



**Forecasting and Flood Response Coordination  
Regulatory and Operational Services,  
Manitoba Water Stewardship**

**Flood Conditions and Forecast Update for Manitoba  
April 22, 2009**

**Weather Conditions:**

- Rain and snow with 10-15 mm precipitation is still expected over the U.S. portion of the Red River watershed tomorrow evening to Saturday morning. Precipitation over southern Manitoba is expected to be less than 5 mm with a possible 10 mm near the U.S. boundary.
- Moderate to strong south winds are predicted over southern Manitoba this evening through Thursday morning, followed by moderate northerly winds Thursday afternoon through Friday.

**City of Winnipeg:**

- The Red River level at James Avenue in Winnipeg this morning was 20.45 feet, a decline of 0.15 feet from yesterday morning. The decline was mainly due to further decreases in flows on the Assiniboine River and on local streams. The computed natural level for this morning (without flood control works) is 32.1 feet.
- The decline of river levels in Winnipeg will be gradual for the next few weeks even with favourable weather due to the need to gradually lower the gates on the floodway control structure at St. Norbert. The gates must be lowered gradually since natural river levels at the floodway inlet will be declining slowly and controlled levels must remain just below the natural levels.
- The Red River watershed is saturated at this time and thus river levels would quickly respond if significant rainfall were to develop in coming weeks. Another crest is possible if heavy rain develops during the next few weeks. However with dry weather predicted for the Manitoba portion for at least another five days further rises due to possible rain are becoming quite unlikely.
- The crest of 22.5 feet at James Avenue in Winnipeg was the second highest since major flood control works began operation in 1969. The crest was 24.5 feet in 1997. Today's level at James Avenue is the same as the 2006 crest, which was the second highest crest since floodway operations began in 1969.

**Emerson to St. Adolphe:**

- Levels remained virtually unchanged at Letellier, St. Jean and St. Adolphe since yesterday morning. The level declined 0.2 feet at Emerson and less than 0.1 feet at other locations.
- River levels will decline very slowly for the rest this week but will decline more significantly next week.
- Levels could fluctuate significantly during the next few days due to wind which could cause temporary rises of up to one foot in some locations and similar declines in other locations depending on exposure.
- Strong winds and wave action erode dikes and closures. Vigilance with respect to wind is recommended from tonight through the weekend.
- Levels in the United States portion are beginning to decline a little more rapidly with a half foot drop at Grand Forks since yesterday morning.

#### **Floodway Inlet:**

- The floodway gates will continue to be operated to maintain levels somewhat below natural levels upstream at the floodway inlet. There will be a very gradual lowering of the control gates for most of this week.
- The water level upstream of the Floodway Inlet this morning was 766.53 feet, a decline of 0.08 feet since yesterday morning. The flow into the Red River Floodway this morning was 42,200 cubic feet per second (cfs) of a total 97,600 cfs upstream of the Floodway Inlet.
- The natural crest at the floodway inlet occurred yesterday at 766.96 feet. This is the level which would have occurred without flood control works.

#### **Lockport to Breezy Point:**

- Levels in this portion continue to decline very slowly for the rest of this week. Levels from Lockport to Breezy Point have declined about 0.2 feet since yesterday morning.

#### **Assiniboine River:**

- Flow into Portage Reservoir declined from 14000 cfs yesterday morning to 13660 cfs this morning. A gradual decline is expected to continue for the next five days. The flow in the Portage Diversion this morning was 13150 cfs and the flow in the river downstream was 500 cfs. River flows toward Winnipeg will be increased once levels in the City of Winnipeg are below flood stage.

- Assiniboine River levels from Baie St. Paul to Winnipeg will continue to decline slowly for the rest of this week.
- Flooding continues along the Assiniboine River from Griswold to Brandon although levels are declining slowly. Valley flooding should end by early next week.
- The outflow from Shellmouth Reservoir remains at 50 cfs. The reservoir water level has risen 0.55 feet since yesterday and stood at 1398.55 feet this morning. The level is expected to rise close to the normal summer level of 1402.5 feet by early May.

#### **Souris River:**

- The Souris River continues to rise with a level of 1407.1 feet at Melita this morning. An additional rise of about 2.5 feet is expected before the river crests at Melita in late April.
- Significant overbank flooding is underway from the U.S. boundary to just south of Melita. Minor overbank flows will develop in areas from Melita to Souris by the middle of next week.
- Crests in the Manitoba portion will be similar to those of 1999.
- The duration of flooding on the Souris River should be much shorter than in 1999 unless unusually heavy rain develops as in 1999. Flooding that year extended into June.

#### **Pembina River:**

- Flooding of the entire Pembina Valley continues but levels are declining at all points.
- The level declined a further half foot at La Riviere during the 24 hour period ending this morning.
- Crests from Rock Lake to La Riviere have been similar to those of 1974, which was among the largest flood in recent decades.
- Rock Lake declined another quarter foot since yesterday and was at 1337.1 feet this morning.
- The level of Pelican Lake is near 1353 feet and continues to decline due to operation of the outlet control works.

- The U.S. National Weather Service and the U.S. Geological Service indicate that level of the Pembina River at Neche has declined by nearly one-tenth of a foot since yesterday. No further rise is expected on the river,
- Water levels just south of the International Boundary in the vicinity of Gretna are likely to rise this evening due to strong south winds. Minor boundary overflows may occur tonight and overnight. Manitoba Water Stewardship and MIT staff will be monitoring the situation closely.
- Actions will be taken to protect Gretna and low lying properties at Halbstadt if necessary.

#### **Other Rivers:**

- Both the Fisher River and the Icelandic River have crested but levels remain high and some flooding continues at the Peguis First Nation
- Extensive overland flooding continues in the Interlake region with many roads overtopped or washed out. Conditions will begin to improve later this week if the weather is favourable, but some flooding will continue for several weeks.

#### **Lakes:**

- Many lakes such as Lake Winnipeg, Lake Manitoba and Dauphin Lake are still ice covered. Some smaller lakes such as Pelican Lake are partially ice covered. Ice is expected to break up during the next 10 days or so. Strong winds may cause ice to push to considerable depths up the shoreline in areas of shallow ground slopes such as at beaches.
- Ice pushed up shorelines by strong winds can cause significant damage and pose a risk to low lying cottages. Those who have experienced such difficulties before are advised to take whatever precautions may be feasible, such as moving valuables to higher ground.

#### **Overland Flooding:**

- Overland flooding continues in many portions of southern Manitoba, especially in the Red River Valley and the Interlake but is expected to gradually subside this week based on favourable weather. Flooding could quickly increase if significant rainfall were to develop. Resident in low lying areas are advised to take precautions against possible sudden rises.
- Further details are provided below and specific forecasted crest stages are shown on the daily flood sheets issued by Manitoba Water Stewardship. This information may be viewed at [floodsheet site](#).