



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

**Flood Report for Manitoba
May 05, 2009**

Weather Conditions:

- Shower expected Wednesday evening to Thursday morning. Rain amounts 5-10 mm with possible 15 mm in southern Interlake
- Winds south 15-20 over the Red River Valley becoming north 30-40 Thursday morning.

City of Winnipeg:

- The Red River level at James Avenue in Winnipeg this morning was 18.09 feet, a decline of 0.19 feet from yesterday morning. Minor fluctuations in City river levels will occur during the next few weeks due to operation of flood control works.
- The river level in Winnipeg will decline very gradually for the next few weeks even with favourable weather. This is 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 somewhat below 18 feet by this evening and will remain near 18 feet for at least the next 5 days. The computed unregulated level for this morning (without flood control works) is 27.5 feet.

Emerson to St. Adolphe:

- The river level declined between 0.30 and 0.38 feet from Morris to St. Adolphe but declined less than 0.25 feet from Emerson to St. Jean during the 24 hour period ending this morning.
- The total decline in river levels since the crest ranged from 3.25 feet at Emerson to 2.75 feet at Morris to 2.55 feet at St. Adolphe as of this morning.
- The level at Morris is still expected to decline to the PTH 75 elevation of 775 feet by about mid May unless significant precipitation develops. 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 763.32 feet, a decline of 0.32 feet since yesterday morning. The flow into the Red River Floodway this morning was 30,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) of a total 82,100 cfs upstream of the Floodway Inlet.
- The level at the Floodway Inlet was expected to decline to 760 feet by about May 13 based on favourable weather.

Lockport to Breezy Point:

- Levels in this portion will continue to decline at a rate of about 0.2 feet per day for the rest of this week.

Assiniboine River:

- Flow into Portage Reservoir increased slightly from 9910 cfs yesterday morning to 10170 cfs this morning. Flows will rise somewhat for the next few days due to increased flows arriving from the Souris River. The flow in the Portage Diversion this morning was 9615 cfs and the flow in the river downstream was 555 cfs. River flows toward Winnipeg will be gradually increased starting tomorrow and will be adjusted daily as required to maintain levels at James Avenue in Winnipeg just below 18 feet for the next two weeks. .
- Assiniboine River levels from Portage la Prairie to Winnipeg will rise very gradually later this week and will rise more significantly for the following two weeks due to Portage Diversion operation. Levels will remain well below flood stage.
- The outflow from Shellmouth Reservoir will be increased to 100 cfs today in conjunction with a visit to obtain a direct water level on the Reservoir. The electronic gauge readings have been somewhat suspect for the past four days. The reservoir water level appears to have risen 0.15 feet since yesterday morning and stood at 1402.95 feet this morning. These values will be corrected in tomorrow's report when the direct water level being taken later today is available. The level is expected to reach 1403.5 feet by mid May, which is an ideal level heading into the summer.

Souris River:

- Levels of the Souris River have changed less than one tenth of a foot since yesterday. The River has now reached its crest at all locations.

- Crests from Coulter to Melita this spring are about one foot lower than 1999 crests, whereas from Hartney to Wawanesa they are 1.5 to 2.0 feet lower than 1999 crests.
- Levels on the Souris River will be very slow to decline during the next 10 days due to the large amount of water in the floodplain from the J. Clarke Salyer Refuges in North Dakota to just south of Melita.
- Significant overbank flooding is underway from the U.S. boundary to just south of Melita. This flooding will diminish slowly but will not end until late May.
- There are some overbank flows from just north of Melita to near the town of Souris. Flooding in this portion should end within two weeks unless heavy precipitation develops.
- While agricultural lands along the Souris River are flooded, 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 well into June.

Pembina River:

- Flooding of the Pembina Valley continues from Rock Lake to near Windygates although levels are declining at 0.1 to 0.2 feet per day. A very gradual decline in levels will continue unless significant rainfall develops. Flooding between Rock Lake and Swan Lake is expected to continue for another three weeks while flooding of most valley lands in the La Riviere area should end within 10 days or so.
- Rock Lake is presently at 1335.68 feet and will continue to 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 at the south end of Pelican Lake yesterday afternoon was 1352.38 feet. This reading was affected by a strong south wind; the wind eliminated level is likely near 1352.5 feet. The outlet control works continue to be operated at the maximum outflow possible (about 390 cfs today) in order to reduce the lake to its desirable level of 1351.7 feet.
- The Pembina River level at Neche declined 0.87 feet since yesterday.

Lakes:

- Many lakes such as Lake Winnipeg, Lake Manitoba and Dauphin Lake are still ice covered. Pelican Lake is clear of ice. Ice on lakes in the Whiteshell is breaking up and some lakes are now ice free. Strong winds may cause ice to push up the shoreline in areas of shallow ground slopes such as at beaches during the next strong wind episode. 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 714.75 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 rise to near 715 feet later in May.
- The level of Lake Manitoba is presently near 812.45 feet and is expected to crest near 812.65 feet later in May. The lake is regulated within the range of 810.5 to 812.5 feet. The outflow from the Lake is presently between 7500 and 8000 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. Lake St. Martin is expected to crest at 801.7 feet in early June. 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. This information may be viewed at <http://www.gov.mb.ca/waterstewardship/floodinfo/floodsheet.html>