

## Houle, Brian (Crofton)

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**From:** Houle, Brian (Crofton)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 30, 2023 9:29 AM  
**To:** Houle, Brian (Crofton)  
**Subject:** Watershed Update: August 30, 2023

Good day,

Congratulations to the team from Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society (CLRSS) who hosted the “Connecting Through Water Festival” at Saywell Park in Cowichan Lake on Saturday.

The event was well attended and very well supported with volunteers helping to share their information in everything Cowichan Watershed related.

And it was a busy weekend for volunteers with the annual lower Cowichan River clean-up taking place on Sunday.

I have not participated in this event for a few years and was impressed with how well organized the event is.

Having so many residents show up to help clean up the lower river is amazing and a big thank you to the Cowichan Watershed Board organizers and to all the volunteers helping to clean up the river and the beach areas on each side of the river.

The Cowichan River is a Heritage River in Canada and it is excellent to see so many people caring deeply enough for it to donate their time and effort to clean it up.

With rainfall in forecast, I have held off sending out this update, hoping to have very good news of substantial rainfall, even though the prediction was minor rainfall.

As you will see in updated trends below, the lake level continues downward but there has been rainfall.

Rainfall is now being predicted in many of the coming 14 days of weather predictions and while only minor rainfall predicted for the region of Town of Lake Cowichan, the watershed reaches far west and into a much wetter climate zone – and minor rainfall into eastern parts of Vancouver Island can bring more significant rainfall to western Vancouver Island.

At this time, without assurances of heavy rainfall, Catalyst has applied for authorization to use pumps to sustain a base flow in the Cowichan River of 4.5 cms. Due to the effort and time needed to install and test the pumps, activity at the weir will begin this week, with the first activity of installing scaffolding to allow access to the pumps.

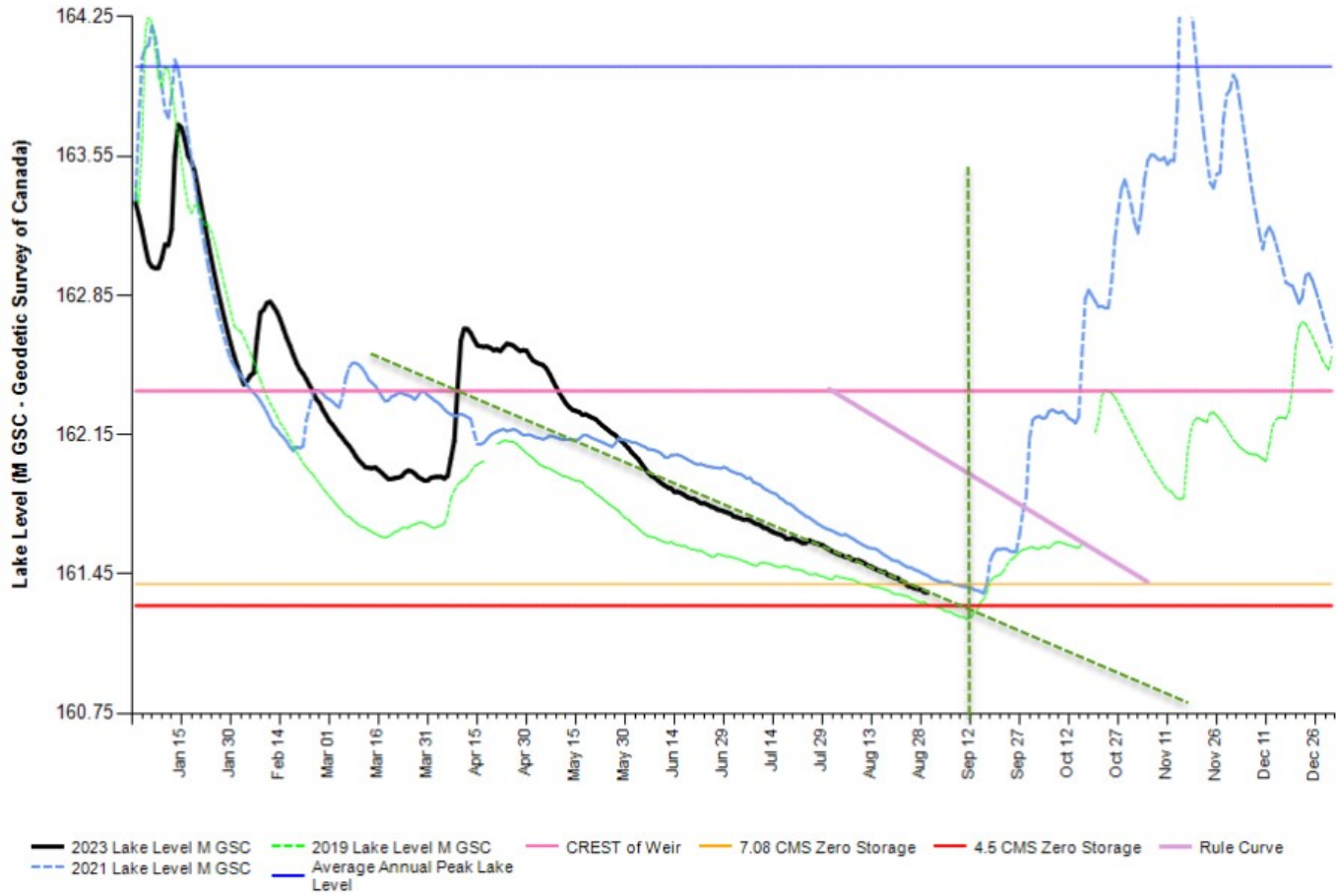
Pumps will begin to move to the weir area after the long weekend.

Catalyst Paper and Paper Excellence have announced continued curtailment of the Crofton pulp and paper facility due to continuing poor market conditions.

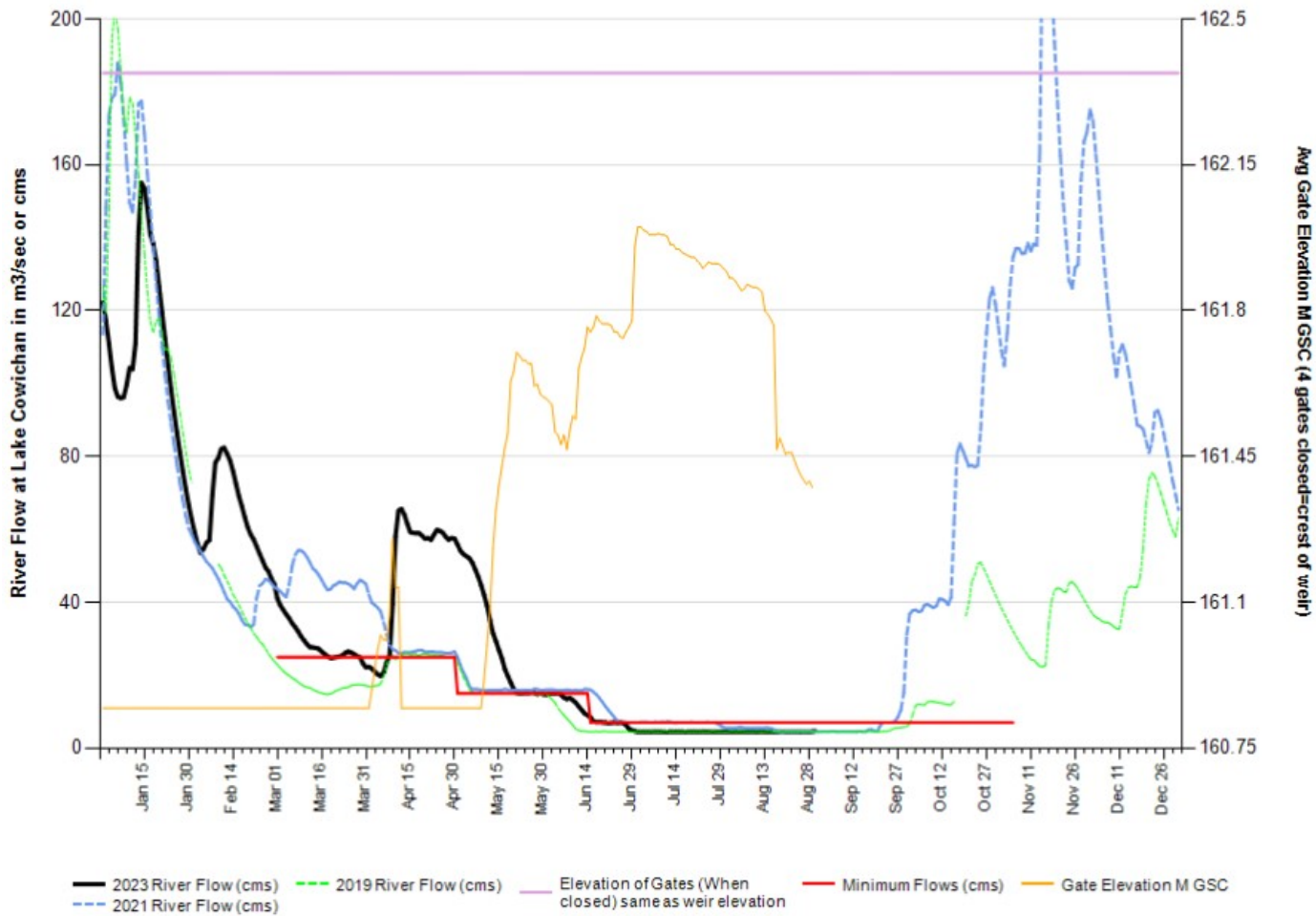
With the mill remaining shut down for entire month of September, the need for water by the mill is much reduced but the commitment to support the watershed remains very high and if pumping is authorized, pumping is predicted to begin on September 12 or soon after that date, given the prediction of minor rainfall for coming 14 days.

Regards  
Brian

2023 Cowichan Lake Level - 2023 (Black) & 2021 (Blue) & 2019 (Green)



2023 Cowichan River Flow - 2023 (Black) & 2021 (Blue) & 2019 (Green)



## Next 7 Days










	Thu 08/31 Light rain	Fri 09/01 Sunny	Sat 09/02 Sunny	Sun 09/03 A mix of sun and clouds	Mon 09/04 Light rain	Tue 09/05 Chance of a shower	Wed 09/06 Chance of a shower
	20°	27°	28°	19°	16°	16°	18°
Feels like	21	28	32	20	16	16	19
Night	13°	15°	14°	12°	11°	10°	9°
POP	80 %	10 %	10 %	40 %	70 %	40 %	40 %
Wind (km/h)	5 N	7 N	6 SE	8 s	7 SW	9 SW	6 SW
Wind gust (km/h)	8	11	9	12	11	14	9
Hrs Of Sun	3 h	12 h	12 h	6 h	0 h	4 h	5 h
24 Hr Rain	2-4 mm	-	-	~5 mm	1-3 mm	<1 mm	<1 mm

# 14 Days

Aug 31 - Sep 13

< PREVIOUS 7 DAYS

	Thu 09/07	Fri 09/08	Sat 09/09	Sun 09/10	Mon 09/11	Tue 09/12	Wed 09/13
	Cloudy with showers	Cloudy with showers	Cloudy with showers	A mix of sun and clouds	Mainly sunny	Cloudy with sunny breaks	A mix of sun and clouds
							
	19°	19°	20°	20°	21°	19°	19°
Feels like	19	19	20	20	21	19	19
Night	9°	11°	10°	10°	10°	10°	11°
POP	60 %	40 %	60 %	20 %	20 %	30 %	20 %
Wind (km/h)	5 s	6 SE	14 sw	5 s	5 s	5 s	7 sw
Wind gust (km/h)	8	9	21	8	8	8	11
24 Hr Rain	1-3 mm	~5 mm	~5 mm	-	<1 mm	-	-



Brian Houle – Catalyst Crofton  
A Paper Excellence Company

Manager, Environment

Cell: 250-715-8718

[www.paperexcellence.com](http://www.paperexcellence.com)

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