



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

**Flood Report for Manitoba
May 21, 2009**

Weather Conditions:

- A few showers likely overnight and Friday. No precipitation in southern Manitoba this weekend but the U.S. portion of the Red River watershed south of Grand Forks could experience up to 50 mm of rain.

Red River:

- The river is now well within its banks except for some low lying agricultural lands near St. Jean. Levels from Emerson to the Floodway Inlet continue to decline at about one foot per day.
- The level at James Avenue in downtown Winnipeg was at 15.73 feet this morning and is expected to be between 15.5 and 15.8 feet from now through the weekend. Levels in the City will decline more significantly next week.
- The flow in the Red River Floodway was 6350 cfs this morning with a level of 754.08 feet at the floodway inlet. Operation of the Floodway will end this weekend.

Winnipeg River:

- A high water advisory is still in effect for the Manitoba portion of the Winnipeg River. The level at Nutimik Lake this morning was 905.87 feet, which is about 4.8 feet above the normal summer level. The level will likely rise to 906.5 feet during the next few weeks.
- Low lying recreational properties along the river are already affected and will experience some flooding for the next four 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. Some logs were removed from Jessica Lake and White Lake yesterday.

Assiniboine River:

- Flow into Portage Reservoir increased from 7010 cfs yesterday morning to 7160 cfs this morning. The flow in the Portage Diversion this morning was 3645 cfs while the flow in the river downstream was 3515 cfs.

- Assiniboine river flows at Southport (toward Winnipeg) are being increased to 4500 cfs today in order to reduce diversions into Lake Manitoba. Southport flow will be further increased at 1000 cfs per day until it reaches 6500 cfs. Operation of the Portage Diversion is expected to end this weekend.
- The Shellmouth Reservoir water level changed little since yesterday and stood at 1403.99 feet this morning. The outflow will remain at 1200 cfs until the reservoir has declined to 1403.5 feet.

Souris River:

- Levels of the Souris River continue to decline at about one quarter of a foot per day. The river level at Melita was 1406 feet this morning, which is a decline of 2.7 feet from the April 30 crest.
- 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 has ended.

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 1334.7 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. Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation Debris is removing debris upstream of Rock Lake Dam today. There is a two foot drop in water levels from the lake to upstream of the dam and this the debris may have had little effect on outflow from the lake.
- The level of Pelican Lake has declined to near its target of 1351.7 feet. Outflows were reduced earlier this week and operation of the outlet control works is expected to end within a few days.

Interlake:

- Last weeks rain and snow caused minor rises in streams but most are now declining. However it 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:

	<u>Present Level</u>	<u>Operating Range</u>	<u>Summer Target</u>
Lake Winnipeg	715.2	711.0-715.0	
Lake Manitoba	812.8	810.5-812.5	
Lake Of The Woods	1060.3		1059.7
Lake St. Martin	801.28		799.5
Rock Lake	1334.7		1330.0
Pelican Lake	1351.7		1351.7
Nutimik	905.87		901.0

- 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>