



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

**Flood Report for Manitoba
May 13, 2009**

Weather Conditions:

- The present storm produced 25-35 of rain to western portions of the Red River watershed including the Pembina River and the Assiniboine River watershed downstream of Brandon as of noon today. Rainfall has been somewhat less east of the Red River to Ontario but this areas could receive significant additional rainfall this afternoon. Additional rainfall of 5 mm is possible in the Winnipeg area before the storm ends this afternoon.

City of Winnipeg:

- Rainfall in the Winnipeg area began just before 3 a.m. and about 34 mm had accumulated by noon today. This amount of rainfall during a 9 hour period only occurs about once every 15 years. However rainfall intensity was less than 10 mm per hour which is significantly less than what summer thundershowers can produce. As of noon today the City of Winnipeg had received five reports of basement flooding due to sewer backup.
- The Red River level at James Avenue in Winnipeg rose somewhat overnight and stood at 16.93 feet at 9.a.m. and 17.1 feet near noon. An additional rise of 0.2 feet may occur today due to the rain. The level is expected to decline slightly tonight but will be near 17 feet for the next five days.
- The Portage Diversion was operated last Saturday to lower river levels in the City of Winnipeg for this rain event and this has reduced river levels in Winnipeg by 0.3 feet today. The Red River Floodway continues to be operated to reduce levels in Winnipeg according to normal operation rules. The computed unregulated level for this morning (without flood control works) is 23.6 feet.

Emerson to St. Adolphe:

- The river level from Morris to St. Adolphe declined between 0.7 and 1.0 feet since yesterday morning, while levels from Emerson to St. Jean fell by 0.35 to 0.6 feet.
- The river level at Morris has now receded below the level of PTH 75. Opening of the highway will occur following a road condition inspection.
- Good progress was made with respect to removal of dike closures at valley towns during the past few days. All closures have been removed except for the north dike at St. Adolphe. The status of closures at private dikes around individual

homes or farms is not well known, but it appears that considerable work is still required. This works will be delayed for some days due to the wet conditions.

- The effect of the rainfall on Red River levels is not yet clear but it is unlikely that it will cause any rises in the Manitoba portion. However it will slow down the recession somewhat for the next week or so.

Floodway Inlet:

- The water level upstream of the Floodway Inlet this morning was 759.35 feet, a decline of 0.99 feet since yesterday morning. The flow into the Red River Floodway this morning was 17,820 cubic feet per second (cfs) of a total 65,470 cfs upstream of the Floodway Inlet.
- In accordance with the floodway operating rules, the floodway gates were lowered last night to keep river levels south of the inlet from exceeding natural. To counter the effects of the rainstorm and high water levels in Winnipeg, the gates were operated again today and were raised .28 feet at 12:30 p.m. This operation provided maximum benefit for the City of Winnipeg while still maintaining below-natural levels south of the Floodway Inlet.
- The level at the Floodway Inlet has now declined below 760 feet and thus 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 increased from 8680 cfs yesterday morning to 9265 cfs this morning due to the rainfall. The inflow may increase to 9800 cfs by Friday and will then begin to again decrease. The flow in the Portage Diversion this morning was 7725 cfs while the flow in the river downstream was 1540 cfs.
- River flows toward Winnipeg will be 1500 cfs until river level in Winnipeg has declined to about 16.5 feet and will be gradually increase thereafter.
- The Shellmouth Reservoir water level rose 0.18 feet since yesterday morning and stood at 1404.12 feet this morning. The increase was mostly due to a strong north wind and will be temporary. The reservoir level is unlikely to rise higher than 1404.3 feet. 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 0.1 since yesterday morning. A rise of 0.2 feet occurred at Wawanesa due to yesterday's rain.
- 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.

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 1335.0 feet and may rise another tenth of a foot due to last night's rain. A report from local residents shows that there are still 16 cottages and six mobile homes flooded or surrounded by water at this time. The normal summer level is near 1330 feet. Levels should resume a gradual decline next week unless additional heavy rain develops.
- The level of Pelican Lake is estimated at 1351.9 feet. The outlet control works continue to be operated to reduce the lake to its desirable level of 1351.7 feet. Due to yesterday's heavy rain, the target may not be reached for another week or so.
- The Pembina River at La Riviere has declined 5.4 feet from its crest and will not rise more than half a foot due to last night's rain.

Lakes:

- Satellite images show that the ice on Lake Manitoba and on Lake Winnipeg south of the Narrows is breaking up. Ice may push up the shoreline in areas of shallow slopes such as at beaches today due to strong northwest winds. 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 near 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 801.1 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>