



## **NEWS RELEASE**

July 20, 2005

### **WINNIPEG RIVER WATER LEVELS TO DECLINE**

The Lake of the Woods Control Board has authorized a reduction in Lake of the Woods outflow beginning Wednesday, July 20. Outflow will be reduced from wide open flow of about 1380 m<sup>3</sup>/s to 1200 m<sup>3</sup>/s, providing some much-needed relief from high water for residents of the Winnipeg River.

Winnipeg River levels between the Norman Dam and Minaki will decline about 25 to 30 cm (10 to 12 in). The drop below the Norman Dam will occur quite quickly while the change at Minaki will take several days to a week. On Nutimik Lake in the Whiteshell, this initial outflow reduction will lead to a gradual decline in lake level of about 20 cm (8 in).

Further reductions in Lake of the Woods outflow and Winnipeg River levels will be occurring over the next few weeks and river residents should ensure that they stay informed.

Lake of the Woods, which peaked at 323.50 m (1061.4 ft) on July 7, has declined to a current level of 323.35 m (1060.9 ft), 21 cm (8 in) above median for this time of year. The lake level declined 10 cm (4 in) over the past week and is expected to decline 7 to 12 cm (3 to 5 in) over the next week.

The level of the Winnipeg River below the Norman Dam is 319.23 m (1047.3 ft), a decline of 8 cm (3 in) over the past week. This level is 2.57 m (8.4 ft) above normal. At Minaki the current level is 317.30 m (1041.0 ft). This is 1.23 m (4.0 ft) above median and a decline of 5 cm (2 in) over the past week. The peak water levels below Norman and at Minaki were 319.32 m (1047.6 ft) and 317.37 m (1041.2 ft), respectively.

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:

Lake of the Woods Secretariat 1-800-661-5922