



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

**Flood Report for Manitoba
May 2, 2009**

Weather Conditions:

- Showers expected late Monday to early Tuesday with 10 mm possible and chance of thundershowers in the U.S. portion.
- Winds northwest 20 over the Red River Valley becoming south 30-40 Monday.

City of Winnipeg:

- The Red River level at James Avenue in Winnipeg this morning was 18.18 feet, a decline of 0.23 feet from yesterday morning. The computed unregulated level for this morning (without flood control works) is 28.2 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 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:

- The river level declined between 0.15 and 0.28 feet on average at the main monitoring sites at valley towns during the 24 hour period ending this morning. The largest declines (0.28 feet) were at Morris and at the Floodway Inlet.
- The total decline in river levels since the crest ranged from 2.6 feet at Emerson to 1.8 feet at Morris to 1.5 feet at St. Adolphe as of this morning. The total rise that these locations ranged from 36.8 feet at Emerson to 33.1 feet at St. Adolphe.
- 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.
- The recession has been very slow so far since the large amount of water in the floodplain from Drayton to Aubigny continues to feed the Red River. Levels will begin to decline faster next week as the flooded area shrinks.

- 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 764.55 feet, a decline of 0.28 feet since yesterday morning. The flow into the Red River Floodway this morning was 32,800 cubic feet per second (cfs) of a total 84,550 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 0.3 feet at Lockport and 0.2 feet at Selkirk since yesterday morning.

Assiniboine River:

- Flow into Portage Reservoir decreased slightly from 9945 cfs yesterday morning to 9775 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 9200 cfs and the flow in the river downstream was 575 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 somewhat after mid May due to Portage Diversion operation but will remain well below flood stage.
- The river level at 1st Street in Brandon fell 0.2 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 0.27 feet since yesterday morning and stood at 1402.38 feet this morning, a total rise of 13.3 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 from Coulter to Napinka Dam have changed very little since yesterday so the river appears to near the crest at these locations.

- The river rose 0.17 feet at Hartney and 0.38 feet at Souris and Wawanesa since yesterday morning.
- Crests from Coulter to Melita will be one foot lower than 1999 crests, whereas crests from Napinka to Wawanesa will be at least 1.5 feet lower than those of 1999.
- Crest dates will be a few days earlier than indicated yesterday.
- 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 but no buildings are affected.
- The duration of flooding 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. A very gradual decline in levels will continue unless significant rainfall develops.
- Rock Lake is presently at 1335.9 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 estimated at 1352.65 feet today. 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 level at Neche has declined 0.5 feet since yesterday.

Lakes:

- Many lakes such as Lake Winnipeg, Lake Manitoba and Dauphin Lake are still ice covered. Pelican Lake is now clear of ice. Lakes in the Whiteshell are still mostly 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 near 715 feet later in May.
- The level of Lake Manitoba is presently near 812.4 feet. The lake is regulated within the range of 810.5 to 812.5 feet. The outflow from the Lake is presently near 6900 cfs and cannot be significantly increased without causing flooding on Lake St. Martin, which is presently at 801 feet or about half a foot below flood stage. Fairford Dam has not been operated since February 6, 2009 in accordance with the present rules of operation.

- 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.

View Floodsheets : [Assiniboine R.](#) , [Red R.](#) , [Pembina R.](#) , [Souris R.](#)