



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

**Flood Report for Manitoba**

May 08, 2009

**Weather Conditions:**

- Little or no precipitation next three days. Rain likely next Tuesday.
- Winds north 20 today and light over the weekend.

**City of Winnipeg:**

- The Red River level at James Avenue in Winnipeg this morning was 17.40 feet, a decline of 0.14 feet from yesterday morning. Fluctuations of up to 0.1 feet from the general trend in City river levels may occur during the next few weeks due to operation of flood control works.
- The river level in Winnipeg will continue to decline very gradually for the next few weeks even with favourable weather. This is due to the need to lower the gates on the floodway control structure at St. Norbert as unregulated levels decline and due to gradually increasing flows on the Assiniboine River resulting from Portage Diversion operation.
- The river level in downtown Winnipeg will be in the range of 17.0 to 17.5 feet for the next five days. The computed unregulated level for this morning (without flood control works) is 26.3 feet.

**Emerson to St. Adolphe:**

- The river level declined between 0.25 and 0.5 feet at most locations during the 24 hour period ending this morning. Levels are beginning to decline a little faster and this trend will continue until significant rain develops. Temporary deviations from this trend will occur when winds change direction or speed.
- The total decline in river levels since the crest ranged from 4.1 feet at Emerson to 4.1 feet at Morris and 3.5 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.

### **Floodway Inlet:**

- The floodway gates will continue to be operated as required 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 762.46 feet, a decline of 0.39 feet since yesterday morning. The flow into the Red River Floodway this morning was 27,320 cubic feet per second (cfs) of a total 76,720 cfs upstream of the Floodway Inlet.
- The level at the Floodway Inlet is expected to decline to 760 feet by about May 15 based on favourable weather.

### **Lockport to Breezy Point:**

- Levels at Lockport will decline about 0.3 feet per day and those at Selkirk and Breezy Point about 0.25 feet per day on average for the next five days. Levels will fluctuate due to changes in wind speed and direction due to backwater from Lake Winnipeg. The level at Breezy Point rose a quarter foot since yesterday due to the significant northerly winds.

### **Assiniboine River:**

- Flow into Portage Reservoir has decreased to 9675 cfs this morning. The inflow will continue to decline for the next few weeks unless heavy rain develops. The flow in the Portage Diversion this morning is estimated at 8175 cfs while the flow in the river downstream is 1500 cfs. River flows toward Winnipeg will be continue to be gradually increased, likely by about 500 cfs every second day, or as required to maintain levels at James Avenue in Winnipeg between 17.0 and 17.5 feet for the next 10 days or so.
- Assiniboine River levels from Portage la Prairie to Winnipeg will continue to slowly rise during the next few weeks due to Portage Diversion operation. However levels will remain well below flood stage.
- The outflow from Shellmouth Reservoir remains at 100 cfs. The reservoir water level rose 0.08 feet since yesterday morning and stood at 1403.52 feet this morning. The level is expected to reach 1403.9 feet by mid May and will be held near that level by somewhat increasing the outflow next week.

### **Souris River:**

- Levels of the Souris River declined about 0.2 feet from Coulter to Melita since yesterday but declined less than 0.05 feet from Souris to Wawanesa. The River has reached its crest at all locations.

- Levels on the Souris River will begin to decline more rapidly next week unless significant rainfall develops.
- Significant overbank flooding continues from the U.S. boundary to just south of Melita. By late May flooding should be limited to a small area of haylands based on favourable weather from now on.
- There are some overbank flows from just north of Melita to near the town of Souris. Flooding in this portion should end by late next week unless heavy precipitation develops.
- While agricultural lands along the Souris River are flooded, no buildings are affected.
- The duration of flooding should be significantly 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 about 0.1 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 by the middle of next week.
- Rock Lake is presently at 1335.40 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 of Pelican Lake is estimated at 1352.2 feet this morning. The outlet control works continue to be operated at the maximum outflow possible (about 350 cfs today) in order to reduce the lake to its desirable level of 1351.7 feet.
- The Pembina River level at Neche declined 0.5 feet since yesterday.

#### **Lakes:**

- Large lakes such as Lake Winnipeg, Lake Manitoba are still ice covered. Ice may push up the shoreline in areas of shallow slopes such as at beaches if strong on-shore winds develop. While no significant winds are expected this weekend, those who have experienced difficulties due to ice before are

- The level of Lake Winnipeg is presently near 714.8 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 812.5 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 near 8000 cfs and cannot be significantly increased without causing flooding on Lake St. Martin, which is presently at 801.1 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.
- The level of Dauphin Lake is near 856.2 feet which is a good level for this time of year.
- Some lakes in the Whiteshell are still well above their summer target levels. Logs have been removed from Brereton, White and Jessica lakes and levels on these lakes have begun to decline. Logs were removed from the dam at West Hawk Lake late yesterday.
- 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>