



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

**Flood Report for Manitoba
May 12, 2009**

Weather Conditions:

- A storm crossing the Dakotas will bring 20-40 mm of rain to the U.S. portion of the Red River watershed today and Wednesday. Southeastern Manitoba, including the City of Winnipeg, is expected to receive 10-20 mm. There is a small chance of thundershowers which could produce locally heavier amounts in some areas. Rainfall
- Winds south 20 over the Red River Valley becoming northwest 30-50 Wednesday afternoon.

City of Winnipeg:

- The Red River level at James Avenue in Winnipeg this morning was 16.78 feet, a decline of 0.46 feet since yesterday morning. The decline was due decreased flows on both the Assiniboine River and Red River.
- Rainfall over the City of Winnipeg during the next few days is unlikely to cause sewer backup since the chance of a thundershower with intense rainfall is relatively low. Nevertheless caution by homeowners is advised as indicated in yesterday's news release by the City.
- The Portage Diversion was operated last Saturday to lower river levels in the City of Winnipeg for the impending rain event. This will further reduce the chance of basement flooding. Also the Red River Floodway is being operated to provide maximum benefit for the City without deviation from the normal operation rules.
- The river level in Winnipeg will continue to gradually decline and should be in the range of 16 to 17 feet for the rest of this week despite the anticipated rainfall.
- As of this morning the level at James Avenue has declined 5.7 feet from the April 16 crest. The computed unregulated level for this morning (without flood control works) is 24.3 feet.

Emerson to St. Adolphe:

- The river level from Morris to St. Adolphe declined between 0.6 and 0.8 feet since yesterday morning, while levels from Emerson to St. Jean fell by half a foot or less.

- The river level at Morris has now receded to the level of PTH 75. Opening of the highway will occur following a road condition inspection.
- The total decline in river levels since the crest ranges from 5.4 feet at Emerson to 6.9 feet at Morris to 5.7 feet at St. Adolphe.
- The effect of the anticipated rainfall in the U.S. portion of the watershed is not yet clear but it is unlikely that it will cause a rise in levels in the Manitoba portion. However it may slow down the recession somewhat a week or two from now.

Floodway Inlet:

- The floodway gates are being operated to provide the maximum benefit to the City of Winnipeg during this rainfall event. The margin between the actual water level and the computed unregulated level at the Floodway Inlet has been narrowed to 0.15 feet from the usual 0.35 feet.
- The water level upstream of the Floodway Inlet this morning was 760.34 feet, a decline of 0.39 feet since yesterday morning. The flow into the Red River Floodway this morning was 20,860 cubic feet per second (cfs) of a total 68,160 cfs upstream of the Floodway Inlet.
- The level at the Floodway Inlet will decline to 760 feet by this evening. This is the elevation at which St. Mary's Road (PR 200) is no longer flooded.

Lockport to Breezy Point:

- Levels from Lockport to Breezy Point will continue to decline 0.2 to 0.4 feet per day although significant fluctuation will occur depending on changes in wind speed and direction due to backwater from Lake Winnipeg.

Assiniboine River:

- Flow into Portage Reservoir decreased from 8900 cfs yesterday morning to 8680 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 was 8195 cfs while the flow in the river downstream was 485 cfs.
- River flows toward Winnipeg will be 1500 cfs today in order to reduce flows in the Portage Diversion and reduce inflows to Lake Manitoba. The increased river flows will reach Winnipeg until after the present rainstorm has passed through Manitoba. Flows in the Assiniboine River toward Winnipeg will be further increased this week as long as no additional rainstorms threaten Winnipeg.
- The Shellmouth Reservoir water level rose 0.04 feet since yesterday morning and stood at 1403.94 feet this morning. The outflow was increased from 100 cfs to 800 cfs early yesterday afternoon in order to minimize further rises on the Reservoir. The downstream bankfull capacity is 1600 cfs. The reservoir level is unlikely to rise past 1404.3 feet based on this increase in the outflow. The spillway level is 1408.5 feet.

Souris River:

- Levels of the Souris River continue to decline slowly from the crests observed in late April to early May. The level at Melita has declined by 1.1 feet from the crest whereas at Souris and Wawanesa the level has decline less than half a foot.
- 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 still some overbank flows from just north of Melita to near the town of Souris. Flooding in this portion should end by next weekend unless heavy precipitation develops.
- The duration of flooding will be significantly shorter than in 1999 when flooding extended well into June due to heavy rainfall.

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 this week.
- Rock Lake is presently at 1334.93 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. Considerable flooding continues along the shoreline of the Lake with some cottages still flooded according to an updated report from locals.
- The level of Pelican Lake is estimated at 1351.95 feet yesterday morning. The outlet control works continue to be operated to reduce the lake to its desirable level of 1351.7 feet. Unless rainfall is heavy the target level should be reached by the end of this week.
- The Pembina River at La Riviere has declined 5.3 feet from its April 18 crest and the level at Neche has declined 8.0 feet from its April 21 crest.

Lakes:

- Satellite images show that the ice on Lake Manitoba and on Lake Winnipeg south of the Narrows is beginning to break up. Much of the ice is now free to move with the winds. Ice may push up the shoreline in areas of shallow slopes such as at beaches if strong on-shore winds develop. 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 ice will likely be melted by the end of this week.
- Smaller lakes in southern Manitoba are now ice free.

- The level of Lake Winnipeg is presently near 714.9 feet. The lake is regulated within the range of 711 to 715 feet. Manitoba Hydro is releasing maximum outflows from the Lake to reduce additional rises, but the lake is still expected to rise to near 715 feet later in May.
- The level of Lake Manitoba is presently at 812.55 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 8500 cfs and cannot be significantly increased without causing flooding on Lake St. Martin, which is presently at 801.05 feet or about half a foot below flood stage. Lake St. Martin is expected to crest at 801.5 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 856.35 feet which is a good level for this time of year. No significant further rise is expected unless heavy rain develops.
- Most lakes in the Whiteshell are still well above their summer target levels but have begun to decline slowly. Logs had been removed from West Hawk, Brereton, White and Jessica lakes during the past few weeks to reduce levels. One log was added at Brereton Lake this morning due to a significant decline in the level.
- 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>