

Amendment:

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

1. What is the goal of the proposed amendment?

This amendment is necessary to mitigate impacts from Spring Flooding, shoreline erosion and ice damage and will better align with the goal of water management planning.

2. Will the draw-down to 169.60 meters be the same every year, regardless of snow fall amounts?

Yes, we will be targeting that level every year. Drawdown begins in September and there is no way to determine what type of Freshet we will have. Reacting at the last minute will have impacts to Golden Lake water levels by trying to release water too quickly so its important to be ahead.

3. The involvement of the Algonquin of Ontario (AOO), is it because it is their land? What role does the Ontario Government have in this?

The Government of Ontario (MNRF in this case) has a legal duty to consult, and where appropriate accommodate First Nation and Metis communities when it is contemplating permissions for activities that may lead to adverse impacts on existing or credibly asserted Aboriginal or treaty rights. MNRF has delegated the procedural aspects of the consultation process to RPG. The Bonnechere River is part of the Algonquin's unceded territory.

4. How much higher would the 2019 flooding have been without the Ministerial order?

With the order an extra 13cm of capacity was gained. Golden Lake levels for 2019 were 10cm less than levels of 2017. Round Lake 2019 levels were slightly above levels of 2017. When compared to the other river systems in Renfrew County that flooded, it appears it had a positive effect.

5. Why are logs not added to Tramore Dam to lower level at Golden Lake during Freshet?

As the operator we look at the system as a whole and try to make the best determination considering, on the ground conditions, BRWMP requirements, RPG exposure (legal consequences), and weather. During Freshet we encounter a backwater from Golden Lake all the way back to the Tramore dam. Water is almost equal from one side of the dam to the other. To have a noticeable downstream impact several logs would need to be added until a differential across the dam is achieved. To achieve this water level would need to be raised at Round Lake. In past years as we add logs to Tramore dam very little increase to decline rate at Golden Lake was observed. Unfortunately, Golden Lake operates on its own when all logs are out. Also, as the level declines at Round Lake the flow is naturally decreasing also, you will observe there is not a direct response from Golden Lake. Although a major player I don't believe the Bonnechere River is the main issue at Golden Lake during Freshet, but it is the only one we have some control over. There are approximately 25 uncontrolled tributaries that drain into Golden Lake. Its easy for the public to look at the charts and draw a conclusion on what should be done. Other considerations: Why do you not remove more logs at Tramore dam when level approaches the licence of occupation and continues to rise as where levels will peak is unknown, Round Lake suffers because of Golden Lake inability to drain out. These are not my words but what RPG hears. Also, Wilber Lake, request to add logs to Golden dam to lower their levels....

As the operator when the time is right logs are added to the Tramore dam in attempt to lower level at Golden lake.

6. Who is responsible for the final decision?

All amendment submissions are reviewed by the MNRF staff. Staff recommendations are then passed on to the Minister for final approval. This is outlined in the 2016 Bulletin.

7. Have there been discussions with the Ottawa River authorities as water coming out of the Bonnechere affects them?

The Bonnechere River flows are small scale in relation to flows on the Ottawa River. Flows will remain within the BRWMP guidelines.

8. I like to launch my boat at Round Lake Centre in late Sept. Will I be able to launch my boat?

KHR intends to monitor issues at the launch and work with RLPOA and MNRF to look for possible solutions. Possible mitigating solutions might be extending the ramp deeper and/or dredging at this location.

9. Who is the consultant?

Bowfin Environmental has been hired - www.bowfinenvironmental.ca

10. Why did the first proposal chart have an Oct 1st drawdown?

October 1st was first selected by RLPOA (Round Lake Property Owners Association) to provide as much boating season as possible.

11. Why does the second proposal have a Sept 3rd to Oct 20th drawdown?

October 1st does not leave enough time to lower the lake levels by October 20th as per MNRF recommendation. Sept 3rd was decided to best balance fisheries with recreational uses. October 20 is the peak Lake Trout spawn. Lowering levels before October 20th will force the Lake Trout to spawn deeper and protect the spawn from freezing as levels continue to be lowered.

12. Will it also help prevent ice push?

The anticipation is the lower levels will buffer the impacts from ice push as the shore to ice interface will be much farther away from fragile landscapes therefore reducing severe ice push that has been seen in the past.

13. Will the proposed amendment reduce summer recreational water levels?

Summer water levels on both Golden Lake and Round Lake will be targeted the same as in previous years.

14. How soon in September will I need to remove my boat from Round Lake?

This depends on the specific needs of the boat. Continue to monitor water levels on the RPG website.

15. Was it MNRF who would not support the Oct 1st drawdown?

Original submission used an early October drawdown start date as to not shorten the recreational season. With recommendations from MNRF, and Bowfin the start date needed to be moved to September (after Labour Day) to protect the Lake Trout spawn.

16. Will I still be able to go ice fishing on Round Lake?

Absolutely, some fishing areas will experience lower water levels and might require adjustments to achieve desired depth.

17. How will this drawdown effect turtles and other reptiles?

Bowfin has concluded that the proposal allows turtles to select their overwintering areas after much of the drawdown has already occurred which is positive and will not negatively affect the spring or summer habitat for turtles.

18. How will I know when you have started the drawdown and what level the lake is at?

RPG will be placing notices that the drawdown has started on the website and Facebook. Notices will also be posted at the Round Lake Centre boat launch, Sheryl Boyle Park and Deacon Boat Launch. We will also communicate the start of the drawdown with the Bonnechere Provincial Park staff.

19. How does the drawdown rates effect Golden Lake?

Log operations will be carried out at Golden Lake to pass water through from Round Lake. This will maintain typical levels. Golden Lake drawdown will remain the same with all logs removed by end of November.

20. How will this drawdown effect the fisheries?

Bowfin has concluded that the proposal will force fall fish spawning species to select deeper habitats (to avoid negatively impacting these species) and will not affect spring or summer fish spawning species.

21. How do we know this amendment will work?

Discussions with long-time residents and historical records (1944 – 2003) before water management planning instances of high-water events and ice push were infrequent and much less in magnitude. Statistics show that severe high-water occurrences are more frequent since 2004 (BRWMP inception) on both lakes. Before the BRWMP a lower limit on Round Lake did not exist. Historically (pre 2004) all logs were removed from both the Golden Lake Dam and the Tramore Dam.

22. Do you have any long-term plans to do something at the lower end of Golden Lake to help get the water to pass through quicker?

A Bathymetry study has identified restrictions at Golden Lake. Further studies are necessary to determine what is necessary to improve and potential impacts to the system. This is also a long-term solution that will continue to be pursued by the Stakeholder's including the Algonquin's of Pikwàkanagàn.

23. If I have a concern about something after the approval process, who do I address my concerns to?

KHR has set-up a Dispute Resolution Committee who will receive your concerns and pass along to the appropriate agency if necessary.

24. Will this amendment pass issues from Round Lake to Golden Lake?

No, the anticipation is to benefit from lower water levels at Round Lake and Golden Lake during critical times along with allowing more time for water to pass through the Golden lake system during Freshet.

25. Will Walleye be affected?

RPG will continue to maintain water levels over the Walleye spawning beds immediately below the Tramore Dam.

26. How will the Power Producers benefit from this drawdown?

Typically, September/October has less precipitation and lower flows. The earlier drawdown water will increase flows thus increase production of Green Energy.

27. Will wells be affected?

KHR is aware that there are several dug wells around the lake that were dug in the 50's and 60's to accommodate small seasonal cottages. Dug wells are susceptible to drought and seasonal declines in the water table and are not necessarily impacted by the lake levels directly. Well issues will be addressed through the dispute resolution process set-up by KHR.

28. What are KHR's costs associated with flooding?

2017- \$74,042.34 (Actual) 2019 -\$81,286.75 (estimated)

29. Why don't you just build another dam reservoir in Algonquin Park?

An RLPOA member posed this question to Minister Yakabuski and John Swick (Algonquin Park Superintendent) at a recent flood meeting in Eganville. They responded with; currently this type of project is not part of the government's policies. There were also other issues around Forestry to consider.

30. What were costs associated with the flooding at Bonnechere Provincial Park?

With the help of volunteers in 2017 costs were approximately \$98,000. The delay in season opening reduced annual revenues for 2017 by approximately \$5,000.

Flooding in 2019 delayed season opening also. Costs are not yet available for 2019.

31. Will there be an issue achieving summer levels on Round Lake with this new lower drawdown?

Before the introduction of the Water Management Plan (2004), water levels were typically lowered on Round Lake to the lower levels indicated in this amendment. Historical records indicate that summer levels were achieved when levels were lowered.

32. Why does Round Lake water levels appear very low in October now?

The new amendment begins to lower water level in September to promote fish and turtles to spawn and overwinter at lower levels. The levels being seen now in October are typical to water levels of February before the amendment. Typically snow and ice cover would mask the effects of the drawdown, so the lower water levels were never noticed.