



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

**Flood Report for Manitoba
April 24, 2009**

Weather Conditions:

- About 10 mm precipitation is expected over the U.S. portion of the Red River watershed today with an additional 10 mm likely Sunday to Monday. Precipitation over southern Manitoba is expected to be less than 5 mm
- Winds north 25 km/hr over Red River Valley becoming light this evening and south 20 tomorrow.

City of Winnipeg:

- The Red River level at James Avenue in Winnipeg this morning was 19.99 feet, a decline of 0.28 feet from yesterday morning. The decline was still 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 31.6 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.
- With favourable weather, the level at James Avenue in downtown Winnipeg should decline to 18 feet by May 2 and to 14 feet by May 20
- 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.

Emerson to St. Adolphe:

- River levels have fluctuated during the past 24 hours due to significant wind effects. The level declined about one quarter of a foot at Emerson and St. Adolphe and 0.15 feet at Morris but rose 0.1 feet at Letellier.
- Strong winds and wave action can cause river levels at Letellier, Morris and Brunkild to fluctuate by one foot or more. Wave action can erode dikes and closures. Vigilance should be increased when strong winds are predicted.
- River levels will decline very slowly for the rest of this week but will decline more significantly next week.

- With favorable weather, the level at Morris is expected to decline to the PTH 75 elevation of 775 feet by May 10. Opening of the highway may occur somewhat later pending a road condition inspection.
- The Red River at Grand Forks continues to decline at half a foot per day.

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 766.22 feet, a decline of 0.25 feet since yesterday morning. The flow into the Red River Floodway this morning was 41,400 cubic feet per second (cfs) of a total 97,000 cfs upstream of the Floodway Inlet.
- The natural level at the floodway inlet crested at 766.96 feet on April 21 but the natural flow crested at 97,900 cfs yesterday. The difference is due to the decline of the Assiniboine River and local flows in the Winnipeg area which affect levels but not flows at the Floodway Inlet.

Lockport to Breezy Point:

- Levels in this portion continue to decline very slowly for the next week or so. Levels declined 0.3 feet at Lockport, 0.15 feet at Selkirk since yesterday morning. There was no change at Breezy Point due to a north wind.

Assiniboine River:

- Flow into Portage Reservoir declined from 13470 cfs yesterday morning to 13350 cfs this morning. A gradual decline is expected to continue for the next five days. The flow in the Portage Diversion this morning was 12805 cfs and the flow in the river downstream was 545 cfs. River flows toward Winnipeg will be gradually increased once levels at James Avenue in Winnipeg are below the flood stage of 18 feet.
- Assiniboine River levels from Baie St. Paul to Winnipeg will continue to decline slowly for the rest of this week.
- River levels are now declining rapidly in the Griswold to Brandon area with a decline of 1.5 feet at Griswold since yesterday morning. The river is within its banks at Griswold and will be below flood stage at Curran Park in Brandon by tomorrow.
- The outflow from Shellmouth Reservoir remains at 50 cfs. The reservoir water level has risen 0.43 feet since yesterday and stood at 1399.5 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 but rises in the Coulter and Melita are becoming very gradual as the crest nears. The level was 1407.43 feet at Melita this morning, a rise of 0.1 feet.
- Crest forecasts were reduced one more foot yesterday based on updated flow projections for Westhope, North Dakota, issued by the U.S. National Weather Service. It appears that crests in Manitoba will be even lower than indicated yesterday based on continued favourable weather.
- Crests at Coulter, Melita and Hartney will be about two feet lower than those of 1999, whereas crests from Souris to Wawanesa will be close to three feet lower than in 1999.
- Significant overbank flooding is underway from the U.S. boundary to just south of Melita. The river is expected to remain within its banks at points from just north of Melita to Wawanesa.
- The duration of flooding in the Coulter area 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 0.35 feet 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 floods in recent decades.
- Rock Lake had declined to 1336.75 feet as of this morning. By Sunday it will have declined three feet from the crest and will no longer be a significant concern.
- The level of Pelican Lake was 1352.9 feet yesterday evening. The outlet control works continue to be operated at the maximum outflow possible (425 cfs today) in order to reduce the lake to its desirable level of 1351.7 feet.
- The Pembina River at Neche has declined another 0.1 feet since yesterday and will continue to decline slowly. There is no longer a concern about boundary overflows or flooding at Gretna or Halbstadt.

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. The level of the Fisher River has declined 3.5 feet during the last four days and has declined 0.3 feet since yesterday morning.

- Overland flooding continues in the Interlake region but is generally subsiding. Flooding could easily be prolonged or increase if significant precipitation were to develop during the next few 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 next week. 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.
- Lakes in the Whiteshell area are well above their summer target levels at this time, which is not unusual during spring runoff. Brereton Lake is near a record high level. Logs are being removed to reduce lake levels.

Overland Flooding:

- Overland flooding continues in some portions of the Red River Valley and the Interlake but is subsiding in most areas and should end next week if dry weather continues. Flooding could quickly re-develop if significant rainfall were to occur during the next few weeks.
- Specific forecasted crest stages are shown on the daily flood sheets issued by Manitoba Water Stewardship. This information may be viewed at <http://www.gov.mb.ca/waterstewardship/floodinfo/floodsheet.html>