

Lenore Lake Basin Water Levels

The following is intended to provide information regarding potential impacts resulting from high water levels within the Lenore Lake Basin. This information is current as of April 30, 2008.

The Lenore Lake Basin is a closed basin with no natural outlets. It contains a number of lakes including Burton, Waldsea, Houghton, Deadmoose, Lenore, Frog, Middle and Basin. Burton Lake is a freshwater lake, but all the others are saline lakes. Lenore is less saline than Houghton or Deadmoose.

Three years of above normal precipitation has caused water levels in the Lenore Lake Basin to rise to near or above historically recorded peaks. These high water levels are causing Houghton Lake to spill into Lenore Lake. The total amount of inflow from Houghton will be less than one percent of the volume of water in Lenore Lake.

Water Quality of Lenore Lake

- Water quality of the total inflow during 2008 spring runoff will be similar or below existing Lenore Lake salinity concentrations.
- The concentration of salts within Lenore Lake for 2008 is expected to remain similar to 2007 levels, which are below historic values.
- The total amount of salt (by mass) within Lake Lenore appears to be on a downward trend since 2000 and is close to the historical low.
- Based on the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority's water quality projections, the Ministry of Environment has said that the impact to fish populations should be negligible this year.
- High water levels on Lenore Lake are expected to prevent the operation of the Lake Lenore Wildlife Federation's walleye rearing pond on the southwest side

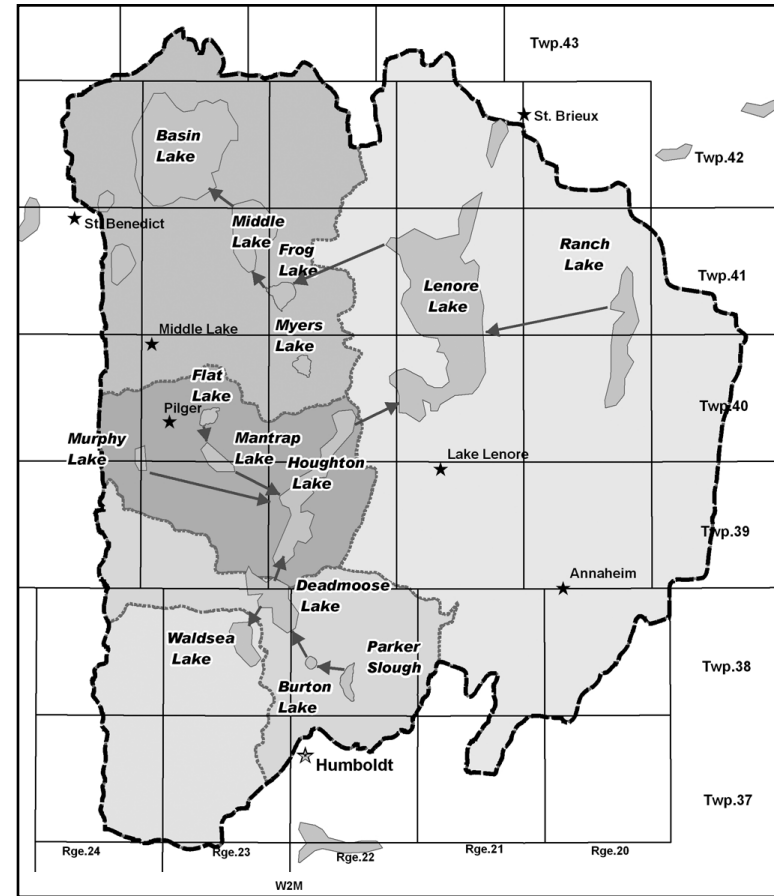
of Lake Lenore, but this should be offset by the Ministry of Environment 2008 fish stocking program, which will see walleye fry stocked in the lake.

- Future impacts on the lake's water quality and the fishery is dependent on quantity and quality of inflows as well as climatic conditions.
- The Authority will continue to monitor water quality and provide the results to all interested parties.

Flows Between the Lakes

- Saskatchewan Watershed Authority legislation requires that the flow of water should be allowed to pass unless an individual has received an approval to alter the flow.
- To minimize impacts to both upstream and downstream interests and based on current water quality monitoring results, the Authority believes flows should be allowed to pass to Lenore Lake.
- Six large culverts have been installed between Deadmoose and Houghton by the Ministry of Highways to allow the flows to pass through. Fisheries and Oceans Canada has indicated they might order the outflow from Houghton to Lenore blocked if they deem the water to be a threat to fish. If Fisheries and Oceans Canada orders this, the Ministry of Highways has indicated they are prepared to block the flow.

A public information meeting held in Lake Lenore on April 15 was attended by 163 local residents. Information was presented on the hydrology and water quality of the area. At the meeting, residents expressed interest in forming a working group to try and resolve the diversity of issues regarding the lake, and reach consensus on a path forward. The Authority will work with community leaders to form such a group.



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More information is available online at www.swa.ca under "Lenore Lake Basin Water Levels".



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