



NEWS RELEASE

June 13, 2008

WATER LEVELS AND FLOWS ARE RISING

The Lake of the Woods Control Board advises that water levels and flows are high and rising in most areas of the Winnipeg River drainage basin. This is due to persistent and significant rainfall, coupled with a cool, late spring. Property owners and users of the system should stay abreast of conditions.

Lake of the Woods has risen 0.77 m (2.5 ft) from its seasonal low level in April and is currently at a 65 percentile level (somewhat above median) for this time of year. While this level is not of immediate concern, the lake is still rising due to high inflows from Rainy Lake upstream, which is well above its normal operating range and is discharging as much water as possible. To limit the rate of rise of Lake of the Woods, its outflow at Kenora has been increased in steps from 250 m³/s in April to 900 m³/s now, and will be increased further to 1025 m³/s on Monday June 16. As a result, the level of the Winnipeg River has already risen 1.7 m (5.6 ft) just north of Kenora and 45 cm (18 in) at Minaki, and with the flow increase will rise a further 40 cm (16 in) and 26 cm (10 in) respectively at these locations.

Lac Seul has risen 1.4 m (4.6 ft) from its seasonal low level in April and is currently at an 85 percentile level for this time of year. Although its outflow has been increased from 200 to 500 m³/s, the lake is still rising strongly. As a result of the outflow increases to date, Pakwash Lake downstream and the lower English River are experiencing high water levels.

Due to the high outflows from both Lake of the Woods and Lac Seul, combined with local runoff, the Winnipeg River in Manitoba is also experiencing high and rising water levels. Nutimik Lake has risen 1.2 m (3.9 ft) since its low this spring and is expected to rise up to 45 cm (18 in) more with the outflow increases already made or planned.

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.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

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