



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

Flood Report for Manitoba
May 22, 2009

Weather Conditions:

- A shower or two possible today. The U.S. portion of the Red River watershed could experience at least 50 mm of rain Sunday night to Monday. It is possible that about 10 mm may fall in the Manitoba portion with up to 25 mm near the U.S. boundary.

Red River:

- The river is now within its banks at all points. Levels from Emerson to the Floodway Inlet have declined 1.0 to 1.3 feet since yesterday morning.
- The heavy rain expected in the U.S. portion may cause Red River levels in Manitoba to decline more gradually by late next week, but significant rises are unlikely.
- The level at James Avenue in downtown Winnipeg was at 15.65 feet this morning and is expected to be between 15.3 and 15.8 feet until Monday morning. Levels in the City will decline more significantly next week.
- The flow in the Red River Floodway was 4785 cfs this morning with a level of 753.14 feet at the floodway inlet. Operation of the Red River Floodway is expected to end late this Sunday or early Monday.

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 could rise to 906.5 feet during the next few weeks but this will depend on operations by the Lake Of The Woods Control Board.
- 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.

Assiniboine River:

- Flow into Portage Reservoir decreased from 7160 cfs yesterday morning to 6800 cfs this morning. The flow in the Portage Diversion this morning was 2250 cfs while the flow in the river downstream was 4550 cfs.
- Assiniboine river flows at Southport (toward Winnipeg) are being increased to 5500 cfs today in order to reduce diversions into Lake Manitoba. Southport flow will be further increased to 6500 cfs tomorrow. Operation of the Portage Diversion is expected to end this Sunday.
- Flows on the Assiniboine River from Portage la Prairie to Headingley will crest early next week at levels 2.5 to 3.5 feet below crests observed this April. No flooding is expected.
- The Shellmouth Reservoir water level declined slightly to 1403.95 feet this morning. The outflow will remain at 1200 cfs until the reservoir has declined to 1403.5 feet.

Souris River:

- The Souris River at Melita has declined three feet from the spring crest and will be declining even faster next week unless heavy rain develops over the weekend. It is possible that up to 50 mm of rain could fall this Sunday in the U.S. portion.
- Flooding from the U.S. boundary to just south of Melita would have essentially ended by late May late May but may be extended if Sunday's rain occurs as expected.

Pembina River:

- Flooding of the Pembina Valley 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 1334.57 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 has removed debris upstream of Rock Lake Dam. There was a two foot drop in water levels from the lake to upstream of the dam earlier this week and thus 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.

Interlake:

- Last weeks rain and snow has left the Interlake with standing water in low lying areas, saturated soils, and a high water table. Many inland lakes have risen to record high levels, flooding land along their perimeters. Levels of the Shoal Lakes are nearly one foot higher than the previous record crests set in 2005. Fish Lake is also at a record high level. It will take at least three weeks of favourable weather for conditions to improve significantly.

Lake Levels:

| | Present Level | Operating Range | Summer Target |
|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Lake Winnipeg | 715.22 | 711.0-715.0 | |
| Lake Manitoba | 812.85 | 810.5-812.5 | |
| Lake Of The Woods | 1060.35 | | 1059.7 |
| Lake St. Martin | 801.25 | | 799.5 |
| Rock Lake | 1334.57 | | 1330.0 |
| Pelican Lake | 1351.7 | | 1351.7 |
| Nutimik | 905.87 | | 901.0 |
| North Shoal Lake | 858.17 | | 855.0 |

- 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>