



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

**Flood Report for Manitoba
May 15, 2009**

High Water Advisory Issued for the Winnipeg River

Weather Conditions:

- The present storms system produced 20-30 cm of wet snow in a wide band centred along a line from Yorkton, Saskatchewan to Roblin, Dauphin and Fisher Branch. Areas near PTH #1 received about 5 mm of rain and precipitation was even less further south.
- A precipitation map for this event is not yet available. An updated rainfall map for Wednesday's storm (May 13), containing some corrections, is attached
- The fresh snow in the Interlake and Westman regions is expected to mostly melt over the long weekend. Some additional showers or snow may occur Sunday night to Monday in association with a cold front.

Winnipeg River:

- A high water advisory is hereby issued for the Manitoba portion of the 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 to 4.6 feet above the normal summer level. The Lake Of The Woods Control Board has recently released additional water from Lake Of The Woods which will cause river levels in the Manitoba portion to rise at least one additional foot during the next few weeks.
- Low lying recreational properties along the river will experience some flooding for the next 3-4 weeks. Cottagers are advised to check their properties and take appropriate actions.
- Most lakes in the Whiteshell not located along the Winnipeg River are still above their summer target levels. Lakes had begun to decline but may rise somewhat due to recent rainfall. Logs have been removed from West Hawk, Brereton, White and Jessica lakes during the past few weeks to reduce levels.

Interlake Area:

- The heavy new snowcover will increase overland flooding especially in areas which received 35 mm or more of rainfall a few days ago. Most of the snow is

expected to melt by Sunday. It appears that some additional showers or snow could develop Sunday night to Monday in association with another cold front.

- Streams are expected to rise significantly but should remain within their banks. However many inland lakes in the Interlake, such as Fish Lake and the Shoal Lakes, are already very high and will rise further and flood more land.
- Lake Manitoba is presently near 812.6 feet and is likely to rise to 812.75 feet by the end of May or early June. Outflows are the highest possible without causing flooding on Lake St. Martin.
- Lake Winnipeg has risen to 715 feet which is the top of its operating range. It is expected to rise to near 715.2 feet based on normal precipitation from now on. Unusually high flows from the Red River and the Winnipeg River are primarily responsible for the high levels. Manitoba Hydro has been maintaining maximum outflows from the lake since the beginning of December, 2008.

City of Winnipeg:

- The Red River level at James Avenue in Winnipeg has changed little since yesterday and stood at 17.04 feet this morning. The level is expected to remain close to 17 feet until Monday and will be near 16.5 feet for most of next week based on favourable weather from now on.
- 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 23.4 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 1.9 feet.

Emerson to Floodway Inlet:

- River levels declined about half a foot from Emerson to the Floodway Inlet during the 24 hour period ending this morning.
- Some Red River tributaries are still rising due to Wednesday's heavy rain but others have already crested. The additional flows are slowing down the decline of the Red River but will not cause any rises.
- All major transportation routes are now above water and open to traffic.
- The water level upstream of the Floodway Inlet this morning was 759.09 feet, while the flow into the Red River Floodway was 17,150 cubic feet per second (cfs) of a total 63,550 cfs upstream of the Floodway Inlet.

Assiniboine River:

- Flow into Portage Reservoir increased from 9000 cfs yesterday morning to 9350 cfs this morning. Inflows will begin to decline again tomorrow. The flow in the Portage Diversion this morning was 7835 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 increase thereafter.
- The Shellmouth Reservoir water level was unchanged since yesterday morning and stood at 1404 feet this morning. The reservoir inflow is expected to rise during the next few weeks following melt of the 25 cm of new snow. The outflow will be adjusted to 1200 cfs today to prevent the reservoir level from rising significantly further, but a rise to 1404.5 by late May is likely. 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. Levels have declined about 0.2 feet 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 this 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 recent rainfall. 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 1334.95 feet and should resume a very gradual decline next week. 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 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 until the middle of next week.
- 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>