



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

**Flood Report for Manitoba
May 14, 2009**

Weather Conditions:

- Yesterday's storm produced 35-50 mm of rain to many portions of the Red River watershed including the Pembina River and the Assiniboine River watershed downstream of Carberry. The Interlake area south of a line through Arborg and Eriksdale also received the heavy rain. The Winnipeg River watershed also received significant rainfall. The Souris River watershed and the Brandon and Dauphin regions received much less rainfall.
- A rainfall map for yesterday's storm is attached...please zoom in for greater clarity.
- Another less powerful storm could bring 10-20 mm of rain to much of southern Manitoba tomorrow and northwestern Ontario. While this anticipated rain is much less than what fell yesterday, it could produce significant runoff in areas which received rainfall of 40 mm or more yesterday.

City of Winnipeg:

- Yesterday's rainfall was in the range of 45-50 mm over most of the City. This amount of rainfall during a 12 hour period only occurs about once every 15 years. Fortunately the rainfall intensity was less than 5 mm per hour for most of the storm, which prevented extensive sewer backup problems. Nevertheless the City reports that a lot of homes did have some water in their basement due to weeping tile overload or other reasons.
- The Red River level at James Avenue in Winnipeg rose to 17.4 feet last evening but had declined to 16.94 feet by 9.a.m. this morning. The level is expected to remain close to 17 feet for the next five days.
- 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 23.9 feet.
- The Portage Diversion continues to be extensively used to reduce Assiniboine River flows coming toward Winnipeg and is reducing Red River levels in downtown Winnipeg by about one foot.

Emerson to Floodway Inlet:

- The river level declined 0.8 feet at Morris since yesterday morning but declined only 0.1 feet at St. Adolphe and rose 0.3 feet at the Floodway Inlet.
- Tributaries such as the Seine River Diversion, Rat River, Marsh River are all rising from the rain and join the Red River downstream of St. Agathe. This accounts for the small declines or rises from St. Adolphe to Winnipeg since yesterday. Levels in this portion will change little for the next three to four days and should then resume a decline.
- Levels from Emerson to St. Agathe will continue to decline but at a slower rate due to yesterday's rain. Minor rises could develop if tomorrow's rain exceeds 20 mm in this portion.
- The river level at Morris is now well below the level of PTH 75 and the highway is open to traffic.
- All closures at ring diked communities 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 work is being delayed due to the wet conditions.
- The water level upstream of the Floodway Inlet this morning was 759.66 feet, while the flow into the Red River Floodway was 18,700 cubic feet per second (cfs) of a total 65,350 cfs upstream of the Floodway Inlet.
- This morning's level at the Floodway Inlet is still below 760 feet and thus St. Mary's Road (PR 200) is not flooded.

Lockport to Breezy Point:

- Levels from Lockport to Breezy Point rose significantly since yesterday due to strong north winds which caused a wind set up on Lake Winnipeg. Levels will decline by tonight.

Assiniboine River:

- Flow into Portage Reservoir decreased from 9265 cfs yesterday morning to 9000 cfs this morning. Inflows will be quite steady for the next few days due to the rain and may rise following tomorrow's rain. The flow in the Portage Diversion this morning was 7485 cfs while the flow in the river downstream was 1515 cfs.
- River flows toward Winnipeg will be near 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 0.1 feet since yesterday morning and stood at 1404.02 feet this morning. The decrease was entirely due to a change in the wind. The reservoir level is not expected 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 0.26 ft since yesterday morning.
- 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 on the long weekend unless heavy precipitation develops.

Pembina River:

- Flooding of the Pembina Valley continues from Rock Lake to near Windygates. Levels have changed little since yesterday. Minor rises may develop due to yesterday's rain. 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 next week.
- Rock Lake is presently at 1334.9 feet and will continue to decline very slowly. 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 decline a little faster 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 recent 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 significantly from recent rain.

Winnipeg River:

- Levels of the Winnipeg River have been rising in recent weeks in response to significant rainfall. The river level at Nutimik has risen 4.5 feet above the normal summer level. The Lake Of The Woods Control Board has indicated that it is releasing additional water from Lake Of The Woods and that levels of the Winnipeg River in Manitoba will rise a further 1.0 to 1.5 feet during the next few weeks. Low lying recreational properties along the river may experience some flooding during the next 3-4 weeks.

Lakes:

- Ice may have piled up on southern shores of Lake Manitoba and Lake Winnipeg yesterday due to strong north winds, but little information is available at this time. The ice will likely be gone by early next week.

- Lake levels are difficult to estimate at this time due to windy conditions.
- Some smaller lakes in the Interlake, such as Fish Lake east of Chatfield, are at very high levels and are flooding farmland in the vicinity. Actions are being taken to release water where possible.
- 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 812.6 feet and is expected to crest near 812.7 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.
- 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. Lakes had begun to decline but may rise somewhat due to yesterday's rainfall. Logs have been removed from West Hawk, Brereton, White and Jessica lakes during the past few weeks to reduce levels.
- 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>