

## **Flood Watch Issued for Manitoba's Interlake Region**

Noon, August 21, 2008

Manitoba Water Stewardship's Hydrologic Forecast Centre has issued a flood watch for the Interlake Region of Manitoba. This may change to a flood warning tomorrow depending on updated rainfall forecasts.

A strong storm system developing over southern Saskatchewan and Montana is expected to move slowly northeastward across Manitoba during the next few days. This storm has the potential to produce heavy rainfall from tonight up to noon Saturday. Weather forecasts as of this morning suggest that the Interlake region may be the hardest hit. Rainfall amounts are difficult to predict but Environment Canada weather models suggest that 50 to 100 mm of rain is a possibility.

Some thunderstorms have already passed through the Ashern area this morning ahead of the main storm. Most of the precipitation is likely to fall from this evening to Friday night but some rain could continue on Saturday.

The Interlake has received much above average rainfall this summer which has resulted in saturated soils and standing water. The additional rain from this storm could produce much runoff and extensive overland flooding of low lying areas. Ditches and small streams could overflow, especially if thunderstorms develop. Larger streams such as the Icelandic River and Fisher River should remain within their banks.

The heavy rain will cause additional rises on lakes in the Interlake. Flooding of low lying lands near the lakes could occur due to a combination of high lake levels, wind set-up and wave action. However it appears that winds may not be quite as strong as those of the July 12, 2008 storm.

Residents of the Interlake area advised to take whatever precautions may be appropriate to protect properties from flooding.

The storm may also produce heavy rain over the Westman Region and parts of the Assiniboine River watershed. Localized flooding could develop in these areas if the intense thunderstorms develop.

A flood warning for the Winnipeg River issued on July 22, 2008 remains in effect due to unusually high river flows and levels. While levels on the river have declined, they are still much above average so the warning will continue at least until the end of August.