

Drought of 2012

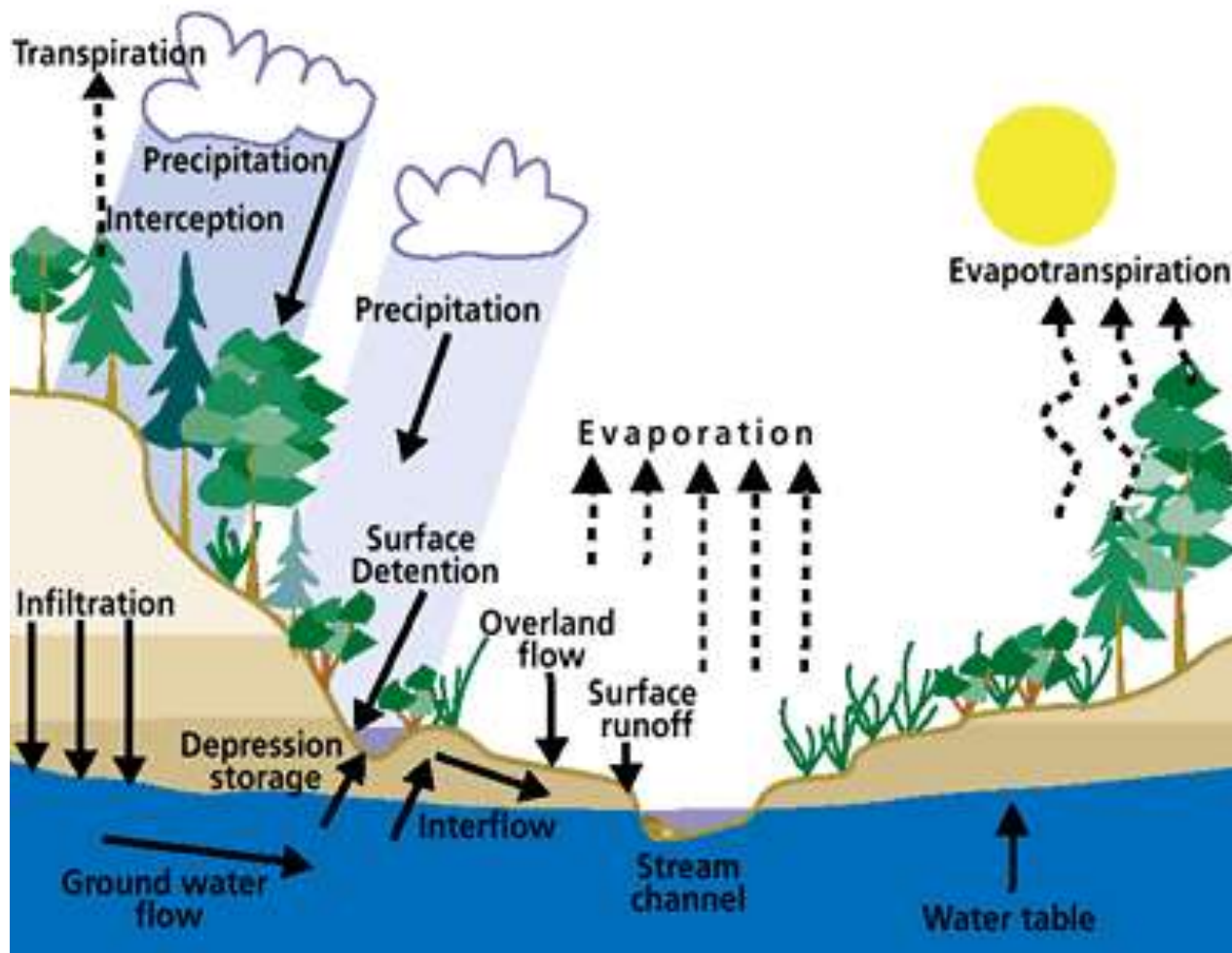
Paul Egginton
Community Stewardship Council
Lanark County

Goals of this workshop

- * To facilitate connections and discussions
- * Broader understanding of a range of issues
- * Planning - depends upon these sort of interactions
- * Help to promote a smooth transition as and when conditions change on either a seasonal or on a longer term basis

Drought

- * A drought in eastern Ontario is typically characterized as both hot and dry
- * Importantly, drought can be defined more scientifically – e.g. Palmer Drought Index or the Ontario Low Water Response Plan (OLWR), or the North American Drought Monitor (NA-DM)



Some factors influencing our impressions of the drought

- * Land-use
- * Work or play
- * Preoccupation
- * Management options available to you and to others
- * Geography

Water available to plants in 1m of soil

75mm Sandy loam

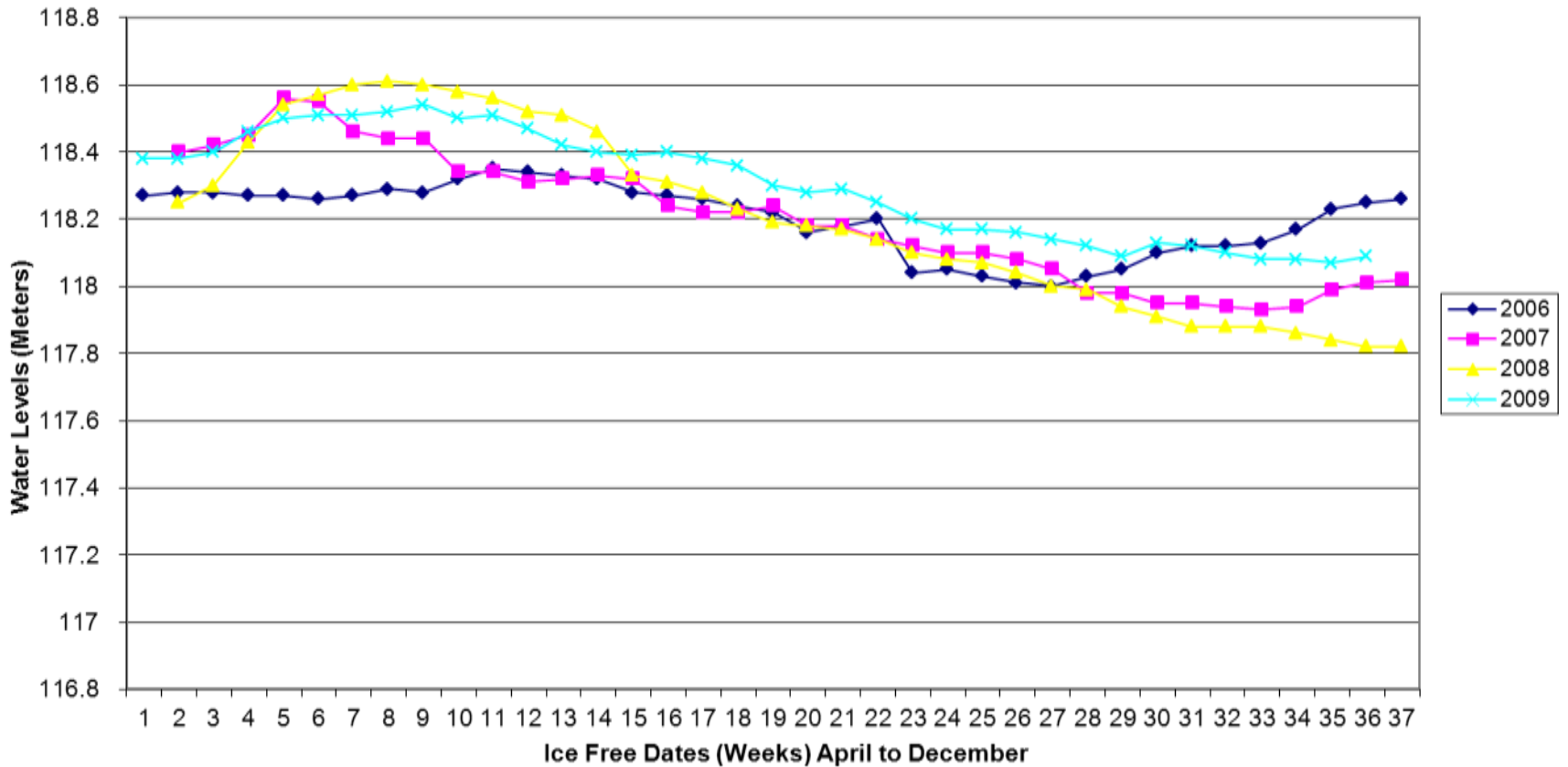
115mm Silt Loam

170mm Clay Loam

Rule of thumb: need 25mm of water per week

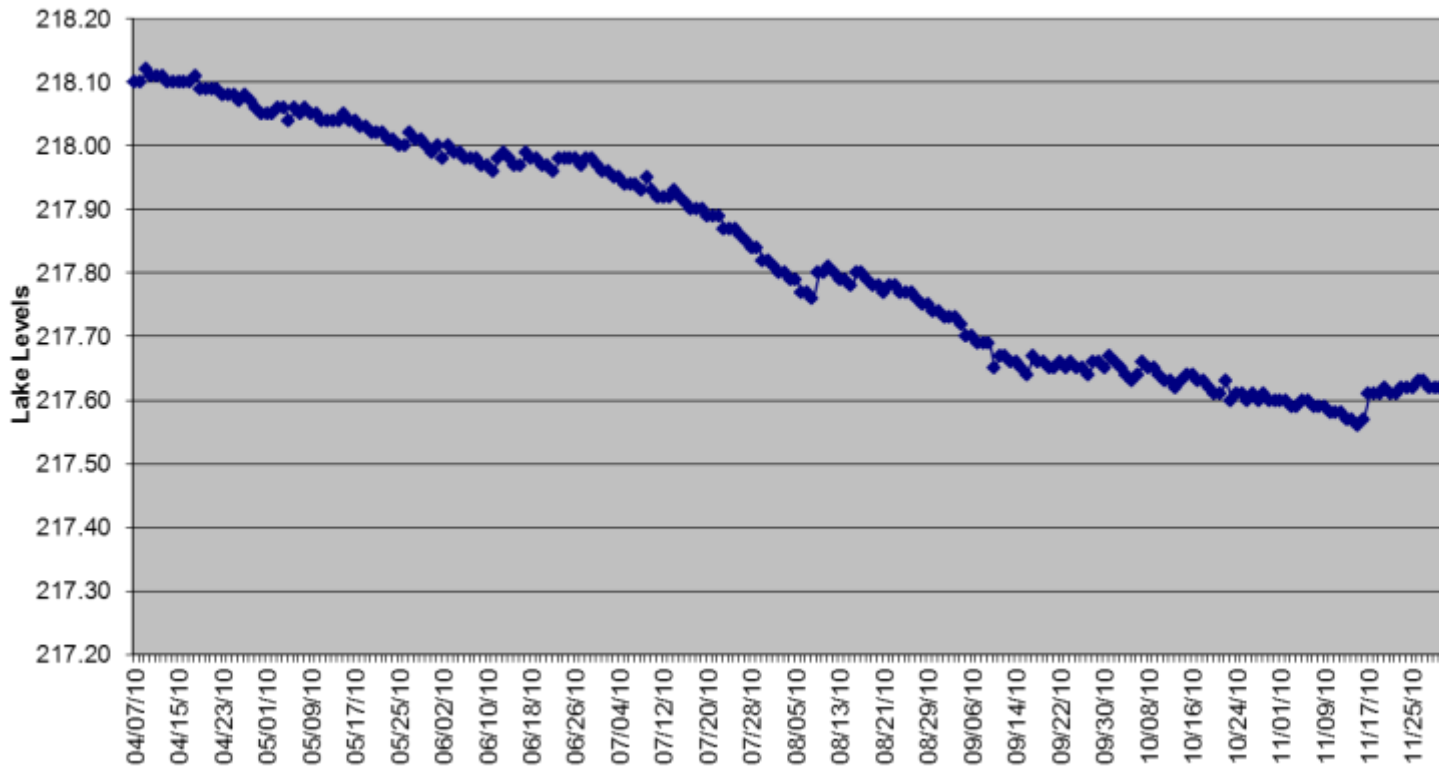
Note: Lake levels follow the same yearly trend, it drops during the summer - then resets to roughly the same level each spring (118.3m)

White Lake Water Levels 2006 - 2009



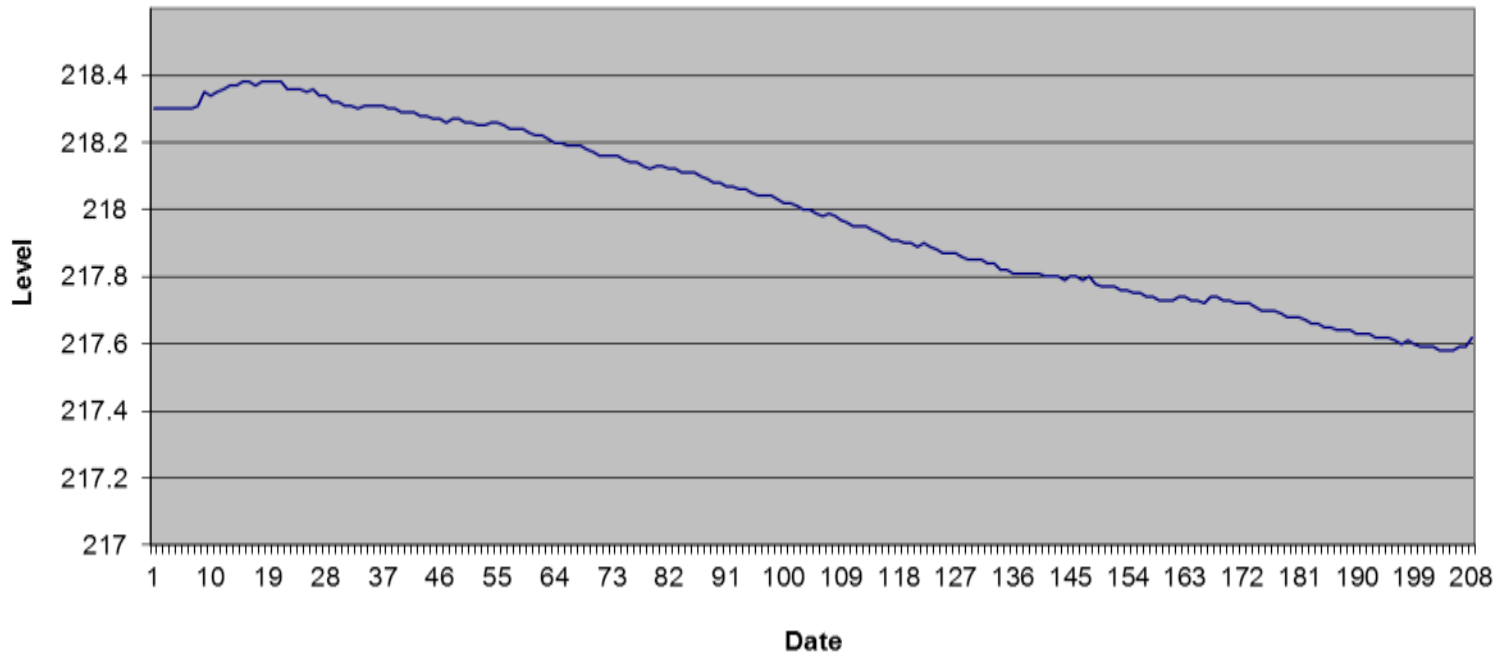
Note: Lake level follows the same yearly trend, it drops during the summer - then resets to roughly the same level each spring (218m)

2010 White Lake Water Levels



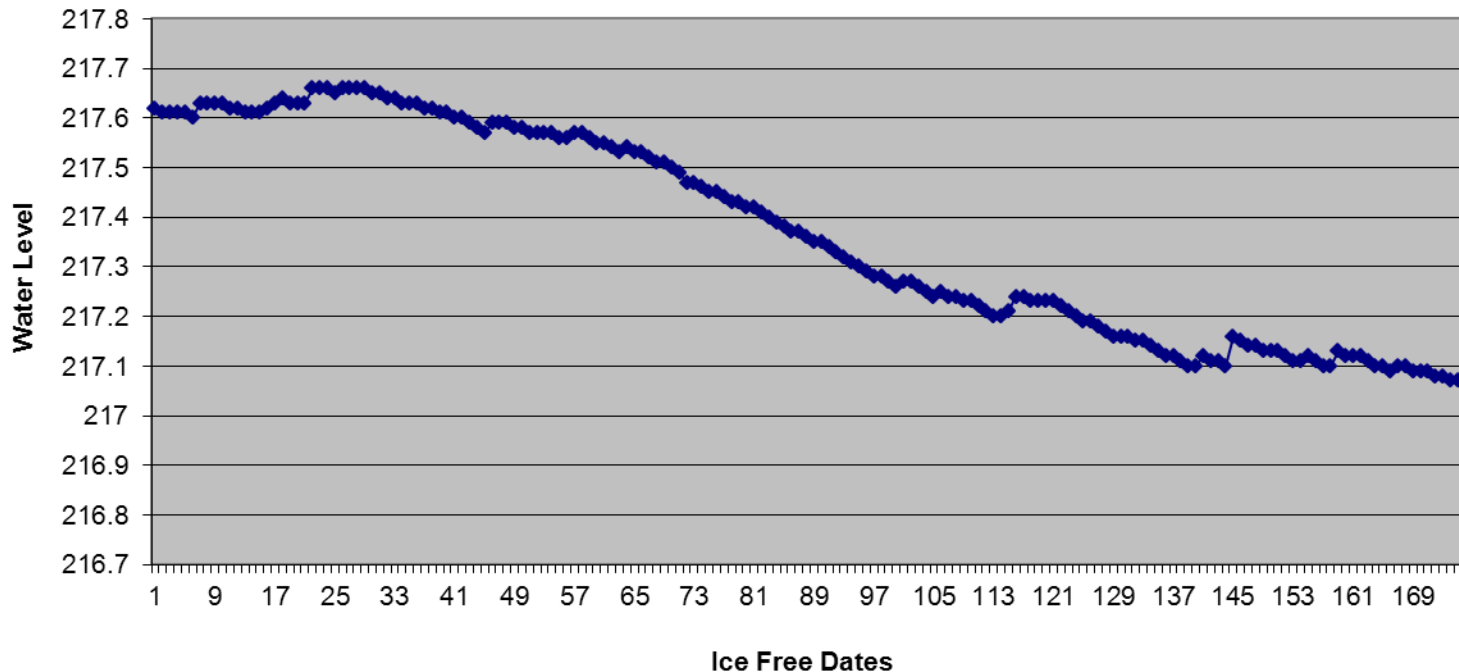
Note: Lake level follows the same yearly trend, it drops during the summer - then resets to roughly the same level each spring (218m)

White Lake Water Level 2011



Note: Lake level **does not reset** to the same level rather it stays at the fall 2011 level (217.6m) then drops another 0.6m during summer 2012. Thus, water level depends upon snow fall and both current and past groundwater conditions-

White Lake Water Level 2012



How warm and dry was it ?

- * June, 30 2011 to July 1, 2012 was the driest 12 month period in Ottawa, and also the warmest 12 months on record
- * July, 2012 was the driest since 1931

(Source : Mary Ellen Adams & CTV)

White Lake October 2012

