

**Hydrologic Forecast Centre
Regulatory and Operational Services
Manitoba Water Stewardship**

**Lake Report for Manitoba
August 10, 2009**

Tables showing the condition of 35 Manitoba lakes as of August 10, 2009 are attached. Predicted lake levels for September 10, 2009 based on normal weather conditions for the next month are also provided. Please note that there are two spreadsheets, one for Southern Lakes and one for Northern Lakes

Following is a summary of present lake conditions:

- Most lakes in Manitoba are within their desirable range at this time.
- Lakes which are well above their normal level for this time of year include:
 - Lake Winnipeg
 - Shoal Lakes in the Interlake
 - Some lakes along the Nelson River such as Split Lake, Sipiwesk Lake
- Lakes which are somewhat above their normal August levels include:
 - Lake Manitoba
 - Lake St. Martin
 - Lake Pineimuta
 - Sandy Lake (south of Riding Mountain National Park)
 - Lakes along the Winnipeg River
- Whitewater Lake and Pelican Lake are somewhat below their desirable summer levels
- Most lakes are likely to decline somewhat during the next four weeks based on normal weather conditions, due to evaporation exceeding precipitation and due to declining inflows. However with water temperatures being generally below average this year, evaporation will likely be somewhat less than average.

Additional Information for some lakes follows:

Lake Winnipeg:

--The level wind eliminated level has declined from a peak of 715.5 feet in July to 715.25 feet as of August 10 and is expected to decline to 714.7 feet by September 10 and 714.3 feet by October 31 based on normal weather conditions. Manitoba Hydro continues to maintain maximum outflow from the lake.

--The wind eliminated level of 715.25 feet for August 10, 2009 is the second highest on record for this date for the past 30 years when outlet control works have been in operation. The highest wind eliminated level for August 10 was 716.3 feet in 2005.

--The wind eliminated lake levels prior to the extreme wind events of October and November of 2005 were 714.9 and 714.5 feet respectively.

--The wind storms during the autumn of 2005 each had return periods of about 10 years. If autumn storms of this magnitude should occur in 2009, peak water levels with wind set-up and wave up-rush would most likely be at least a half foot lower than in 2005 based on normal precipitation from now through November, 2009.

Lake Manitoba, Lake St. Martin:

--Lake Manitoba has declined quite sharply during the past 6 weeks and as a result the present level of 812.3 feet is back within the designated operating range of 710.5-712.5 feet. The level is expected to decline to 811.7 feet by late October which is half a foot lower than in the autumn of 2005. The risk of shoreline flooding this autumn is relatively low based on normal precipitation from now on.

--The level of Lake St. Martin has declined half a foot from that of July and is expected to decline to the top of the desirable range (800 feet) by late October. The risk of flooding due to wind set up continues to decrease and should not be a problem unless rainfall during the next few months is well above average.

Note that plots showing 2008 and 2009 levels for Lake Winnipeg, Lake Manitoba, Shellmouth Reservoir and Whiteshell area lakes are posted on our web site and are updated each Friday. Also river flows are posted every Friday. Look under 'Lake, River Reports' or 'Flood Forecasting Reports' at the following web site:

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/waterstewardship/index.html?index.html>

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