

Flood Watch Issued for Southern Interlake Region

Issued 7:00 p.m. Monday, September 1, 2008

Manitoba Water Stewardship has issued a flood watch for northerly portions of the Southern Interlake region for tonight through Wednesday (Sept 1-3, 2008). Overland flooding may have already begun in some areas from just north of Ashern to Gypsumville where up to 100 mm fell Saturday night to Sunday morning. These areas could experience serious overland flooding during the next 5 days if additional heavy rain develops soon. Environment Canada predicts additional rainfall of up to 40 mm for this region overnight or tomorrow.

While this watch is primarily for overland flooding, it is possible that some small streams may overflow and some homes in low lying areas may have water in their basements.

A Colorado type low pressure system moving northeastward into Manitoba tonight is responsible for the heavy rain.

Areas which received heavy rainfall late last week, such as the R.M. of Armstrong and Bifrost, could experience some renewed overland flooding but to a lesser severity than occurred last week. Some areas such as Arnes (north of Gimli) received up to 40 mm this morning. Lands in these areas are saturated and therefore areas of standing water could expand due to additional rain.

Rainfall of up to 75 mm also fell over eastern portions of the Riding Mountain to Steep Rock early Sunday but flooding should be minimal as additional rainfall in these areas is expected to be less than 15 millimeters.

Heavy intense rain also developed over northeastern portions of the Red River region, including the City of Winnipeg, this afternoon. While some low lying areas may have standing water, additional rainfall from this storm is expected to be less than 20 mm and should not cause any serious problems.

Residents in the watch area are advised to take whatever precautions are deemed necessary to prevent flood damages, such as moving valuables to higher ground, adjusting or extending downspouts on buildings and checking drainage around window wells.

Considerable uncertainty still remains in the additional amounts and locations of predicted rain. As a result this watch may be cancelled, extended to other areas or upgraded to a warning tomorrow.