

**FLOOD REPORT FOR MANITOBA**

*May 20, 2022*

**Flood Warning\*:**

- Little Saskatchewan River
- Whitemud River
- Dauphin Lake
- Whiteshell Lakes area
- Winnipeg River
- Assiniboine River, from Shellmouth Dam to Brandon
- Red River, Emerson to the Red River Floodway Channel Inlet
- Shannon Creek, Morris and Little Morris Rivers
- Red River, Red River Floodway Channel Outlet to Lake Winnipeg
- Fisher River, while river is reported in bank at most locations, flooding of low-lying areas persists

**Flood Watch\*:**

- Rivers and drains in the Parkland region draining off the escarpment, including the Valley, Vermillion, Ochre, and Turtle Rivers
- Shell River
- Mossy River
- Roseau River
- Whitemouth River
- Birch River (Eastern Manitoba)

Manitoba Infrastructure's Hydrologic Forecast Centre is issuing a high wind effect alert for lakes Winnipeg, Manitoba and Winnipegosis for today. Strong, sustained winds from the north will create a risk of ice pile-up and cause water levels to rise along shorelines. Wave action could also add to the temporary increase in water levels. Wind speeds will be highest in the morning and will moderate by the afternoon. However, the risk will persist throughout the day. A map of the Manitoba Lake Wind Effect Forecast showing the affected areas is available at [https://www.gov.mb.ca/mit/floodinfo/floodoutlook/forecast\\_centre/lakes/wind\\_alert/2022/manitoba\\_lakes\\_May\\_20\\_2022\\_WindAlertMap.pdf](https://www.gov.mb.ca/mit/floodinfo/floodoutlook/forecast_centre/lakes/wind_alert/2022/manitoba_lakes_May_20_2022_WindAlertMap.pdf).

The overland flood warning remains for the areas highlighted in red on figure 1 below. Water levels on streams and drains are high and soils are saturated, heavy rains could result in overland flooding and potential for flash flooding, particularly for waterways that drain from higher elevations. Depending on the amount and intensity of rain, water levels could rise rapidly and threaten low-lying or nearby properties, as well as roads, crossings, and other infrastructure.



**Figure 1: Areas under overland flood warning**

### Summary

- Manitoba Infrastructure's Hydrologic Forecast Centre is issuing a high wind effect alert for lakes Winnipeg, Manitoba and Winnipegosis for today. Strong, sustained winds from the north will create a risk of ice pile-up and cause water levels to rise along shorelines. Wave action could also add to the temporary increase in water levels. Wind speeds will be highest in the morning and will moderate by the afternoon. However, the risk will persist throughout the day.
- The Precipitation received this week in southern and central Manitoba largely corresponded with the forecast. The highest amounts of precipitation fell in the upper Assiniboine River Basin, in an area between Neepawa and Portage, and the Riding Mountain area. Southeastern Manitoba received less precipitation than was forecasted.
- An overland flood warning for much of western and southeastern Manitoba, as shown in figure 1, remains in place. While water levels on most streams and drains are declining,

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some water bodies remain high and soils in most areas are saturated. Any additional rain may cause overland flooding, as well as flash flooding on rivers and drains, particularly those waterways that drain from higher elevations. Depending on the amount and intensity of rain, water levels could rise rapidly and impacts to roads and crossing infrastructure could be similar to what was experienced over the weekend.

- The Winnipeg River is experiencing very high flows and water levels due to significant volumes of water upstream in Lake of the Woods and Lac Seul, both of which are still rising. Over the next 10-15 days, Water levels on the Winnipeg River from the Ontario border to Pine falls are expected to increase 1-2.3 feet, and from Pine Falls to Lake Winnipeg by 0.5-1 feet. Information on current and forecasted water levels on the Winnipeg River are available on Manitoba Hydro's website: [https://www.hydro.mb.ca/corporate/facilities/water\\_levels/](https://www.hydro.mb.ca/corporate/facilities/water_levels/) and in a recent press release: [https://www.hydro.mb.ca/articles/2022/05/manitoba\\_hydro\\_advices\\_extreme\\_caution\\_on\\_waterways/](https://www.hydro.mb.ca/articles/2022/05/manitoba_hydro_advices_extreme_caution_on_waterways/)
- There are a significant number of provincial and municipal roads that have been damaged or closed in the Parkland region due to flooding conditions. Provincial crews are currently deployed to assess the full impact of the weather system and respond as required. Motorists who are not in the Parkland region are asked to avoid the area, and those who are already in the area, and are required to travel, are strongly encouraged to plan their routes before travelling by checking 511 ([www.manitoba511.ca/](http://www.manitoba511.ca/) or by calling 511). Motorists are reminded to stay off of closed roads and to not attempt travel across inundated roads or damaged bridges.
- The Red River Floodway and Portage Diversion continue operation. Provincial crews are deployed to a number of communities in the Red River Valley running pumping operations, as well as monitoring dike closures. No additional closures are anticipated and crews will be removing closures as water levels recede.
- Manitobans are reminded to stay clear of the Red River floodway inlet and outlet structures, the Portage Diversion gate structures in the Portage Reservoirs, and actively flowing spillways on dams. Manitobans are also reminded to stay off waterways in flood stage including creeks, streams, rivers and the floodway. High flows, debris, and cold water temperatures present a significant hazard.
- Current water level data and forecast information is available on the department's website at [https://gov.mb.ca/mit/floodinfo/#forecasts\\_reports](https://gov.mb.ca/mit/floodinfo/#forecasts_reports).
- Flooding has impacted communities and properties, resulting in damages, mitigation activities and evacuations across southern and central Manitoba. Any questions or concerns about flood mitigation should be directed first to the municipal authority. Questions about forecasts, water levels, provincial waterways, or provincial water control infrastructure can be directed to 204-945-1165 or by email to [floodinfo@gov.mb.ca](mailto:floodinfo@gov.mb.ca).

## Weather

- A high wind effect alert, affecting Lakes Winnipeg, Manitoba and Lake Winnipegosis remains in force. Strong, sustained winds from the north will create a risk of ice pile-up and cause water levels to rise along shorelines. Wave action could also add to the

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temporary increase in water levels. Wind speeds will be highest in the morning and will moderate by the afternoon. However, the risk will persist throughout the day.

- Figure 2 shows the distribution of the estimated observed precipitation received from May 16 – 20, based on the Canadian Precipitation Analysis (CaPA) model from Environment and Climate Change Canada. Notable amounts of rain fell in the upper Assiniboine River Basin, 40-70 mm, in an area between Neepawa and Portage, receiving 40-60 mm, and the Riding Mountain area, receiving 40-50 mm.

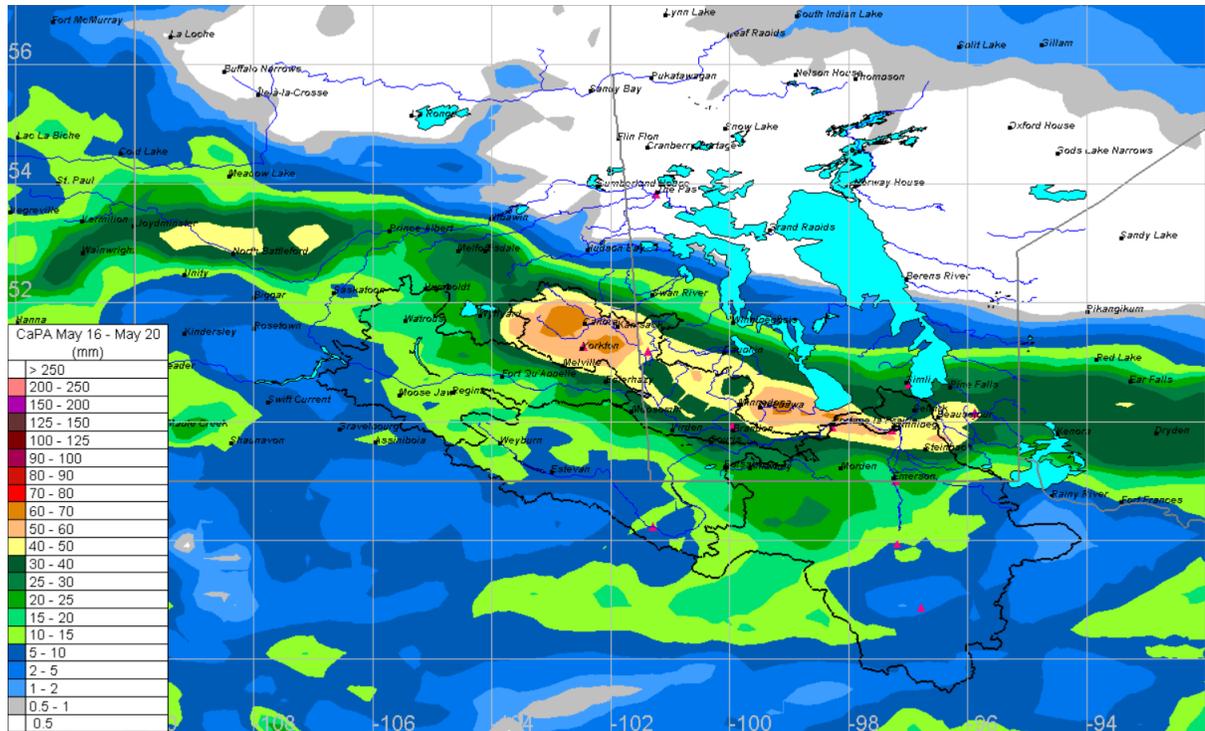


Figure 2: Estimated Observed Precipitation (May 16 - 20) Source: Environment and Climate Change Canada

- Southeastern Manitoba and the Winnipeg River basin in Ontario are forecasted to receive 10-30 mm of rain over the weekend. Forecasters are monitoring the conditions and forecasts closely.

### Red River Basin

- A flood warning remains for the Red River from Emerson to the Red River Floodway inlet, and from the outlet to Lake Winnipeg. A flood warning remains for the following Red River tributaries: Shannon Creek as well as the Morris, and Little Morris Rivers.
- Some stations on the Red River upstream of Winnipeg saw slight increases due to the rain but are beginning to decline slowly again. The river is expected to remain high for an extended duration, likely into June. For the latest forecast information, please check the latest flood sheet on the department's website.
- Water levels in many drains, creeks, and tributaries in the Red River basin are increasing in response to the recent rain, however, this will be for a short duration and they are expected to begin declining again soon.

- The Red River Floodway continues to operate under rule 1 to lower water levels in Winnipeg while keeping water levels at or slightly below natural upstream of the inlet control structure. As of this morning, flow in the Floodway channel was 40,407 cfs (1,144.21 cms), and flows upstream of the Floodway Inlet are approximately 83,403 cfs (2,361.72 cms). The water level at James Avenue was at 18.9 ft (5.76 m) and the estimated water level that would occur at James Avenue without the operation of the Red River Floodway, Portage Diversion, and Shellmouth Dam is 27.46 ft (8.37 m).
- PTH 75 remains closed at the north and south ends of Morris. A detour utilizing PTH 3 through Carman and south to Winkler and onto PTH 14 to return to PTH 75 is in effect.

Table 1: Red River Valley Dike Closure Status

| Red River Valley Dike Closure Status - May 20, 2022 |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| Community   | Dike Closures                           | Status  |
| Riverside   | North (access road 2E) , East and South | Full closure (North closure is ramped for vehicle access) |
| Gretna  | Border PTH 30                           | Closure is removed (road to be re-opened today)           |
| Emerson   | at Noyes                                | Full closure  |
| West Lynne  | North West Lynne                        | Full closure  |
| St. Jean Baptiste                                   | East at PR 246                          | Full closure  |
|   | South East at Access Road               | Full closure  |
| Morris  | North at PTH 75                         | Full closure  |
|   | West at PTH 23                          | Full closure  |
|   | South at PTH 75                         | Full closure  |
| Brunkild  | South at PTH 3                          | Partial closure (2 lanes open)                            |
| St. Adolphe   | North at PR 200                         | Full closure  |
|   | West at Access Road                     | Full closure  |
|   | East at PR 210                          | Full closure (road to be re-opened next week)             |
|   | South at PR 200                         | Full closure (ramped for vehicle access)                  |
| Ste. Agathe   | East at PR 305.                         | Partial closure (PR 305 open)                             |

- Provincial crews continue to monitor dike closures in the Red River, the current dike closures are in place at locations shown in Table 1. No additional closures are anticipated and crews will be removing closures as water levels recede. The closure on PTH 30 at Gretna has been removed and the highway is planned to be re-opened today.
- Provincial crews are running pumping operations at 35 different pump sites to facilitate internal drainage inside ring dike communities. Pumping operations are underway at Noyes, Emerson, West Lynne, Dominion City, Letellier, St. Jean Baptiste, Morris, Rosenort, Riverside, St. Adolphe, St. Agathe, Niverville, Aubigny and Brunkild.

### Assiniboine River Basin

- The flood warning for the Assiniboine River from Shellmouth Dam to Brandon and the Little Saskatchewan River remains. A flood watch remains for the Shell River.

- The recent precipitation in the upper Assiniboine River basin in Saskatchewan will increase inflows into Shellmouth Dam. The department is operating the Shellmouth Dam in consultation with the Shellmouth Liaison Committee to reduce the risk of flooding downstream on the Assiniboine River, while at the same time providing sufficient storage for water supply and recreational activities. As of this morning, the reservoir water level is at 1,400.4 feet (426.84 m), an increase of 0.3 ft (0.09 m). Inflows to the reservoir are approximately 5,012 cfs (141.92 cms) and outflows are 3,370 cfs (95.42 cms). Dam operations are continuously assessed and outflows may change in response to conditions.
- Record-high flows on the Little Saskatchewan River in the town of Minnedosa have triggered mitigation activities by local authorities to flood protect residences, municipal infrastructure and commercial buildings. Water levels and flows on the Little Saskatchewan River are currently receding at most locations but may slow or rise slightly as a result of the recent precipitation. Flood forecasters are monitoring the conditions closely and will issue updates, as required. Provincial staff are in regular communication with the town of Minnedosa and are monitoring the situation closely.
- There are currently no concerns at either Rapid City or Rivers. The reservoir at Rapid City suffered damage in 2020, and is not holding water at this time. The Rivers reservoir crested this year 1.1 m lower than in 2020, and outflow is less than half the peak discharge of 2020. The rivers dam is being monitored closely this year out of an abundance of caution.
- The Portage Diversion is operating to limit discharge to the Lower Assiniboine from the Portage Reservoir to approximately 10,000 cfs, in accordance with the operating guidelines. As of this morning, flow down the diversion channel is 6,710 cfs (190.01 cms) and flow on the lower Assiniboine River just east of Portage La Prairie is 9,817 cfs (277.99 cms).

### Whitemud River

- A flood warning is issued for the Whitemud River. Water is currently out of bank at many locations, and levels on the river are rising rapidly in response to the heavy precipitation.

### Eastern Region

- A flood warning remains for the Winnipeg River and the Whiteshell lakes area. A flood watch remains for the Whitemouth, Birch, and Roseau Rivers. An overland flood warning remains for southeastern Manitoba, water levels on streams and drains are high and soils are saturated, additional rains could result in overland flooding. Depending on the amount and intensity of rain, water levels could rise rapidly and threaten low-lying or nearby properties, as well as road, crossing and other infrastructure.
- The Winnipeg River is experiencing very high flows and water levels due to significant volumes of water upstream in Lake of the Woods and Lac Seul, both of which are still rising. Over the next 10-15 days, Water levels on the Winnipeg River from the Ontario border to Pine falls are expected to increase 1-2.3 feet, and from Pine Falls to Lake Winnipeg by 0.5-1 feet. Information on current and forecasted water levels on the Winnipeg River are available on Manitoba Hydro's website: [https://www.hydro.mb.ca/corporate/facilities/water\\_levels/](https://www.hydro.mb.ca/corporate/facilities/water_levels/) and in a recent press release:

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[https://www.hydro.mb.ca/articles/2022/05/manitoba\\_hydro\\_advises\\_extreme\\_caution\\_on\\_waterways/](https://www.hydro.mb.ca/articles/2022/05/manitoba_hydro_advises_extreme_caution_on_waterways/)

Citizens in these areas are advised to continue to remain vigilant and take any necessary precautions.

- A number of lakes in the Whiteshell area are very high, threatening properties and affecting roads and crossing infrastructure. Residents and property owners in the area are advised to plan their routes before travelling and continue to remain vigilant.

### Interlake Region

- A flood warning remains for the Fisher River, while the river is reported in bank at most locations, flooding of low-lying areas persists. Local authorities and provincial crews are monitoring conditions and responding as required.

### Parkland Region

- An overland flood warning for western Manitoba, including the parkland region, remains. A flood watch is issued for all rivers and drains in the Parkland region draining off of the escarpment, including the Valley, Vermillion, Ochre, and Turtle Rivers. A flood watch remains for the Mossy River.
- Water levels and flows on most rivers and drains draining out of the Riding Mountain area are rising rapidly due to the recent precipitation. Rivers and streams further north, draining out of the Duck and Porcupine Mountains are generally stable or declining.
- A flood warning remains for Dauphin Lake. The level of Dauphin Lake has exceeded flood stage and will remain above flood stage until the end of June with normal weather conditions.
- There are a significant number of provincial and municipal roads that have been damaged or closed in the Parkland region due to flooding conditions. Provincial crews are currently deployed to assess the full impact of the weather system and respond as required. Priority is being given to restoring vehicle access on critical highways and provincial roads in the area. Motorists who are not in the Parkland region are asked to avoid the area, and those who are already in the area and are required to travel are strongly encouraged to plan their routes before travelling by checking 511 (<http://www.manitoba511.ca/> or by calling 511). Motorists are reminded to stay off of closed roads and to not attempt travel across inundated roads or damaged bridges.
- Pumping operations to provide internal drainage at the community of Ste. Rose du Lac continues. Crews are monitoring the water levels and will implement dike closures if required.

### Manitoba Lakes

- Manitoba Infrastructure's Hydrologic Forecast Centre is issuing a high wind effect alert for lakes Winnipeg, Manitoba and Winnipegosis for today. Strong, sustained winds from the north will create a risk of ice pile-up and cause water levels to rise along shorelines. Wave action could also add to the temporary increase in water levels. Wind speeds will be highest in the morning and will moderate by the afternoon. However, the risk will persist throughout the day.

- Lakes Winnipeg, Manitoba, and Winnipegosis are reported to have some ice remaining but it is degrading quickly, most other lakes are ice-free.
- Outflow from Lake Manitoba through the Fairford River Water Control Structure this morning is approximately 1,353 cfs (38.31 cms). Outflows are lower today as a result of strong winds this morning. The structure is being operated in accordance with the operating guidelines.
- Lake Winnipeg is at 714.8 ft (217.87 m) today and rising towards the upper end of its operation range. Provincial officials are collaborating with Manitoba Hydro to monitor conditions and forecasts for the lake.

### **\*Definitions**

**Flood Warning:** A flood warning is issued when river or lake levels are exceeding or are expected to be exceeding flood stage within the next 24 hours.

**Flood Watch:** A flood watch is issued when river or lake levels are approaching and likely to reach flood stage, but likely not within the next 24 hours.

**High Water Advisory:** A high water advisory is issued when a heavy storm or high flows are expected and may cause water levels to rise, but not necessarily reach flood stage. A high water advisory can be an early indicator for conditions that may develop into a flood watch or flood warning.