

Lake Dalrymple Water Level Fluctuations Fact Sheet

About Lake Dalrymple Water Levels

Lake Dalrymple outlets into the Head River at the north-west section of the lower lake, which drains in north-westerly direction into the Black River, and eventually into Georgian Bay.

It is a 'headwater lake', meaning it exists near the top of its drainage basin and does not have any major inputs of water from large rivers or lakes.

Given the lake is not regulated by a dam, its water level regime follows a natural seasonal pattern. Water levels react based on the amount of precipitation and runoff entering the lake.

Beaver dams near the outlet can temporarily influence water levels.

Water levels fluctuate around one metre during a typical year. However, extremely high spring runoff events have raised the water level much higher.

Several attempts have been made in the past to stabilize water levels through installing 'dams' at the narrows and at the outlet; remnants of rocks and sand bags still exist in these areas.

An estimated 71 million cubic metres of water, per year, flows through the lake. Given the karst (fractured bedrock) conditions, groundwater is thought to comprise a significant portion of flows into and out of the lake. It takes about 200 days for the lake to flush.



Water level tracking gauge at the narrows.

