

**NEWS RELEASE**

May 27, 2004

**WET BASIN CONDITIONS LEAD TO MORE OUTFLOW INCREASES**

Outflows will be increased on Friday, May 28 from both Lake of the Woods and Lac Seul as a result of the above-normal rainfall received in May. The Lake of the Woods Control Board is working to set the appropriate balance between the lakes and the rivers downstream in dealing with the surplus water within the drainage basin. Those affected by water levels, especially on the Winnipeg River, are encouraged to stay informed by frequently accessing one of the information services listed below.

Lake of the Woods outflow will be increased from 870 to 970 m<sup>3</sup>/s. Water levels on the Winnipeg River in Ontario, which have already risen about 135 cm (53 in) below the Norman Dam and 30 cm (12 in) at Minaki since early May, will rise an additional 35 cm (14 in) below Norman and 25 cm (10 in) at Minaki. At Nutimik Lake in Manitoba, water levels have already climbed over 80 cm (32 in) and will rise an additional 15-25 cm (6-10 in). If additional rainfall is received, further river flow increases may result, leading to even higher levels.

The current level of Lake of the Woods is 323.16 m (1060.2 ft). The lake has risen more than 40 cm (16 in) since early May and is now 37 cm (15 in) above median for this time of year. The lake is 75 cm (30 in) higher than it was a year ago during the dry conditions of 2003. Lake of the Woods will rise an additional 5-10 cm (2-4 in) over the next week and could rise 10-25 cm (4-10 in) over the next 2-3 weeks, depending on further rainfall.

Lac Seul and English River levels and flows have also increased dramatically due to the above-normal May rainfall. Lac Seul is currently at 355.91 m (1167.7 ft). It has risen 75 cm (30 in) since early May and is rising more than 30 cm (12 in) per week. Outflow will be increased on Friday, May 28 from 150 to 230 m<sup>3</sup>/s. Further outflow increases are expected next week. Water levels on the English River, which are already high downstream of Manitou Falls, will rise even further with these outflow increases.

Up-to-date information on lake levels and river flows in the Winnipeg River drainage basin can be obtained at the Lake of the Woods Control Board (LWCB) web site (<http://www.lwcb.ca>). Less detailed information can be obtained by calling the Board's recorded message service at 1-800-667-5922. Additional information can be obtained by calling the Board's Secretariat at 1-800-661-5922.

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**FURTHER INFORMATION:**

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