

**NEWS RELEASE**

May 13, 2004

**LAKE OF THE WOODS and WINNIPEG RIVER LEVELS  
RISING**

The severe storm event of the past few days over northwestern Ontario has led to a rapid and dramatic rise in inflows to Lake of the Woods. Parts of the Lake of the Woods basin received over 100 mm (4 in) of water from rain and snow during the storm.

The level of Lake of the Woods is 322.94 m (1059.5 ft) and has risen more than 15 cm (6 inches) in the past few days. This level is only a little above the average level for this time of year but is 56 cm (22 in) above the level for this date in 2003, which was a dry year. The current rate of rise is estimated at 15 cm (6 inches) per week but this should slow as the local inflows decline and outflows are increased. Lake of the Woods outflow will be increased from 420 to 550 m<sup>3</sup>/s on Friday, May 14. Conditions are constantly being monitored and further outflow increases are likely. Anyone concerned with water levels, especially on the Winnipeg River, should ensure that they stay informed by frequently accessing one of the information services listed below.

The outflow change to 550 m<sup>3</sup>/s will cause Winnipeg River levels to increase by 35 cm (14 inches) immediately below the Norman Dam and by 20 cm (8 inches) downstream at Locke Bay. Levels at Minaki will be unaffected by the outflow increase. Water levels in the Whiteshell region in Manitoba will also be rising due to the excess water. The level of Nutimik Lake is expected to rise over the next one to two weeks by 25 cm (10 inches). Levels all along the Winnipeg River will rise additional amounts if further outflow increases are required.

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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