

Ministry of Natural Resources and
Forestry

Ministère des Richesses naturelles et
des Forêts

Northeast Region

Région Nord-est

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November 26, 2019

Mr. Steve Mann, President
220A Demmy's Rd.
Mindemoya, ON
P0P 1S0
smann220a@gmail.com

Dear Mr. Mann,

Thank you for writing to advise us of the Lake Manitou Area Association's (LMAA) concerns with water levels and overall health of the lake. As the lead agency for water management on Lake Manitou and the Manitou River we take these issues seriously and are happy to provide a response to your organizations concerns.

The Lake Manitou dam is operated in accordance with established guidelines that dictate what range the water levels should be within at different times of the year. To better assist with dam operations district staff recently installed an electronic gauge that allows us to remotely monitor the levels and ultimately to be more responsive to fluctuations in water levels. With that understanding there may still be occasions where more significant adjustments are required to address environmental factors.

The winter of 2019 had record snow amounts fall across our region, followed by a prolonged and significant freshet this past spring. These conditions led to 50-100 year flood levels occurring across the Sudbury District, including Manitoulin Island. During the spring we were aware of the high water on the lake but were also dealing with flooding on the Manitou River, where the roads and three bridges downstream from the dam were in jeopardy of being washed out. Our staff worked closely with the townships and were in regular communication with them during this period.

We will always strive to balance levels both on the lake and downstream, considering the entire watershed while weighing potential impacts to residences, key infrastructure (like roads and bridges) and the flora and fauna. At this time, we are awaiting the results of additional biological and hydrological assessment work that was completed this past September and we will follow up with you in the future to discuss any proposed changes to dam operations.

Respectfully,



Ross Hart
District Manager