



NEWS RELEASE

June 9, 2005

Water Levels Continue to Rise

Inflows throughout much of the Winnipeg River drainage basin remain high due to the excessive amounts of rainfall received since late May.

Since May 26th, Lake of the Woods outflow has been increased in stages from 575 to 1125 m³/s. The Norman Dam at Kenora is now nearly full open, with only 15 stop-logs out of some 250 remaining in its sluices. These last few logs will be removed over the next several days, fully opening the dam. The Winnipeg River immediately below the Norman Dam, which has risen about 1.75 m (5.7 ft) since May 26th, is expected to rise a further 0.2-0.4 m (0.7-1.3 ft). The level at Minaki, which has risen 0.8 m (2.6 ft), is expected to rise a further 0.27 m (0.9 ft). River levels will then continue to rise slowly until the level of Lake of the Woods reaches its peak.

On Nutimik Lake in the Whiteshell in Manitoba, the water level has risen 0.56 m (1.8 ft) since May 26th and could rise a further 0.6 m (nearly 2 ft), or even more, depending on local tributary flows.

The current level of Lake of the Woods is 323.29 m (1060.7 ft), an 80th %ile level. The lake rose 12 cm (nearly 5 in) over the past week and is expected to rise a similar amount over the next week.

High water levels are also being experienced on the English River system, both on Lac Seul and downstream. The level of Lac Seul is 356.46 m (1169.5 ft), an 85th %ile level. The lake rose 21 cm (8.3 in) over the past week and is expected to rise a similar amount over the next week. Lac Seul outflow is 400 m³/s. The diversion into Lac Seul from Lake St. Joseph will be reduced next week. This will help to slow the rate of rise of Lac Seul, and may defer the need to increase its outflow more, which would negatively affect the lower English and Winnipeg rivers.

Those with shorefront property on these water bodies are encouraged to keep abreast of conditions by visiting the Board's web site at www.lwcb.ca or by listening to its recorded message at 1-800-667-5922.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

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