

Manitoba Water Stewardship

Flood Warning Issued for a Portion of the Interlake Region

September 2, 2008

Manitoba Water Stewardship has issued a flood warning for a portion of the southern Interlake from Ashern to Gypsumville. A flood watch had been issued for this area yesterday evening. A flood watch is hereby also issued for Lake St. Martin

Most of the warning and watch area has received 75 mm of rain during the past few days with localized amounts near 100 mm. The area continues to receive rain today with a further 35 mm possible by late tonight.

Field reports indicate that overland flooding continues in the watch area with water ponded on many fields and ditches running full. Provincial Road 513 is overtopped in three locations near Big Bend northeast of Gypsumville but is still passable. Many homes are experiencing basement flooding due to seepage and some are surrounded by water. The flooding could worsen if today's rainfall is greater than currently predicted, resulting in additional flooding problems.

Manitoba Water Stewardship further reports that Lake St. Martin has risen to flood stage due to the heavy rains. It is possible that shoreline flooding as well as problems with holding tanks could develop this week. Much will depend on wind speed and direction over the lake. Lake Manitoba has risen due to the rain and is near the top of its operation range.

High water conditions and localized flooding problems also continue in other portions of the Interlake, particularly in the R.M.'s of Armstrong and Bifrost as well as in portions of the R.M. of Gimli. A few homes are reported to be surrounded by water due to yesterday's heavy downpours. These problems should gradually diminish but will continue in areas of heavy rain for most of this week.

Areas near Dauphin, including the north slopes of the Riding Mountain have also been hard hit with about 80 mm of rain on the long weekend and continue to receive more rain today. While streams in the area will rise sharply, they are expected to remain within their banks. However localized flooding of low lying agricultural lands may occur.