

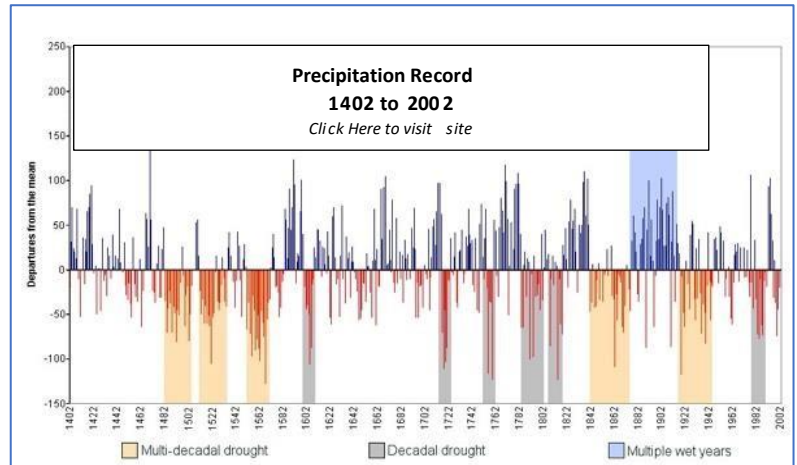
What is the forecast for 2023 Turtle Lake Summer Season?

Answer: No one really knows, but this is what is known!

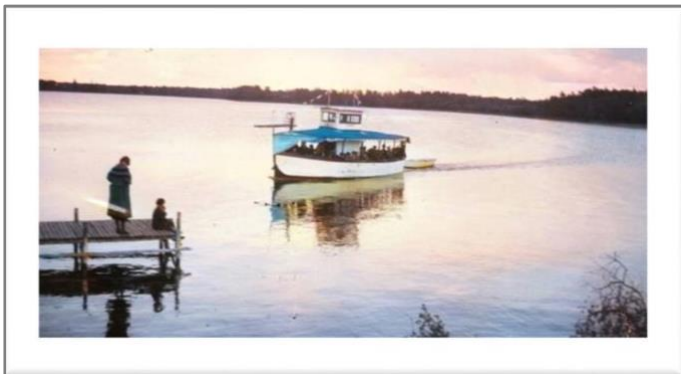
Here is the Precipitation Pattern for the last 600 Years

The graph to the right shows the pattern of precipitation for prairies since 1402. The horizontal midline marks the average annual precipitation for the Canadian Prairies. Points plotted in blue above the line show years above average precipitation and below the line plotted in orange or red show below average annual precipitation. ([Click Here to View Source](#))

The graph shows that periodic wet (Blue) and dry cycles (Red) is an established climatic pattern of this area. Extended periods are marked as grey, orange or light blue zones. Periods of low precipitation result in a smaller lake body, the longer the drought the smaller the lake. Periods of higher precipitation result in a larger lake. This graph shows a definite pattern of alternating periods of drought and moisture.



Images of a Summer 100 years ago at Turtle Lake



In 1903 O. E. Warner opened a store on the north side of the mouth of the Turtle River at South Bay. Over the next 30 years he developed a resort, pavilion, dance hall, campground and hosted many events. These included boat tours, nightly dances most July nights, sports days, and boat tours. Every summer featured a rodeo and travelling Big Tent Religious Revivals. This a restored and coloured photo of the "Pioneer" a touring and fishing boat operated by Warner in the 1920s.

Two Young Women on the Beach at South



The Turtle Lake Watershed wants to document the Turtle Lake of the Past.

If you have or know of old photos or documents related to "Old Timers or Old Times" showing people living, working, celebrating, or relaxing on or near the lake. Pictures or documents showing the landscape of the past also have great value. Please remember to describe the contents and a date for the document. We will arrange to have your treasured photos and documents scanned or photographed.

The Turtle Lake Watershed would, with permission, post selected images on its website (www.tlwi.ca) and or on it's social media sites.

All photos and documents will be returned to their owners.

A Turtle Lake Management Study is being planned for 2023-2024.

The Resort Villages of Kivimaa-Moonlight Bay, Turtle View and Thunderchild First Nation have joined the RM of Mervin in making application for a provincial grant to assist with the estimated \$200,000 cost of the study. The study's purpose is to assist and inform in the development of a plan for a sustainable future for Turtle Lake. A plan to have Turtle Lake to continue to be a desired destination for people to invest their time, energy and resources to visit, to socialize, to relax, to recreate, to hunt and fish, to live and work in 2123, as it is in 2023 and was in 1923.

The creation of a management plan to maintain and sustain a future Turtle Lake is not an easy task for the following reasons.

- Turtle Lake is constantly changing in shape and size, in its mixture of aquatic life, in its water chemistry, and its usage by people.
 - The Turtle Lake resulting from long-term drought, has a much smaller surface area, no outflow of water, increased temperature, greater evaporation, more concentrated nutrients and pollutants, and likely greater algae growth.
 - The Turtle Lake resulting from a period of increased precipitation, will have a larger surface area, greater depth, cleaner water, water outflow, flushing. The submergence of present nearby low-lying lakeside areas, much already developed, will occur without human intervention.
 - The Turtle Lake of the present has yet to be completely studied, hence the need for more complete study. What is known about the Turtle Lake of today.
 - For at least the last 600 years Turtle Lake has experienced alternating periods of drought and periods of increased precipitation resulting in continuous changes in the size and composition of the lake.
 - The amount and extent of residential development around the lake has greatly increased since the 1960s.
 - The number and types of watercraft on the lake have changed dramatically over the last 20 years
 - The composition of the fish population has changed. From 1900 to 1973, Turtle Lake supported a commercial white fish fishery with the Northern Pike being the dominant predator fish. Today few white fish are taken and the dominant predator fish is the Walleye.
- Climate Change adds another layer of complexity with its prediction of increased extremes of existing climatic pattern. To view the current climate modeling for the Turtle Lake area [click here](#).
- Any effective and acceptable plan for a sustainable future Turtle Lake must be clearly understood and have broad support from the people who know, love, utilize, visit or reside at Turtle Lake and surrounding area.

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Breaking News: Turtle Lake is now reported to be available for Water Bombers to safely load!

Tentative Dates for TLWI Board Meetings.

- May 20, 2023
- June 17, 2023
- July 25-27, 2023 AGM
- August 26, 2023
- September 9, 2023

Times: 10:00 AM

7:00 PM AGM

Location: Turtle Lake Mission

All Board Meetings open to the Public

The Fire Hazard is High!

A Fire Ban is in Effect!