interested in the details and decision making process a full report is also available. You may find these at the following addresses:

Summary Report

www.lwcb.ca/permpdf/SummaryReporton2022FloodinginWRBasin.pdf

Full Report

www.lwcb.ca/permpdf/Reporton2022FloodinginWRBasin.pdf