



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

**Flood Report for Manitoba
May 19, 2009**

Weather Conditions:

- Showers are expected tomorrow with 5-10 mm rain likely. Little or no precipitation expected Thursday to Saturday.

Red River:

- The river is back within its banks except for some low-lying lands near St. Jean. Levels from Emerson to the Floodway Inlet are now declining at about one foot per day.
- The level at James Avenue in downtown Winnipeg was at 16.45 feet this morning and is expected to be between 16.0 and 16.5 feet for the rest of this week. Levels in the City will decline significantly next week unless heavy rain develops.
- The flow in the Red River Floodway was 9260 cfs this morning with a level of 755.64 feet at the floodway inlet. Operation of the Floodway is expected to end next weekend.

Winnipeg River:

- A high water advisory is in effect for the Manitoba portion of the Winnipeg River. The level at Nutimik Lake this morning was 905.65 feet, which is about 4.6 feet above the normal summer level. The level is expected to rise up to one foot higher due to outflow increases from Lake of the Woods.
- 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 somewhat above their summer target levels. Dams on controlled lakes are being operated, with assistance of Manitoba Conservation, to achieve desirable levels.

Assiniboine River:

- Flow into Portage Reservoir decreased from 7080 cfs yesterday morning to 6960 cfs this morning. The flow in the Portage Diversion this morning was 5460 cfs while the flow in the river downstream was 1500 cfs.

- Assiniboine river flows at Southport (toward Winnipeg) are being increased to 2500 cfs today in order to reduce diversions into Lake Manitoba. Further increases in Southport flows will be made throughout this week unless a threat of heavy rain develops at the City of Winnipeg.
- The Shellmouth Reservoir water level declined 0.27 feet since yesterday morning due to a change in winds and stood at 1403.98 feet this morning. Melt from last week's snowfall is soaking into the ground with little runoff and thus there will be little rise in the reservoir level. The outflow will remain at 1200 cfs until the reservoir has declined to 1403.5 feet.

Souris River:

- Levels of the Souris River have decline about three-quarters of a foot at most locations since last Friday. Levels will continue to decline steadily this week.
- Significant flooding of agricultural lands 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.
- Flooding along the river from just north of Melita to near the town of Souris is now very minimal.

Pembina River:

- Flooding of the Pembina Valley continues from Rock Lake to Swan Lake and is expected to continue for another 2-3 weeks even with favourable weather.
- Rock Lake is presently at 1334.8 feet and is declining very slowly. 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. A pile-up of debris upstream of Rock Lake Dam is reducing outflows and slowing down the decline of the lake. Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation will be removing the debris this week.
- The level of Pelican Lake is estimated at 1351.8 feet. Operation of the outlet control works will cease this week as the lake is now very close to its desirable level of 1351.7 feet.

Interlake:

- Most of the snow which fell late last week has melted with little runoff. Stream such as the Fisher River, Icelandic River and Netley Creek have all crested following last weeks rain and snow.
- Last week's heavy precipitation has left the Interlake in a very wet situation with standing water in low lying areas, saturated soils, and a high water table. Inland lakes have risen further and remain very high, flooding land along their perimeters. It will take several weeks of favourable weather for conditions to improve significantly.

Lake Levels:

	Present Level	Operating Range	Summer Target
Lake Winnipeg	715.1	711.0-715.0	
Lake Manitoba	812.75	810.5-812.5	
Lake Of The Woods	1060.33		1059.7
Lake St. Martin	801.2		799.5
Rock Lake	1334.8		1330.0

- Further details may be viewed on attached flood sheets or on the following Manitoba Water Stewardship website:
<http://www.gov.mb.ca/waterstewardship/floodinfo/floodsheet.html>