



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

**Flood Report for Manitoba
May 25, 2009**

Weather Conditions:

- The present storm system had produced 15-25 mm of rain over most of the Pembina River watershed and the Red River Watershed between St. Agathe and Drayton N.D. by noon today. A further 10-25 mm is likely this afternoon from Emerson to the Whiteshell area. The Souris River watershed and the Assiniboine River watershed from Brandon to Portage La Prairie received only 5 mm.
- The City of Winnipeg received about 10 mm up to noon and little further rain is expected from this system.

Red River:

- Levels from Emerson to the Floodway Inlet declined between three and four feet since last Friday morning.
- Today's rain will have little effect on the decline of the Red River.
- The level at James Avenue in downtown Winnipeg changed little since last Friday and was at 15.73 feet this morning. Increased flow on the Assiniboine River over the weekend offset declining flows on the Red River.
- The Red River at James Avenue is expected to decline to 11 feet by the end of May.

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 906.1 feet, which is about five feet above the normal summer level. The level is expected to rise further to near 907 feet during the next few weeks. Outflow from Lake Of The Woods is presently at the maximum possible according to 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:

- Portage Diversion operation ceased at 7:45 a.m. on May 23.
- The Assiniboine River flow at Southport (toward Winnipeg) increased to 6750 cfs over the weekend and is now declining slowly.
- The River has crested at Baie St. Paul.
- Portions from Lido Plage to west Winnipeg will experience an additional rise of about half a foot above this morning's levels with crests occurring tomorrow to Wednesday.
- The Shellmouth Reservoir water level declined a quarter foot to 1403.70 feet over the weekend. It is being proposed that outflow reductions commence tomorrow so that reductions can be made slowly to prevent bank slumping. The outflow will be reduced to 900 cfs tomorrow morning pending concurrence of the Shellmouth Reservoir Regulation Liaison Committee.

Souris River:

- The Souris River at Melita has declined 4.5 feet from the spring crest and will continue to decline steadily unless heavy rain develops. Rainfall from last night's storm may slow down the rate of decline slightly.
- The area of flooded haylands in the Coulter area is declining quite rapidly and should be minimal by the end of May.

Pembina River:

- Flooding of the Pembina Valley from Rock Lake to Swan Lake and is expected to continue for another two weeks even with favourable weather.
- Rock Lake is presently at 1334.25 feet, a decline of one-third of a foot since last Friday. There are still some cottages and mobile homes flooded or surrounded by water at this time. It will take three weeks without heavy rain for the level to decline to the summer target of 1330 feet.
- The level of Pelican Lake appears to have declined to near its target of 1351.7 feet but there is some uncertainty with today's reading. The outlet control works will continue to be operated to some degree until the level has reached its target.

Interlake:

- Unusually wet conditions continue with standing water in low lying areas, saturated soils, and a high water table. Many inland lakes are at 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 and many other lakes are also at or near record highs. 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	715.20	711.0-715.0	
Lake Manitoba	812.90	810.5-812.5	
Lake Of The Woods	1060.35		1059.7
Lake St. Martin	801.25		799.5
Rock Lake	1334.25		1330.0
Pelican Lake	1351.75		1351.7
Nutimik	906.07		901.0
North Shoal Lake	858.17		855.0

Last Report:

This will be the last report in this spring 2009 series which began on March 24. Streamflows for selected rivers and lake reports will continue to be issued on a weekly basis. These may be viewed on Manitoba Water Stewardship's Hydrologic Forecast Centre website at:

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/waterstewardship/floodinfo/floodsheet.html>