



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

**Flood Report for Manitoba
May 01, 2009**

Weather Conditions:

- Little or no precipitation is expected for the next five days.
- Winds over the Red River Valley north 20 km/hr today and west 15 tomorrow.

City of Winnipeg:

- The Red River level at James Avenue in Winnipeg this morning was 18.41 feet, a decline of 0.35 feet from yesterday morning. The computed unregulated level for this morning (without flood control works) is 28.7 feet.
- The river level in Winnipeg will remain quite high 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 and due to increasing flows on the Assiniboine River resulting from Portage Diversion operation.
- The river level at James Avenue in downtown Winnipeg will decline to just below 18 feet by Sunday and will be in the range of 17.5 to 17.9 feet for most of next week.

Emerson to St. Adolphe:

- There has been some runoff from Wednesday night's rainfall in the U.S. portion north of Grand Forks, which will slow down the rate of decline in Manitoba somewhat for the next week or so. However the decline next week should still increase somewhat from what it has been this week.
- The river level declined between 0.15 and 0.25 feet on average at the main monitoring sites at valley towns during the 24 hour period ending this morning. These changes are somewhat affected by yesterday's windy conditions.
- The level at Morris is still expected to decline to the PTH 75 elevation of 775 feet by about mid May unless additional rainstorms develop. Opening of the highway would occur following a road condition inspection.
- Wave action can erode dikes and closures. Vigilance should be increased on days with strong winds.

Floodway Inlet:

- The floodway gates will continue to be operated to maintain levels somewhat below unregulated levels upstream at the floodway inlet. A gradual lowering of the control gates will continue.
- The water level upstream of the Floodway Inlet this morning was 764.83 feet, a decline of 0.23 feet since yesterday morning. The flow into the Red River Floodway this morning was 34,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) of a total 86,600 cfs upstream of the Floodway Inlet.
- The level at the Floodway Inlet was expected to decline to 760 feet by about May 12 based on favourable weather.

Lockport to Breezy Point:

- Levels in this portion will continue to decline slowly for the rest of this week. The level declined 0.2 feet at Selkirk since yesterday morning.

Assiniboine River:

- Flow into Portage Reservoir increased slightly from 9930 cfs yesterday morning to 9945 cfs this morning. Flows will be relatively steady or may rise somewhat for the next 10 days due to increased flows arriving from the Souris River. The flow in the Portage Diversion this morning was 9400 cfs and the flow in the river downstream was 545 cfs. River flows toward Winnipeg will be gradually increased starting Sunday and will be adjusted daily as required to maintain levels at James Avenue in Winnipeg between 17.5 and 17.9 feet next week.
- Assiniboine River levels from Portage la Prairie to Winnipeg will rise gradually by up to seven feet by mid May due to Portage Diversion operation but will remain well below flood stage.
- The river level at 1st Street in Brandon fell 0.3 feet since yesterday and has declined more than four feet during the past seven days. The Assiniboine River is below flood stage at all points.
- The outflow from Shellmouth Reservoir remains at 50 cfs. The reservoir water level rose 0.33 feet since yesterday morning and stood at 1402.1 feet this morning, a total rise of 13.1 feet so far this spring. The level is expected to reach 1403.5 feet by mid May, which is an ideal level heading into the summer. The outflow will be increased somewhat about one week from now.

Souris River:

- Levels continue to rise steadily except for some fluctuations due to wind. Crests from Coulter to Melita will be about one-third of a foot below 1999 crests, whereas crests from Napinka to Wawanesa will be 0.5 to 0.7 feet below 1999 crests.
- The outage of the gauge at Westhope N.D. is making crest forecasting for the Manitoba portion more difficult.
- The level at Melita declined has slightly due to wind effects. Rises will resume tomorrow as winds decrease.

- The river rose 0.58 feet at Hartney and between 0.25 and 0.4 feet from Souris to Wawanesa since yesterday morning.
- The crest is now expected a day later. It should be at Coulter on May 4, Melita on May 6, Hartney on May 8 and Wawanesa on May 10-11.
- Significant overbank flooding is underway from the U.S. boundary to just south of Melita. There are also some overbank flows from just north of Melita to the town of Souris.
- A newly constructed dike will protect buildings in a low area in the southern outskirts of Melita. Flooding of homes is not expected along the Souris River.
- 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 Pembina Valley continues from Rock Lake to Near Windygates. The decline in levels has been halted at many locations due to Wednesday night's rain but no significant rises are expected in the Manitoba portion.
- Rock Lake is presently at 1336 feet and should decline slowly based on favourable weather. While the level remains high, there is no serious shoreline flooding at this time. The normal summer level is near 1330 feet.
- The level of Pelican Lake is near 1352.7 feet. The outlet control works continue to be operated at the maximum outflow possible (about 400 cfs today) in order to reduce the lake to its desirable level of 1351.7 feet.
- The Pembina River has risen half a foot at Neche due to the rainstorm a few days ago, but no further rise is expected.

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 in the near future. Strong winds may cause ice to push up the shoreline in areas of shallow ground slopes such as at beaches as early as tomorrow. Those who have experienced difficulties due to ice before are advised to take whatever precautions may be feasible, such as moving valuables to higher ground.
- The level of Lake Winnipeg is presently near 714.7 feet. The lake is regulated within the range of 711 to 715 feet. Manitoba Hydro is releasing maximum outflows from the Lake to reduced additional rises, but the lake is still expected to reach 715 feet later in May.
- The level of Lake Manitoba is presently near 812.38 feet. The lake is regulated within the range of 810.5 to 812.5 feet. Outflows from the Lake are presently near 6800 cfs and cannot be further increased without causing flooding on Lake

- Lakes in the Whiteshell area are well above their summer target levels at this time, which is not unusual during spring runoff. Logs have been removed from Brereton, White and Jessica lakes and levels on these lakes have begun to decline.
- 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 <http://www.gov.mb.ca/waterstewardship/floodinfo/floodsheet.html>