

## Houle, Brian (Crofton)

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**From:** Houle, Brian (Crofton)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 19, 2023 4:55 PM  
**To:** Houle, Brian (Crofton)  
**Subject:** Cowichan Watershed Update: Sept 19, 2023

Good afternoon,

The clouds are hanging around but not dropping much rain inside the Cowichan Lake watershed as lake level continues on down. Very optimistic that the coming 14 days can bring enough rain to at least slow down the lake decline. In order to sustain the target 4.5 cms river flow, tomorrow (Wednesday) 3 more pumps to be installed into the lake.

As the lake level continues downward, please alert any boaters on Cowichan Lake that there could be new hazards to navigation appearing as lake level continues down.

A contractor has installed markers on the many hazards that were known, and this year there were more hazards found and marked.

The authorization for pumping had limitations of maximum 49 days and a minimum low lake level and those thresholds are not expected until end of October, leaving enough time for rain to arrive and prevent us reaching those limits for pumping.

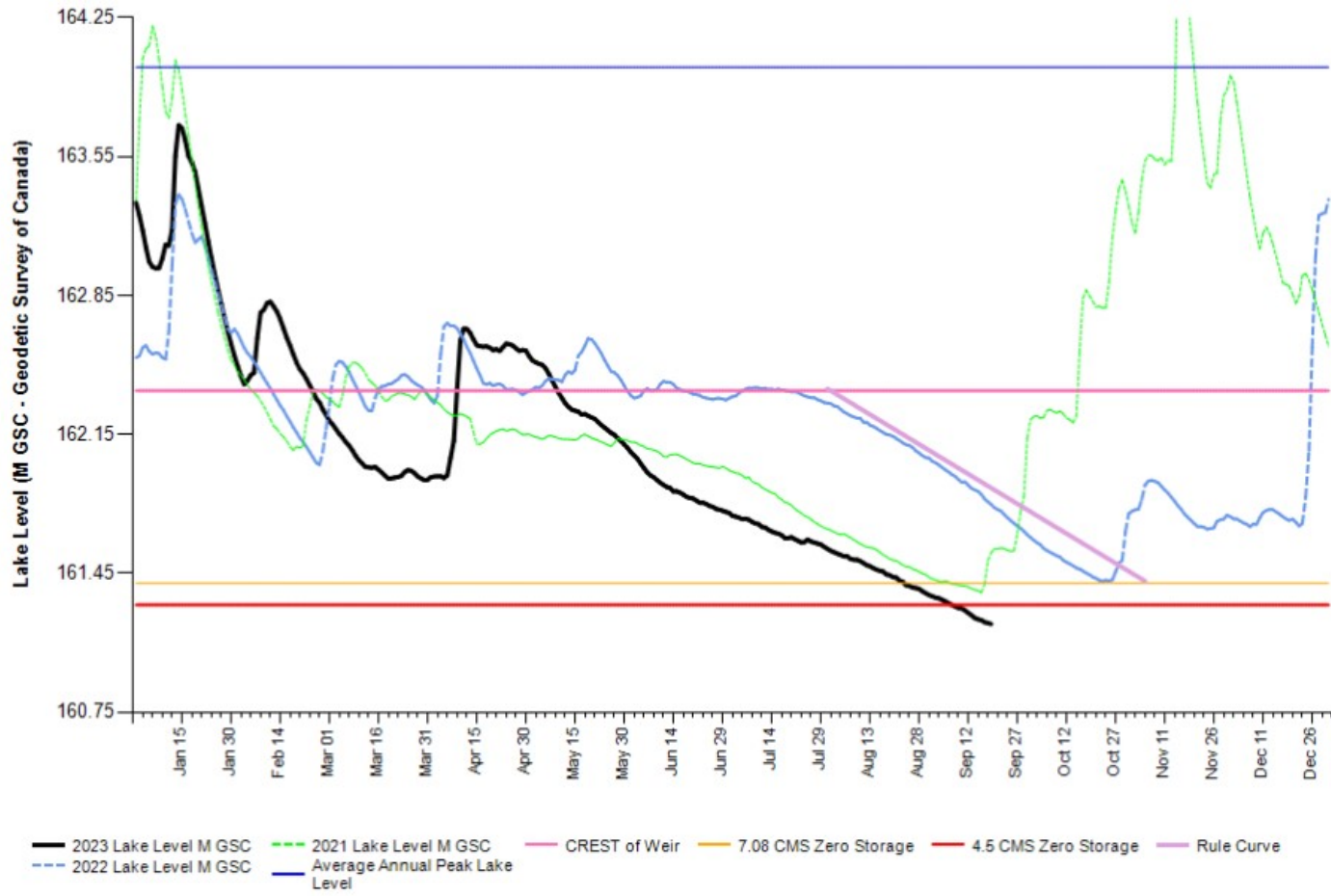
The lake level is dropping to levels it has never before been lowered to, as we have exceeded the drop in lake level that we experienced in 2019.

A qualified professional biologist is assessing conditions around the lake and observing pumping operations to ensure biological values are protected throughout the pumping operation.

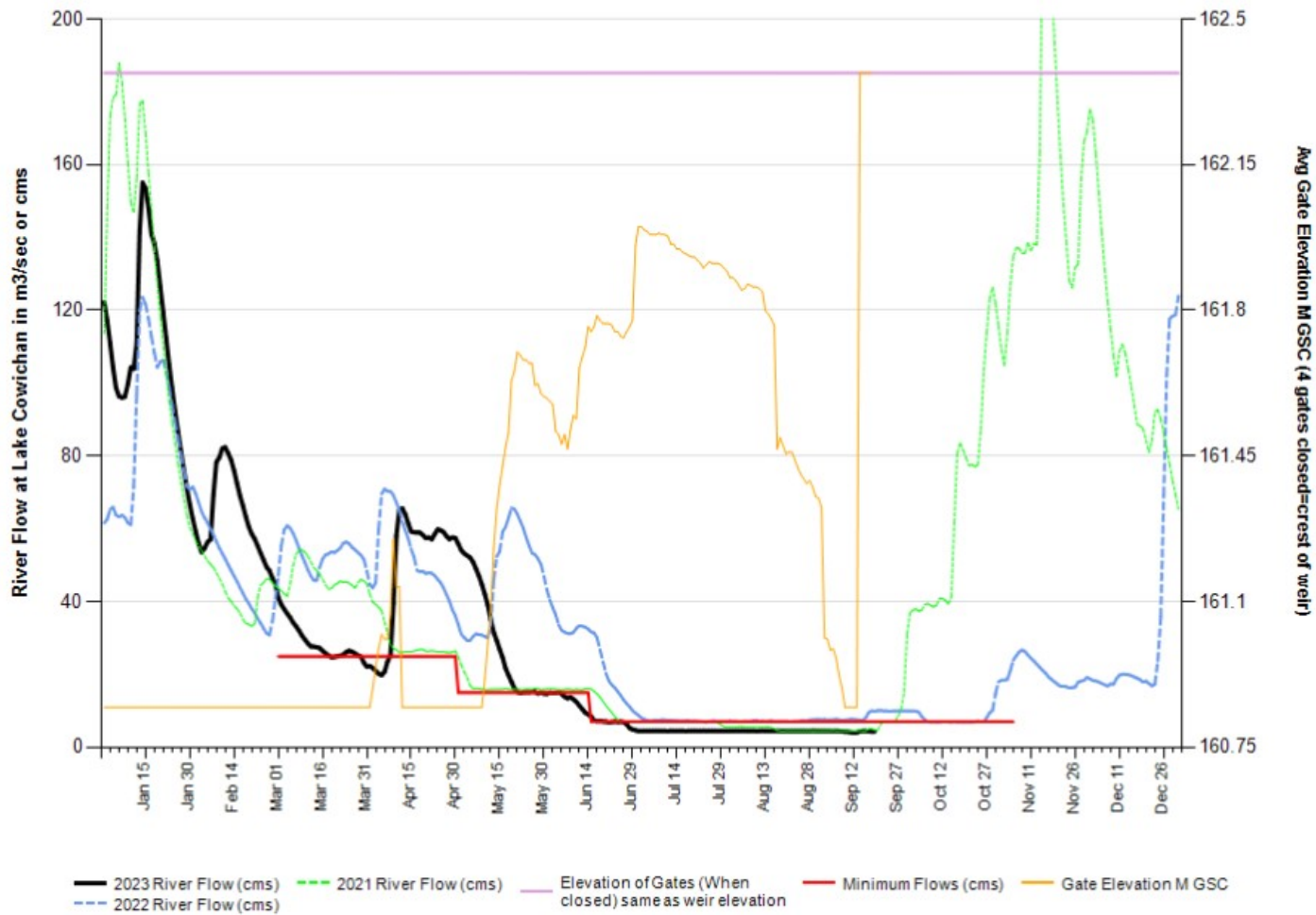
A new higher dam would have prevented the conditions we are now experiencing, given the rainfall in April, that we could not store with current dam.

Regards,  
Brian Houle

2023 Cowichan Lake Level - 2023 (Black) & 2022 (Blue) & 2021 (Green)



2023 Cowichan River Flow - 2023 (Black) & 2022 (Blue) & 2021 (Green)



# Next 7 Days










	<b>Wed</b> 09/20 Mainly sunny	<b>Thu</b> 09/21 Mainly sunny	<b>Fri</b> 09/22 Sunny	<b>Sat</b> 09/23 Cloudy with showers	<b>Sun</b> 09/24 Cloudy	<b>Mon</b> 09/25 Rain	<b>Tue</b> 09/26 A Few showers
	22°	25°	26°	21°	17°	15°	16°
Feels like	22	25	26	21	16	15	16
Night	8°	9°	9°	8°	11°	11°	10°
POP	20 %	10 %	0 %	40 %	30 %	100 %	70 %
Wind (km/h)	7 NW	7 E	9 SW	10 SW	13 E	11 SE	9 S
Wind gust (km/h)	10	11	13	15	20	16	13
Hrs Of Sun	10 h	11 h	11 h	1 h	0 h	0 h	4 h
24 Hr Rain	-	-	-	1-3 mm	10-15 mm	25-30 mm	2-4 mm

# 14 Days

Sep 20 - Oct 3

< PREVIOUS 7 DAYS

	Wed 09/27	Thu 09/28	Fri 09/29	Sat 09/30	Sun 10/01	Mon 10/02	Tue 10/03
	Rain	Rain	A mix of sun and clouds	Cloudy with showers	Mainly cloudy	A mix of sun and clouds	A mix of sun and clouds
							
	15°	14°	13°	14°	16°	16°	16°
Feels like	15	14	13	14	16	16	16
Night	11°	9°	8°	7°	11°	12°	5°
POP	90 %	90 %	30 %	60 %	30 %	30 %	20 %
Wind (km/h)	8 SE	6 SE	16 w	7 w	6 w	4 w	9 w
Wind gust (km/h)	12	9	24	10	9	6	13
24 Hr Rain	10-15 mm	10-15 mm	-	~1 mm	-	-	-

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