



What and Who is the Jackfish Lake Watershed what do they do?

In The Beginning

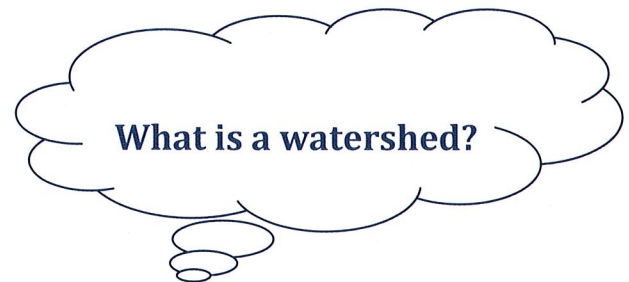
The Jackfish Lake Watershed Association Board (JLWAB) was established on July 8, 1964. It was the first watershed association in Saskatchewan. The JLWAB is set up to manage, construct, operate and maintain projects to control and develop the water resources of Jackfish and Murray Lakes. The board is made up of 12 members. It currently has members representing:

- ✚ RM of Meota (7 of which 2 represent Hamlets)
- ✚ Village of Meota
- ✚ Resort Village of Metinota
- ✚ Resort Village of Cochin Resort
- ✚ Village of Aquadeo
- ✚ City of North Battleford

The JLWAB is accountable to and regulated by Water Security Agency (WSA). WSA regulates the use of water in Saskatchewan under *The Watershed Associations Act*.

WSA has several roles in the management of Jackfish and Murray Lakes.

- ✚ Overall regulation and licensing of water related projects.
- ✚ To monitor lake levels and streamflows.
- ✚ To provide technical and administrative assistance to the JLWAB.



A watershed can be defined as the area of land that drains water into a creek system. Watershed boundaries are outlined geographically by the points of highest elevation.

Watersheds do not usually share boundaries with political entities such as cities, towns, RMs or provinces, but may contain several communities and land uses and will most certainly contain many different water uses and competing interests. Watersheds are changing, dynamic systems that form part of our community. Without watersheds and the ecosystems they support our communities would look very different.

Current Management Operations ...

The Controversial Gate

Jackfish and Murray Lakes water levels have been regulated since 1932 by a control structure at the south end of Jackfish Lake. The Jackfish Lake Watershed Association Board (JLWAB) constructed the present structure in 1966. The control structure and related works were originally licensed under The Water Rights Act, now the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Act 2005. The License allows the JLWAB to maintain a water level of 1737.0 feet (529.44m).

The role of the JLWAB includes ensuring it operates the control structure within the conditions of the licence, maintaining the works in good operating condition and dealing with issues that may impact its being able to receive full benefit from the rights obtained from its licence. The management recognizes and tries to balance the needs of various stakeholders as well as environmental impacts.

The JLWAB is responsible for opening the gates of the control structure when water level rises higher than the licensed level of 1737.0 feet (529.44 m). The licence requires the JLWAB to supply water to landowners along Jackfish River downstream from the control structure. The JLWAB is obligated under common law to supply water to its riparian landowners.

Ducks Unlimited Canada

In 1988 the JLWAB entered into an agreement with Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) to supply up to 1000 cubic decametres (810 Acre Feet) per year from the lake to replenish water in its marsh. The amount is approximately the same volume of water that had previously been released to supply the downstream landowners. The amount supplied to DUC could remove approximately 0.4 inches of water from Jackfish and Murray Lakes.

Under the agreement, if DUC takes water to replenish the marsh, it is responsible for releasing the water to the downstream landowners. Since DUC constructed the marsh project in 1990, the release to the Marsh by the JFLWAB averaged 525 cubic decameters (425 Ac.Ft.) per year or approximately 0.2 inches of water off the lakes. The average release to the DUC marsh is lower than the agreed amount because, during past periods when the lakes were low, DUC voluntarily gave up all or a portion of its water allotment.

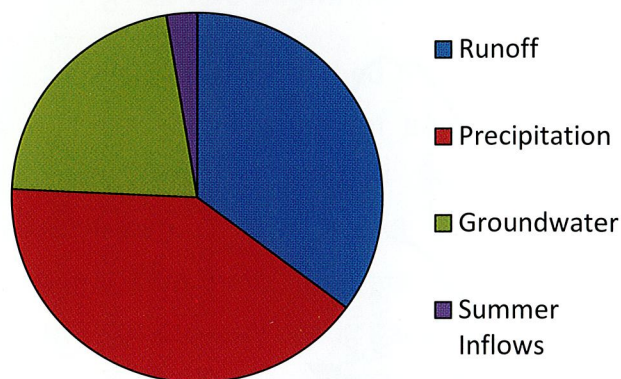
What (or how much) is a CUBIC DECAMETER ??? and do you care ...?

- ✦ .81 of an acre foot
- ✦ 1000 cubic metres
- ✦ The average size dugout holds approx. 3.5 cubic decametres.

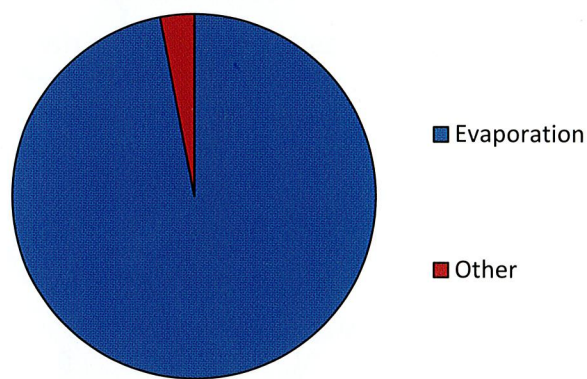
Nature The Bad (And Good Guy)

The main player in determining water levels is nature itself. A water balance for the lakes reveals on an average year, runoff contributes 13 inches, precipitation contributes 15 inches, groundwater contributes as much as 8 inches and summer inflows contribute 1 inch. On the other side of the equation, using an annual average, evaporation removes 32 inches, and all other uses remove less than one inch of surface water per year.

Water Level Increase

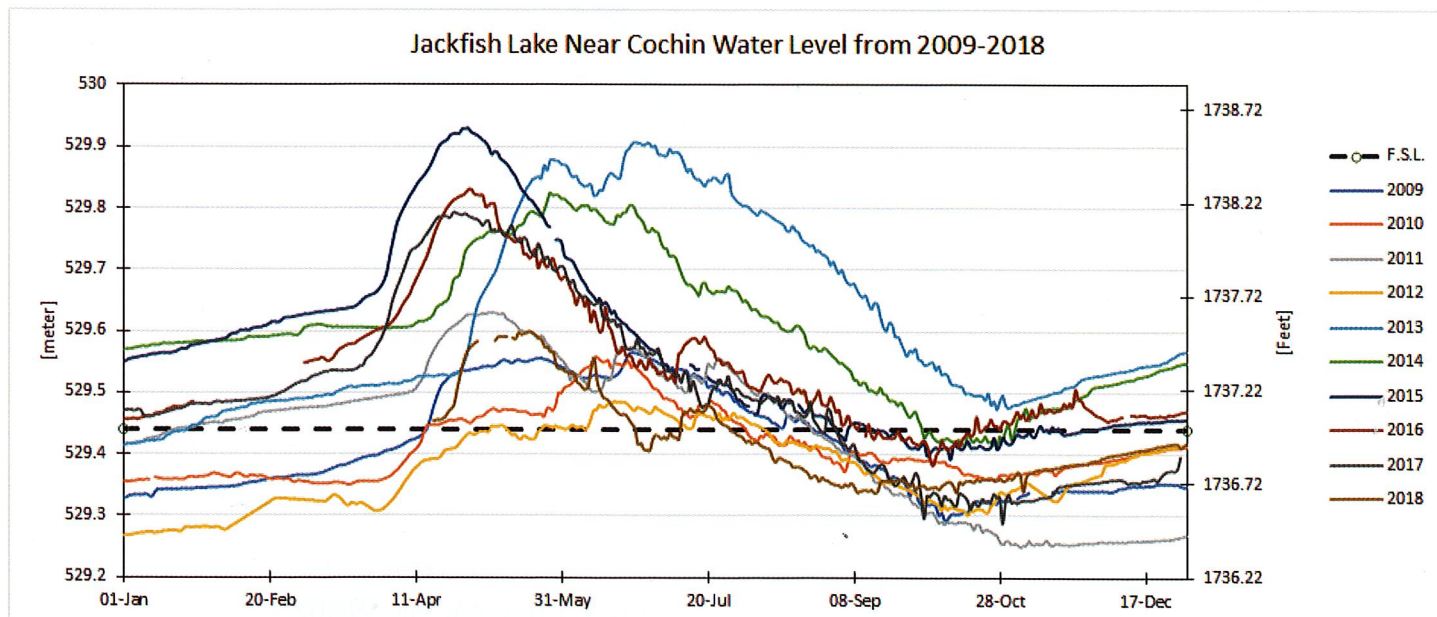


Water Level Decrease



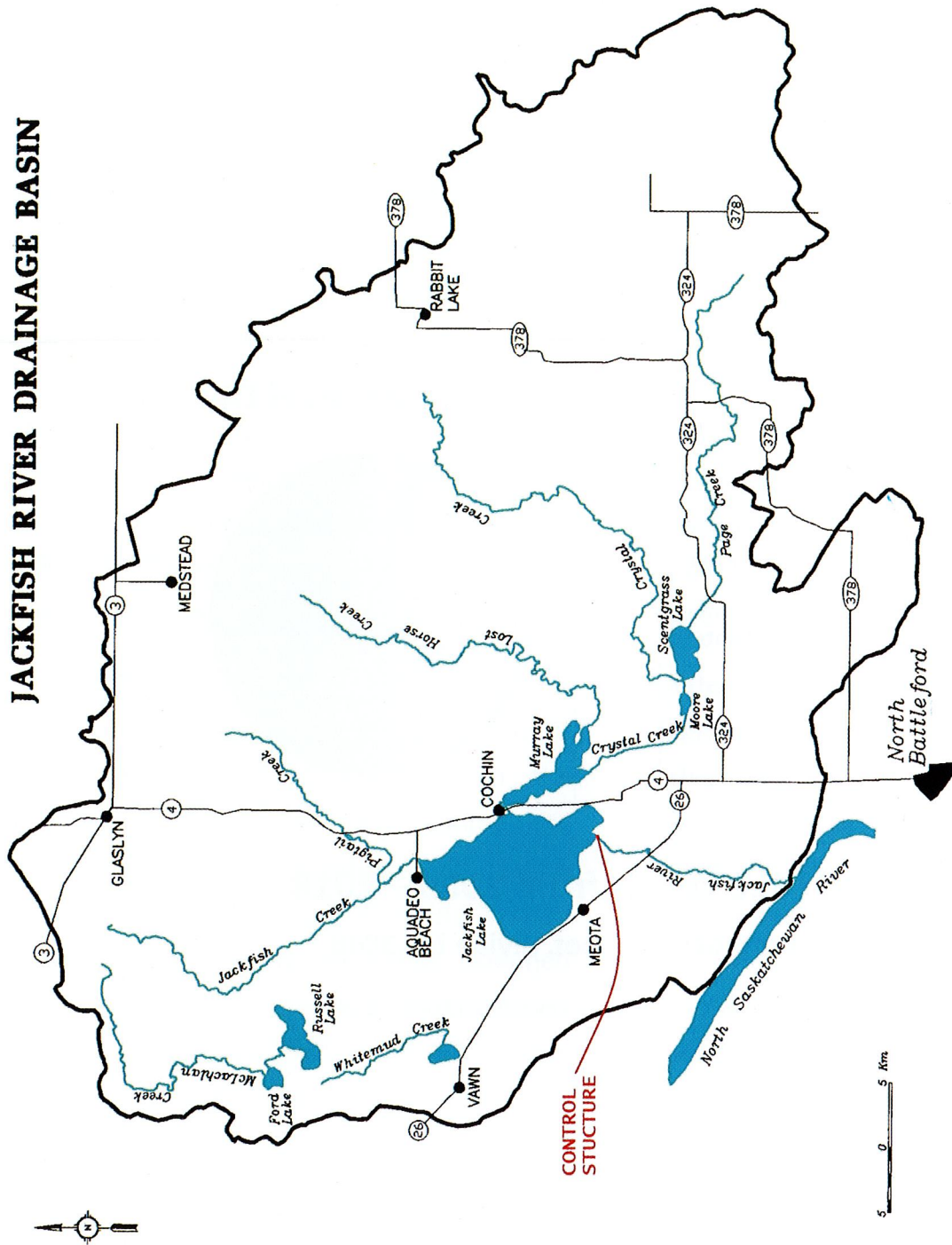
Jackfish Lake Levels from 2009 – 2018

***to convert metres to feet, divide by .3048**



To view real time Jackfish Lake levels at any time, go to: www.wsask.ca
Stream Flows and Lake Levels, North Saskatchewan Watershed

JACKFISH RIVER DRAINAGE BASIN



Jackfish River basin represents a total area of approximately 3730 sq km (1440 sq miles) of which 3320 sq km (1280 sq miles) drains into Jackfish and Murray Lakes. The Jackfish River basin flows into the North Saskatchewan River just upstream of North Battleford and forms part of the larger North Sask River Basin (NSRBC). Information on the NSRB may be found at <http://www.nsrbc.ca/>.

The surface area of Jackfish and Murray Lakes combined is approximately 9730 hectares (24,050 Acres).

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