

***MANITOBA NATURAL RESOURCES
SUBMISSION TO THE
MANITOBA WATER COMMISSION***

APPENDICES

BACKGROUND INFORMATION CONCERNING
MANITOBA NATURAL RESOURCES
INVOLVEMENT IN THE 1997 FLOODING
OF THE RED RIVER VALLEY

October, 1997



**Manitoba Natural Resources
Honourable J. Glen Cummings
Minister**

APPENDIX D

SYNTHETIC BAG SUPPLIERS

LOCAL

1.	EnduraPak	311 Alexander Avenue, Winnipeg MB	947-1383
2.	St. Boniface Bag Co.	426 Goulet Street, Winnipeg MB	237-8510
3.	Tiao He Supplies Inc.	Box 139, Winkler MB	204-325-2297
4.	Shippers Supply	102 King Edward Street, Winnipeg MB	772-9800
5.	Western Bag Co.	1793 Main Street, Winnipeg MB	339-1686
6.	Airside Equipment Inc.	768 Municipal Road, Winnipeg MB	694-7295

OTHERS

Industrial Bags	6945 Ovest Ave. St. Jacques Montreal QC	514-481-2713
Komol Plastics Co. Ltd.	202 - 2515 Burrard St., Vancouver BC	604-737-6885
Lloyd Bag Co.	Box 208, Chatham ON	519-352-9300
Manyan Inc.	2611 Leger, LaSalle QC	514-364-2420
Miller, Sam Bag Co.	861 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis, Min.	612-378-3200
North West Importing Co.	1291 Parker St., Vancouver BC	604-251-4711
Berg Bag Co.	410 - 3rd Avenue North, Minneapolis, Min.	612-332-8845
Colonial Bag	Box 1044, Dubuque, Iowa	319-583-8687

INTERNATIONAL BAG

IRWIN JACOBS

DUBUQUE IOWA

MINNEAPOLIS, MIN

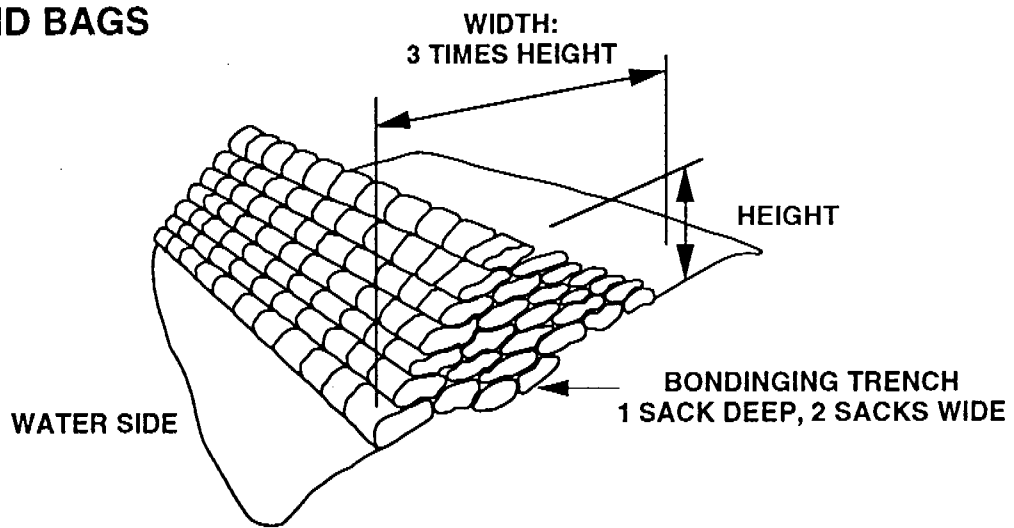
1-888-582-3715
OR 319-582-8875
612-337-1800

SAND BAG DYKE CONSTRUCTION

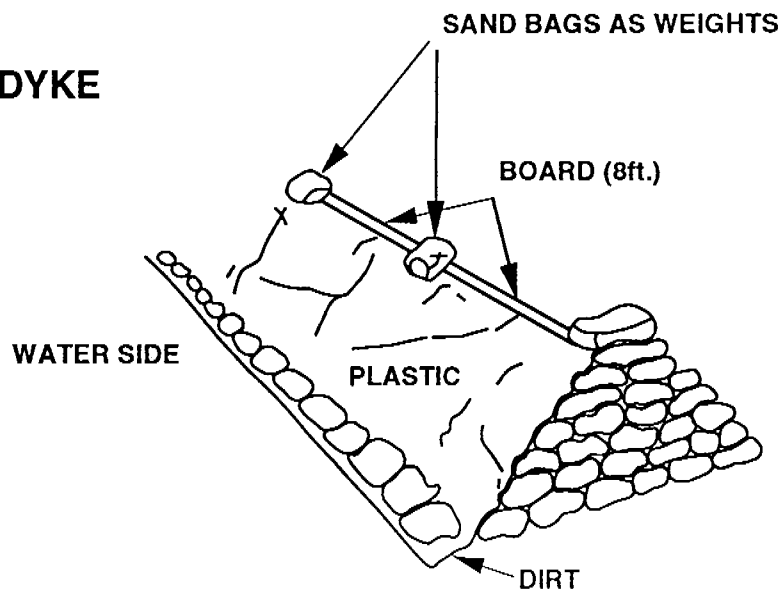
HOW TO FILL AND LAP SAND BAGS



STACKING SAND BAGS



SEALING THE DYKE



Sandbag Dykes

Dyke Construction

Make use of natural land features to keep it as short and low as possible

Avoid tree or other obstructions which would weaken the structure

Do not build a dyke against a basement wall

Leave at least eight feet between a dyke and buildings

Remove ice and snow

Sandbag Requirements

600-800 bags for one foot high dyke 100 feet long

1600-2000 bags for a two foot high dyke 100 feet long

2800-3400 bags for a three foot high dyke 100 feet long

* Sandbag walls over three feet high are not recommended

Filling Sandbags

Fill bags approximately half full of sand - do not tie

Alternate directions of bags with bottom layer lengthwise of dyke. Lap unfilled portion under next bag.

Tamp sandbags into place

Build the dyke three times wide as it is high i.e. if height is two feet build a base six feet wide, if height is three feet build a base nine feet wide

Sealing the Dyke

Sealing the dyke with polyethylene increases its watertightness

Spread earth or sand one inch deep and one foot wide along the bottom of the dyke on the water side

Lay the sheeting down very loosely

Place a row of tightly fitting sandbags at about six foot intervals to hold down the top edge of the plastic. Place boards of dirt between these sandbags to prevent winds from disturbing the plastic. Avoid puncturing the plastic.

APPENDIX E



July 3, 1997

**HEAVY RAIN TO CAUSE
FURTHER RISE OF RED RIVER**

- The Water Resources Branch of Manitoba Natural Resources reports water levels on the Red River from Emerson to St. Norbert will rise a further three to four feet above this morning's levels as a result of recent heavy rainfall in the Red River Valley. The river is expected to remain within its banks unless additional heavy rain develops in the next few weeks.
- River levels had already risen by as much as eight feet by Canada Day due to heavy rain in the United States ten days ago.
- Since Canada Day, rainfall has averaged 75 mm over most of the Red River Valley from Grand Forks to Winnipeg. Some areas in southeastern Manitoba and the northern U.S. have received between 125 and 150 mm of rain.
- Levels in downtown Winnipeg have risen to 10.4 feet as of this morning, roughly four feet above the normal summer level. The downtown level is expected to rise to between 12 and 13 feet by July 8 and then remain steady until July 12 before beginning to fall. Levels should return to normal by the third week of July. The crest is expected at Emerson July 8 - 10 and at Ste. Agathe July 10 - 12.
- Red River levels will rise another two to three feet in the North Perimeter area but will remain steady upstream of Lockport as the St. Andrews Dam is further opened.
- Some smaller streams may also experience flooding of low-lying areas, particularly in the Rat River and Roseau River watersheds. Lakes and streams in the Whiteshell area will rise significantly and may be high for the next few weeks.

-30-

Contact: Larry Whitney, 945-6395

Manitoba Government NEWS RELEASE



Information Services, Room 29, Legislative Building, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0V8
Internet at: <http://www.gov.mb.ca>

Telephone: (204) 945-3746
Fax: (204) 945-3988

June 23, 1997

'FLOOD OF THE CENTURY' CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Elementary school students in the Red River Valley and Winnipeg, who captured the essence of the 'Flood of the Century' through their art and written work, were honoured today at a luncheon hosted by Premier Gary Filmon.

Minister Responsible for the Children and Youth Secretariat Bonnie Mitchelson and Education and Training Minister Linda McIntosh were also in attendance.

The 'Flood of the Century' contest was part of two activity workbooks developed to help children in Kindergarten to Grade 8 express their feelings about how the flood affected their lives and families. Prizes were awarded to winners in individual and group categories.

"All the children who entered this contest did a remarkable job expressing how the flood affected them personally," said Filmon. "The contest and the workbooks were successful in allowing the children to be creative while providing a basic education on how to deal with the stress of coping with a major disaster. Judging by the children's creative submissions, the workbooks and contest have proven their worth."

"More than 70,000 workbooks were distributed to schools and day cares with approximately 1,000 students entering in the 'Flood of the Century' contest," said McIntosh. "The flood workbooks and the idea for the contest were developed by a group of educators from flood evacuated areas, in conjunction with the Children and Youth Secretariat and the departments of Education and Training and Health."

- more -



XIII Pan Am Games
Winnipeg 99

"The flood of the century disrupted the lives of so many people in southeastern Manitoba," said Mitchelson. "The workbooks and contest have helped many children to express their emotions but we can help even further by listening to what they have to say and by making them feel safe and loved."

Manitoba students enrolled in S1 through S4 are also invited to participate in the 'Flood of the Century' contest. The contest encourages high school students to draw, write, produce a video or compose a song expressing their feelings about the flood. Closing date for this contest is Sept. 26.

INFORMATION ON CONTEST WINNERS ATTACHED.

***THE FLOOD OF CENTURY CONTEST
WINNERS IN INDIVIDUAL CATEGORY***

AGES 5 & 6

FIRST	Casandra Cycay	École St. Adolphe School
SECOND	Jesse Delorme	Morris School
THIRD	Daniel Nofziger	École St. Adolphe School
HONOURABLE	Robert Ivekovic	Emerson School
MENTION	Ian Froese	Grunthal School

AGES 7 & 8

FIRST	Amity Bradbury	École Guyot
SECOND	Léanne Waite	École Lavallée
THIRD	Blaine Littlejohn	Ginew School
HONOURABLE	Roxanne Catellier	École St. Malo
MENTION	Sarah Neville	Niakwa Place
	Rémi Lemoine	École Ste. Agathe
	Olivia Gilmer-Chekosky	École Lavallée

AGES 9 & 10

FIRST	David McNabb	Victor H. Wyatt School
SECOND	Darcy J. Beardy	LaBarrière-Crossing School
THIRD	Laurianne Parent	École Précieux-Sang
HONOURABLE	Lisa Pohl	École St. Adolphe School
MENTION	Kellie Heintz	École St. Adolphe School
	Francine Laurin	École Pointe-des-Chênes
	Tory Onchulenko	Shamrock School

AGES 11 - 13

FIRST	Krystel Eidse	Rosenort School
SECOND	Tineke Buiskool-Leeuwma	Starbuck School
THIRD	Adam Estelle	École St. Adolphe School
HONOURABLE	Doris Waldner	Milltown Colony School
MENTION	Kimberly Anne Davies	École St. Adolphe School
	Colleen Derksen	École Letellier
	Justin Synchena	Starbuck School

**THE FLOOD OF CENTURY CONTEST
WINNERS IN GROUP CATEGORY**

FIRST

Poster, Video Song
Grade 3 & 4 - Mr. McCaig
École St. Adolphe School

Raymond Frédette
Natalie Jeanne LaJeunesse
Sharla Reimer
Calee Gushuliak
Janice Hirschfield
Grant Ivonchuk
Mélanie McIntosh
Carissa Schettler

Laura Hirschfield
Brittany Lyn Pedden
Marcia Tom
Kellie Heintz
Vincent Hosein
Autumn Lamirande
Jordan Senderewich
Jennifer Whitney

SECOND (tie)

Poem
École Letellier

Darren Seward
Richard Houle

Kerry Cadieux
Hared Barnabé

Poem
École Letellier

Jasmine Jutras
Tennille Jago

Elizabeth Grégoire

THIRD

École Dugald

Michelle Scheerder

Danielle Vaillant

**HONOURABLE
MENTION**

École Dugald

Mandie Stephenson

Ginny Krahn

Starbuck School

Chantale Duval Weidman

Lindsay Richardson

École Guyot

Danielle Guénette & Dad

***THE FLOOD OF CENTURY
PARTICIPATION DRAW WINNERS***

Elizabeth Gosselin

École Gabrielle-Roy
Île-des-Chênes

Levi Dubois

École Héritage Immersion
St. Pierre-Jolys

Rémi Lafrenière

École Pointe-des-Chênes
Ste. Anne

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June 20, 1997

MANITOBA TO HONOUR CANADIAN FORCES, RCMP AND COAST GUARD FOR FLOOD FIGHTING EFFORTS

The government of Manitoba will honour members of the military, the Coast Guard and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, at a special ceremony Sunday, for their efforts and assistance throughout the entire Red River Valley during the 1997 flood crisis.

The ceremony will be held at the Legislative Building at 4:30 p.m. at the base of the Grand Staircase where over 50 specially prepared certificates of recognition will be presented by Premier Gary Filmon.

"All Manitobans are grateful for the hard work, enthusiasm and professionalism the members of the military, the Coast Guard and the RCMP brought to their flood fighting assignments," said the premier. "It is well documented that without the quick response of these professionals, many Manitobans might have experienced very different results in their flood fighting efforts."

As participants arrive for the ceremony, the Canadian Forces Massed Pipe and Drum Band will perform on the staircase leading to the main entrance of the Legislative Building. Following the ceremony, members of the band will entertain guests at a reception inside the building.

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List of honourees attached.



XIII Pan Am Games
Winnipeg 99

Units Receiving Certificates

Military:

17 Wing Winnipeg
1st Canadian Division Headquarters
1st Canadian Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment
1st Division Intelligence Company
Her Majesty's Canadian Ship Chippawa
Fourth Maritime Operations Group headquarters Esquimalt
Réserve Navale
Canadian Forces Fleet School
Fleet Diving Unit Pacific
Fleet Diving Unit Atlantic
Headquarters 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group
1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group Headquarters and Signal Squadron
1st Regiment Royal Canadian Horse Artillery
Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians)
1st Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry
2nd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry
3rd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry
1 Combat Engineer Regiment
1 Service Battalion
1 Field Ambulance
1 Military Police Platoon
38 Canadian Brigade Group
735 Communications Regiment
Headquarters 2 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group
2 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group Headquarters and Signal Squadron
2 Combat Engineer Regiment
2nd Regiment Royal Canadian Horse Artillery
1st Battalion The Royal Canadian Regiment
The Royal Canadian Dragoons
2 Service Battalion
2 Field Ambulance
2 Military Police Platoon
31 Canadian Brigade Group
32 Canadian Brigade Group
33 Canadian Brigade Group
1 Air Defence Regiment
2^e Battalion Royal 22^e Régiment
5^e Peloton de Police Militaire
415 Maritime Patrol Squadron
423 Maritime Helicopter Squadron
424 Transport and Rescue Squadron
430^e Escadron Tactique d'Hélicoptères
438^e Escadron Tactique d'Hélicoptères
3 Canadian Forces Flying Training School
408 Tactical Helicopter Squadron
442 Transport and Rescue Squadron

- more -

Military (cont'd):

405 Maritime Patrol Squadron
415 Maritime Patrol Squadron
14 Air Maintenance Squadron
8 Air Communication and Control Squadron
733 Communication Squadron
Mapping and Charting Establishment
73/74 Communication Group Headquarters
4 Engineer Support Regiment
1 Area Support Group Movements Platoon
8 Airfield Engineering Squadron
1 Construction Engineer Unit
Canadian Forces Base Shilo

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police, "D" Division

The Coast Guard:

The Rescue, Safety and Environmental Response units of Sarnia, Prescott and Parry Sound, Ontario, and Hay River, N.W.T.
The units based in Ottawa, Thunder Bay, Kenora, and Selkirk.
Helicopter Section, located in Parry Sound
The Pilot Air Service Division, located in Quebec City.



#67

2:30 p.m., Friday, May 30, 1997

**MEDIA UPDATE
FLOOD OF '97**

- The Manitoba Emergency Management Organization (EMO) will be providing \$2,500 in advance disaster assistance payments for people with property damage to their home or business caused by the flood. Cheques will be handed out in the following municipalities:
 - The R.M. of Reynolds - **Tuesday, June 3**, from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Municipal Office, 3 km north of the Trans-Canada Highway on PTH 11;
 - The R.M.s of Tache and Ste. Anne - **Wednesday, June 4**, from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the R.M. of Tache Municipal Office, 450 Dawson Road, Lorette;
 - The R.M. of MacDonald - **Thursday, June 5**, beginning at 4 p.m. until 9 p.m. at the Domain Community Hall; and
 - The R.M. of Brokenhead - **Monday, June 9**, between 1 p.m. and 9 p.m. at the Municipal Office, located at the corner of PTH 44 and PTH 12.

Residents are asked to bring their S.I.N. and, if possible, a property tax receipt.

- Winnipeg residents can fill out application forms for the advance cheques at the City Clerk's Office, 510 Main Street. Property owners in West St. Paul and East St. Paul can complete their application forms at their respective municipal offices. Once the forms have been completed, homeowners can bring them to the Disaster Financial Assistance Office at 1532-405 Broadway where advance cheques will be written while they wait.



#66

4:30 p.m., Friday, May 23, 1997

1997 - FLOOD OF THE CENTURY FACTS

1. The province's flood page on the Internet had over 700,000 hits from all around the world. The web site gave information on evacuations, how to build sandbag dikes, daily water levels and forecasts as well as frequent updates on what was happening around the province as the flood of the century progressed.
2. The Z dike or Brunkild dike is considered an engineering marvel. More than 400 pieces of heavy equipment - bulldozers, graders, tractors etc. - worked 24 hours a day to construct the emergency dike. It was built to prevent flood waters from draining into the La Salle River and flowing into Winnipeg. Approximately 26 kilometres of new dike was put up in record time by the province's Highways and Natural Resources departments with the help of the Canadian Armed Forces, the Canadian Coast Guard and private contractors. Another 15 km of the Floodway's west dike was reinforced.
3. The Flood of the Century resulted in approximately 28,000 Manitobans evacuating from their homes to ensure their safety as the river waters rose. Approximately 8,900 were from Winnipeg and the remainder from the flood zone of the Red River Valley.
4. At the height of the flood crisis, more than 8,000 Canadian Armed Forces personnel were deployed throughout southern Manitoba to help with flood fighting efforts.
5. The City of Winnipeg used 6.5 million sandbags to protect properties threatened by floods. The Province of Manitoba and rural municipalities and towns probably used at least twice that number.
6. Evacuations in Manitoba were calm and orderly. Manitobans knew the potential of the Red River flooding and were prepared to move.
7. The province's flood protection systems attracted interest and attention from around the world. In the Red River Valley, the eight ring-diked communities became island fortresses at the height of the flood. Those communities - Emerson, Morris, St. Jean-Baptiste, Dominion City, Letellier, Rosenort, St. Adolphe and Brunkild stayed dry through the flood of the century. The Floodway diverted significant amounts of water around Winnipeg, preventing serious flooding of the city. The Portage Diversion, also part of the flood protection system, channelled water from the Assiniboine River to Lake Manitoba to help control flood levels.



Manitoba
Natural Resources
Water Resources Branch



#65

2:30 p.m., Friday, May 23, 1997

NOTICE TO NEWS ROOMS

- The provincial media contact number of 945-0730 will no longer be in service as of 4:30 p.m. today. For provincial information regarding the 1997 flood, please contact Information Resources: Diana Soroka at 945-3810 or Brian Kozak at 945-2662, Monday to Friday between 8:30 a.m and 4:30 p.m.

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Manitoba
Natural Resources
Water Resources Branch



#64

11:00 a.m., Friday, May 23, 1997

**MEDIA UPDATE
FLOOD OF '97**

- The Manitoba Emergency Management Organization (EMO) is providing \$2,500 in advance disaster assistance payments for people with property damage to their home or business caused by the flood. Cheques will be handed out to residents in the following areas:
 - The R.M. of Ritchot - **Monday, May 26**, beginning at 4 p.m. at the Municipal Office, 352 Main St. in St. Adolphe;
 - The Village of St. Pierre and the R.M.s of Morris, De Salaberry, Hanover and Montcalm - **Tuesday, May 27**, beginning at 9 a.m. at the Legion Hall, 161 Charles Ave., W., in Morris;
 - The R.M.s of Rhineland, Franklin and Montcalm - **Wednesday, May 28**, beginning at 9 a.m. at the Emerson Complex, Church St. in Emerson.

Residents are asked to bring their S.I.N. and, if possible, a property tax receipt.

-30-

Media Contact: 945-0730



**MEDIA UPDATE
FLOOD OF '97**

- Over the past two days, Red River levels from Emerson to the Floodway Inlet have been falling close to half a foot per day. Levels in the Winnipeg area have been falling only one to two inches per day, due to the lowering of the Floodway gates. The level at Morris this morning was one and one half feet lower than last year's peak, while the level in downtown Winnipeg was a little more than one foot below the 1996 peak.
- By early next week, Red River levels from Emerson to the Floodway will be declining about one foot per day and even faster the following week unless heavy rain develops. Weather forecasts indicate a high probability of significant rainfall this weekend, especially in the United States portion of the Red River Watershed. If 50 millimetres of rain falls south of the border, it will slow down the rate of fall of the Red River in Manitoba. Rising levels are unlikely in the Manitoba portion of the watershed unless rainfall is significantly heavier.
- Levels of the Winnipeg River in the Nutimik area continue to fall very slowly at one to two inches per day.
- Levels of the Souris River continue to fall very slowly due to releases from reservoirs in Saskatchewan. These reservoirs were used effectively to reduce peak flows on the Souris River earlier this spring. However, reservoir outflows in Saskatchewan were recently reduced and this effect should be felt in Manitoba about 10 days from now. The river level at Melita is expected to fall three feet by the end of May with normal rainfall. However, flooding of low-lying agricultural lands in the Coulter area is likely to continue until early July, even with favourable weather.
- Manitoba Highways and Transportation reminds motorists that many highways in the Red River Valley were damaged by floodwaters and are in poor condition. While damaged roads are currently under repair, caution is recommended when using all highways in the flood region. Motorists are advised to contact the Manitoba Highways Information Line at (204) 945-3704 for the latest information on highway conditions.

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Media Contact: 945-0730 (until 6 p.m.)



**Manitoba
Natural Resources
Water Resources Branch**



#62,

9:30 a.m., Thursday, May 22, 1997

DISASTER ASSISTANCE NOTICE

Contrary to media reports, there will be no presentation of provincial Disaster Financial Assistance advance cheques in Morris today. The Manitoba Emergency Management Organization is planning to make the advance cheques of \$2,500 available in Morris on Tuesday, May 27 to those individuals who suffered flood damage to their home or business. Further details regarding the time and location of this event will be made later today or tomorrow.

- 30 -

Contact: 945-0730 (media only)



FACTS ABOUT THE BRUNKILD "Z" DIKE

- The "Z" dike was built along highways northeast of Brunkild to prevent flood waters from the swollen Morris and Red Rivers from entering the La Salle River Watershed. The dike was considered necessary to prevent serious flooding of communities and individual residences in the R.M. of MacDonald as well as to prevent extreme flows on the La Salle River from entering Winnipeg.
- The dike is referred to as the "Z" dike due to its zig-zag shape.
- The total length of the "Z" dike is 26 km. Work on the dike also involved the embellishment of an additional 15 km of the Floodway's existing west dike.
- Construction of the dike began on the morning of Thursday, April 24, just as "the lake" was beginning to form in the Morris area. The dike was completed on Monday, April 28 and then reinforced over that week. The dike is considered an engineering marvel for the time in which it was built. A dike of this magnitude would normally take four to five months to build.
- An estimated 750,000 cubic metres of earth and approximately 142,000 tonnes of limestone were used to build the dike. Other materials used in constructing the dike include 4,000 large bales of straw along with five miles of oil boom to help absorb wave energy; 20,000 sandbags and 2,000 "super sandbags", each weighing 3,000 lbs; 25 miles of plastic wrap; 25 miles of snow fence; and one and one-half miles of derelict (intact and crushed/stacked) vehicles to absorb wave energy.
- Up to 400 pieces of equipment were used at the peak of construction including trucks and earth-moving equipment.
- Manitoba Highways and Transportation provided 100 people during construction of the dike including engineers, survey crews, dike walkers, dispatchers and support staff. The department was assisted by approximately 350 people from the heavy construction industry.
- The department also received personnel and equipment assistance from Manitoba Natural Resources, the 1st Combat Engineering Regiment of Edmonton and the 1st Canadian Royal Horse Artillery, the R.C.M.P., Canada Coast Guard, Manitoba Hydro, MTS as well as the Canadian National Railway and the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Manitoba Government NEWS RELEASE



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May 20, 1997

PROVINCE ANNOUNCES ADDITIONAL MEASURES TO HELP MUNICIPALITIES WITH FLOOD COSTS

To ease the hardship faced by municipalities with the extraordinary costs of the 1997 flood, Government Services Minister Frank Pitura today announced that no municipality will pay more than five per cent of its annual budget towards its flood fighting and cleanup efforts.

Under the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements, municipalities are normally required to pay at least 10 per cent of total disaster expenditures.

"Due to the enormity of this devastating flood, municipalities are facing costs which could consume their entire budget under the existing arrangements," said Pitura. "To ensure no municipality has its finances totally wiped out by costs incurred by protecting people and property, the government will, on a one-time only basis, change the formula to reduce the amount of money for which municipalities will be responsible."

"This will help to ensure that municipalities and their taxpayers whose lives have been disrupted by the flood do not have the burden of covering those flood costs through substantially higher municipal taxes," said Pitura.

"For example," said Pitura, "the R.M. of Ritchot, has estimated its flood expenditures incurred to date are \$6 million dollars. Under the existing program the rural municipality would be required to pay 10 per cent or \$600,000 of the cost, which amounts to close to one-quarter of its annual budget. With this change the rural municipality will only be responsible for approximately \$135,000."

"A crisis of these proportions affects all Manitobans and therefore we must all share in the shouldering of these expenditures," concluded Pitura.



Municipality	Advance Payment
Brokenhead	\$67,500
East St. Paul	\$135,000
Emerson	\$136,500
Franklin	\$62,400
Macdonald	\$252,500
Montcalm	\$300,000
Morris (R. M.)	\$1,500,000
Morris (Town)	\$94,500
Reynolds	\$46,800
Rhineland	\$90,000
Ritchot	\$4,500,000
St. Andrews	\$450,000
St. Clements	\$452,300
St. Pierre Jolys	\$150,000
Selkirk	\$292,500
Tache	\$270,000
West St. Paul	\$112,500
Winnipeg	\$9,000,000
Total	\$17,912,500
Reserve for Unreported Municipal Advances	\$837,500
Total	\$18,750,000



#60

4:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 20, 1997

**MEDIA UPDATE
FLOOD OF '97**

- The Manitoba Emergency Management Organization (EMO) will begin handing out \$2,500 advance disaster assistance payments to residents of the R.M. of Ritchot at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, May 21 at the Sam Southern Leisure Centre, 625 Osborne St. in Winnipeg. Individuals with damage to their home or property will receive cheques to assist with costs incurred prior to a home assessment. Residents are asked to bring identification.
- EMO will make similar arrangements for residents of other municipalities over the next few weeks.
- Red River levels declined about one and one-half feet at most points over the Victoria Day long weekend. The exception was the area from St. Norbert to Lockport where levels fell less than a foot due to lowering of the Floodway gates.
- Today's Red River levels, from Morris to the Floodway Inlet, are similar to 1996 peak levels, considered a significant flood at the time. Levels are beginning to fall more rapidly now, with drops of nearly five inches in the past 24 hours. If weather conditions remain favourable, levels will begin falling half a foot per day later this week and even faster next week.
- The weather outlook remains favourable with little precipitation expected for the rest of this week over southern Manitoba. In the United States portion of the Red River Watershed, 20 millimetres of rain may fall before Friday. However, this will have little effect on river levels in Manitoba.
- Winnipeg River levels continue to slowly fall. The level of Nutimik Lake fell several more inches over the long weekend and is now at 906.2 feet. The crest was 907.1 feet on May 12. Levels will decline more rapidly before next weekend, unless significant rain develops over the watershed.

-more-



**Manitoba
Natural Resources
Water Resources Branch**



#59

Noon, Saturday, May 17, 1997

**MEDIA UPDATE
FLOOD OF '97**

- Residents of Rosenort who live within the community's ring dike will be able to return home Tuesday, April 20 beginning at noon. Access to the community from Lowe Farm will be via PTH 23 east to PR 422, north on PR 422 to PR 205 and east on PR 205 to Rosenort. Returning residents are advised to proceed directly to the Rosenort Fire Hall before returning to their homes. They are also reminded to advise the Red Cross that they are returning home.
- Residents of St. Jean-Baptiste, St. Adolphe and the Town of Morris are returning home today. This return notification applies only to residents living within the ring dikes. Individuals living outside the ring dikes in these communities are asked to contact their municipality for re-entry information. Residents of these communities, as well as Rosenort, who are unable to care for themselves should return at a later date.
- The R.M. of Ritchot advises that the school in St. Adolphe will not re-open until Wednesday, May 21 at the earliest.
- EMO advises all communities to maintain an emergency response capability until flood waters have withdrawn from the town dikes. All citizens should watch out for and avoid equipment working on the dikes and stay off the dikes until all work has been completed.

-30-

Media Contact: 945-0730

Editor's Note: There will be a provincial emergency communications person on call at 945 - 0730 until 7 p.m. tonight and from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m. Sunday and Monday. They will be on a cell phone, so if you call and do not get an answer, it means they are on another call. Please call back again in a few minutes.

- The Souris River continues to slowly decline with drops of only one or two inches over the long weekend. Low-lying farmland from the U.S. boundary to Hartney remains flooded. The flooding will gradually subside in the next three to four weeks. The lowest areas near Coulter will likely remain flooded until late June.
- The Shellmouth Reservoir on the upper Assiniboine River crested over the long weekend at about 1,407 feet. The outflow has been between 1,500 and 1,600 cubic feet per second since April 29, which is near the bankful capacity just downstream of the dam.
- By the end of this week, the following highways are expected to re-open:
 - Highway 75 from Winnipeg to Ste. Agathe;
 - Highway 75 between Morris and Ste. Jean Baptiste; and
 - Highway 23 east of Morris.Traffic restrictions into ring diked communities will remain in effect.
- Manitoba Environment reminds everyone that flood waters have dislodged an unknown number of hazardous material containers. These include fuel storage tanks, propane or compressed gas cylinders and drums up to 45 gallons. Anyone seeing these or other floating containers should not attempt to recover them. Report all sightings to Manitoba Environment at 945-4888 (call collect if outside Winnipeg) or your local fire department.

May 16, 1997

GREEN TEAM PROGRAMS ENHANCED TO ASSIST IN FLOOD CLEANUP

Four hundred additional young Manitobans will be employed in flood cleanup activities through a \$1.5 million enhancement of the province's Rural and Urban Green Team programs.

Enhancement of the programs was announced today by Rural Development Minister Len Derkach, Urban Affairs Minister Jack Reimer, Natural Resources Minister Glen Cummings and Education Minister Linda McIntosh. The enhancement is expected to create an additional 200 youth positions in Winnipeg and 200 in rural Manitoba communities affected by the flood.

"In consideration of the significant challenge facing many Manitobans who have been affected by the 'flood of the century', the Green Team program has been expanded to help with the enormous job at hand," said Derkach. "Young Manitobans will have an opportunity to be employed while assisting with the overwhelming task of helping Manitobans affected by the flood put their lives back together."

"Enhancement of the Green Team programs will enable us to use an existing employment program during this time of critical need," said Reimer. "Manitobans who have been affected by the flood have a tremendous challenge ahead of them, and our youth can play an important role in helping them overcome that challenge."

"Additional funding support by the province will help ease some of the burden Manitobans are facing from the damage caused by flooding," said Cummings.

"Young Manitobans who displayed their care and concern in trying to save homes and communities will now have an opportunity to assist with cleanup activities while gaining employment."



"It is essential that the cleanup from the flood be undertaken as quickly and efficiently as possible to enable the lives of those Manitobans affected by flooding to return to normal," said McIntosh. "Energetic teams of young people will be utilized throughout the flooded areas making a real difference in our efforts to rebuild."

Teams of youth will be dispatched by project sponsors to flood stricken areas to assist with cleanup in flooded areas in Winnipeg and rural communities. Young people between the ages of 16 and 24 are eligible to apply for terms of employment ending in August.

The enhanced program is being supported through the Canada-Manitoba Disaster Financial Assistance Program, Rural Development's Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) and Manitoba Education's Urban Economic Development Initiative.

The existing 1997-98 Green Team program, announced in April, will create approximately 1,360 summer jobs in urban and rural Manitoba. The Enhanced Green Team Flood Cleanup Program will be managed and administered by the departments of Natural Resources and Education and Training.

For additional information about the Enhanced Green Team Flood Cleanup Program contact:

- for Winnipeg, Urban Green Team, Education and Training, 945-0902
- for rural Manitoba, Hometown Green Team, Natural Resources, 945-2100.



#58

4:30 p.m., Friday, May 16, 1997

**MEDIA UPDATE
FLOOD OF '97**

- St. Jean-Baptiste residents are being allowed to return home today. Re-entry checkpoints will be in operation from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. Access is available on the west side of the Red River from PTH 14 to PTH 75 and north on PTH 75 to St. Jean-Baptiste. Access to the community from the east side of the Red River is from PTH 59 south to PTH 23, west on PTH 23 to PR 200, south on PR 200 to Emerson and PTH 75 and north on PTH 75 to St. Jean-Baptiste.
- Residents of the Town of Morris will be able to re-enter the community on Saturday, May 17 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., on Sunday, May 18 from 9 a.m. and on Monday, May 19 between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. RCMP and town officials will ask residents for identification at the check stop. Residents are advised to ensure they have house keys with them. Access from Winnipeg and Steinbach is via PTH 59 to PTH 23 then west on PTH 23 into Morris. Residents returning from Altona, Winkler or Lowe Farm should take PTH 14 east to PTH 75, south on PTH 75 to PR 200 at Emerson, north on PR 200 to PTH 23 and west on PTH 23 to Morris.
- Anyone needing transportation assistance for re-entry into the Town of Morris should contact the Town Office at 746-2531.
- St. Adolphe business owners are being allowed to return to the community today. Residents of St. Adolphe may return home on Saturday, May 17 between 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Access is available from Winnipeg south on PTH 59 to PTH 305, west on PTH 305 to PTH 75 and north on PTH 75 to St. Adolphe.
- This return notification applies only to residents living within the ring dikes in St. Jean-Baptiste, Morris and St. Adolphe. Individuals living outside the ring dikes in these communities are asked to contact their municipality for re-entry information.

(more)

- EMO advises all communities to maintain an emergency response capability until flood waters have withdrawn from the town dikes. All citizens should watch out for and avoid equipment working on the dikes and stay off the dikes until all work has been completed.
- Red River levels declined between a quarter and half-foot from Emerson to the Floodway Inlet over the past 24 hours. In the Winnipeg area, levels rose slightly due to lowering of the Floodway gates. The river level at Selkirk fell one-third of a foot. A gradual decline in levels will continue for the next week or so, followed by a more rapid decline if favourable weather continues. Some rain is expected this weekend, but if amounts are under 10 millimetres as predicted, it will have little effect on river levels.
- The Winnipeg River fell two more inches in the Nutimik area since yesterday morning and will continue to fall slowly for the next week. Most lakes in the Whiteshell area are above their desirable range but have crested or are near their crest.
- Major flood control works will continue to be operated to reduce water levels on the Assiniboine River and on the Red River from St. Norbert to Lockport.
- The level of Lake Winnipeg this morning is 715.3 feet and is expected to crest at 715.7 feet in early June. This is just over half a foot higher than last year's crest. Lake Manitoba is at 812.7 feet and is expected to rise to 812.9 feet by late May, three inches lower than last year. Lake of the Woods is presently cresting at 1059.6 feet, which is within the desirable range.
- As part of the post-flood evaluation, Manitoba Environment has begun testing wells in the Red River Valley for floodwater contamination. Crews will be working in the Grande Pointe area this weekend. Any wells found to be contaminated will be pumped out.

Media Contact: 945-0730

Editor's Note: There will be a provincial emergency communications person on call at 945 - 0730 until 7 p.m. tonight and from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m. Saturday to Monday. They will be on a cell phone, so if you call and do not get an answer, it means they are on another call. Please call back again in a few minutes.



#57

10:30 a.m., Friday, May 16, 1997

FLOOD OF THE CENTURY - 1997 Chronology of Events

March 21, 1997

- Flood forecasts for the Red River Valley, issued by Manitoba's River Forecast Centre, indicate that record high levels may occur with a bad weather scenario.

April 10, 1997

- Following an early April blizzard, the flood forecast is revised upwards calling for crest levels two to three feet higher than 1979 and three to four feet higher than 1996 levels.

April 17, 1997

- Manitoba Environment issues an advisory to Red River Valley residents to move chemical or hazardous products out of flood prone areas.

April 19, 1997

- The province formally requests the assistance of the Canadian Armed Forces to aid in sandbagging efforts in flood prone areas.

April 20, 1997

- Water forecasts are raised again based on observed conditions at Grand Forks, North Dakota. Crest elevations are expected to be four to five feet higher at most locations than 1996 levels.
- Ring diked communities begin raising the dikes with assistance from Natural Resources.
- Ice flows develop along the Assiniboine River. The Pembina River levels rise rapidly.
- Joubert Creek overflows in St. Pierre-Jolys.
- The Town of Emerson declares a State of Emergency and begins a voluntary evacuation.
- States of Emergency are also declared by the R.M.s of Morris, Tache and Franklin as a precautionary measure.
- A number of highways in the flood zone begin to close.

April 21, 1997

- Dominion City begins a voluntary evacuation.
- Additional States of Emergency are declared in the R.M. of Montcalm and the communities of Dominion City and Ste. Anne.
- The Red River begins cresting in Grand Forks.
- Significant flooding occurs along Red River tributaries such as the Seine and Rat Rivers and Joubert and Tourond Creek as water levels rise and approach their crest.
- The Floodway gates begin operating.
- Highway 75 from St. Norbert to the U.S. border is closed except for local flood fighting traffic.
- Number of Red River Valley evacuees: 1150.

April 22, 1997

- The Province of Manitoba declares a State of Emergency for the area of the province south of the 51st parallel.
- Levels on the Red River rise between four and five feet from Morris to the Floodway structure.
- Serious flooding continues along the Red River tributaries.
- The Town and R.M. of Morris begin a voluntary evacuation.
- Number of Red River Valley evacuees: 3200.

April 23, 1997

- The Manitoba Emergency Management Organization recommends a mandatory evacuation schedule over three days affecting communities in the flood zone from Emerson to the R.M. of Ritchot. Rapid increases in water levels mean these communities will be isolated sooner than expected. Forecasted levels remain the same.
- The Red River rises one and one-half feet to two feet from Emerson to Morris and three to four and one-half feet from Ste. Agathe to the Floodway Inlet.
- River ice moves out north of Selkirk eliminating the danger of ice jamming.
- Ice jams along the Assiniboine River cause significant flooding from Baie St. Paul to Headingley.
- Severe flooding along Red River tributaries continues.
- Construction of the Z dike near Brunkild begins to prevent flood waters from entering the La Salle River and flowing into Winnipeg.

April 24, 1997

- Evacuation of the Red River Valley communities affected by the flood continues.
- The Canadian Armed Forces deploys over 800 personnel in flood fighting efforts.

(more)

April 25, 1997

- Floodwaters surpass 1979 levels. The Manitoba Emergency Management Organization advises that anyone remaining in the mandatory evacuation zones must leave.
- Residents in the La Salle River watershed in the R.M. of MacDonald are put on 48-hour evacuation standby.
- Working with local and provincial authorities, the RCMP and the military go door-to-door to ensure the orderly evacuation of remaining residents.
- Work begins to shore up the Floodway embankments to prevent erosion from the extremely high water flows.
- The Red River outside the City of Winnipeg rises close to a foot at most locations. Forecasted peaks remain the same.
- Winnipeg hospitals cancel most elective in-patient surgeries.
- The Assiniboine River rose three-to-four feet from Headingley to Winnipeg due to ice jam breakups west of Headingley. An apartment building on the riverbank near downtown Winnipeg has its underground parking area flooded.
- Tributaries of the Red River begin cresting.

April 26, 1997

- The province requests an additional 5,000-6,000 military troops and additional military equipment to assist in flood fighting efforts.
- Red River levels rise about one foot from Morris to the Floodway. Smaller rises are reported ranging from two inches at Emerson to about a half a foot in St. Jean.
- Serious flooding occurs on the Seine River at Grande Pointe.

April 27, 1997

- Water levels at Emerson are stable, but strong southerly winds are expected to cause strong wave action and possibly push levels up a half a foot.
- Forecasted crests from Ste. Agathe to the City of Winnipeg are revised upward by half a foot. Water levels on Red River tributaries and other smaller streams remain very high but have crested in almost all areas.

April 28, 1997

- Residents in the R.M. of MacDonald are issued a mandatory evacuation order. Flood waters are nearing the Z dike where construction work continues on the 24 kilometre emergency dike.
- Forecasted crest level for St. Jean lowered by one foot as flood waters begin to flatten out.
- River levels are unusually high near Grande Point where the river rose overnight due to strong winds.

(more)

April 29, 1997

- The Ste. Agathe dike breached at approximately 2:30 a.m. resulting in up to five feet of water in parts of the community. All 37 emergency personnel remaining in the community were safely evacuated by the military. The town did not have a ring dike. Water entered the town from the west across the railway tracks.
- The R.M. of St. Andrews declares a State of Emergency due to the threat of overland flooding.

April 30, 1997

- Construction of the Z dike is complete. Work continues to add extra height and compaction.
- Serious flooding is taking place in the downstream areas of Red River tributaries due to backup from the swollen Red River. Levels in the Grande Pointe area rose another inch and were expected to rise a further half foot. Severe flooding is anticipated on the lower Netley Creek in the Petersfield area within a week.

May 1, 1997

- The federal and provincial governments agree to increase the limit for compensation under the Disaster Financial Assistance Program from \$30,000 to \$100,000 while maintaining a 20% deductible.
- The federal government advances \$25 million to the province to help municipalities and individuals deal with the costs of the flood.

May 2, 1997

- Water levels at Grande Pointe rise higher than expected due to increasing road washouts between Ste. Agathe and St. Adolphe. Water is flowing overland from the Red River near St. Adolphe and is being channelled into Grande Pointe by road and railway embankments. Additional military personnel are sent to the Grande Pointe area.
- The Red River is near its crest in Winnipeg.
- Red River flows show that the 1997 flood is equal to that of 1852 and greater than the floods of 1861, 1950 and 1979. The only greater floods known occurred in 1776 and 1826.

May 3, 1997

- The R.M. of MacDonald announces a limited re-entry to parts of the municipality. The R.M. of Franklin announces that Dominion City residents can begin returning home.
- Coast Guard barges ferry in sandbags and protection efforts continue with military personnel in the Grande Pointe area.
- Red River levels are expected to remain high until well into June.

(more)

May 4, 1997

- The Red River has now crested throughout the entire Red River Valley, including the City of Winnipeg. High water levels will keep permanent and temporary dikes under extreme pressure for a couple of weeks.

May 5, 1997

- The residents of Letellier begin returning home.
- Red River levels begin to fall slightly from Emerson to Selkirk.
- Inspectors from the Disaster Financial Assistance Program begin the process of inspecting accessible properties affected by the flood.

May 8, 1997

- A Manitoba Flood Relief Committee is established to oversee financial, material and volunteer flood relief assistance to flood victims.
- The R.M. of Ritchot lifts its evacuation order for the northwest area of the municipality.
- Approximately 20,000 Manitobans remain evacuated due to the flood.

May 12, 1997

- The Town of Emerson begins returning home.
- PTH 75 re-opens from PR 14 to Emerson.

May 13, 1997

- Approximately 6,000 residents of the City of Winnipeg have now returned home, including the residents of Kingston Row/Crescent and Scotia Street.

May 14, 1997

- Red River levels continue to slowly decline. Water levels in many areas of the valley are now at or near 1979 peak levels.
- Approximately 800 residents and businesses in St. Norbert return home.

May 15, 1997

- The number of military personnel is reduced to 5,301 persons.
- Approximately 12,000 Manitobans remain evacuated from their homes.
- Communities still evacuated include Morris, St. Jean Baptiste, Rosenort, St. Adolphe, Ste. Agathe and the Roseau River Reserve.



#56

4:30 p.m., Thursday, May 15, 1997

**MEDIA UPDATE
FLOOD OF '97**

- Red River levels have declined about a quarter of a foot at most points from Emerson to Selkirk in the last 24 hours. Levels fell half a foot in the Winnipeg area and at Lockport. A rise of five inches occurred in the Breezy Point area due to yesterday's strong north winds over Lake Winnipeg. River levels will continue to decline slowly unless heavy rain develops. The weather outlook calls for little precipitation for the next five days.
- Winnipeg River levels in the Nutimik area have fallen a third of a foot since yesterday morning and are expected to continue to decline slowly for the next week. After that, levels will fall somewhat more rapidly due to recent reductions in outflows from Lake of the Woods and Lac Seul in Ontario.
- Cottagers going to the Whiteshell this weekend are advised that most lakes, including those separated from the Winnipeg River, are very high due to heavy spring runoff and last week's heavy rain. Boaters should stay off the Winnipeg River unless accompanied by experienced operators.
- On the Souris River, flooding of valley lands continues in the area from the United States boundary to Hartney. Although levels continue to decline, the flooded area decreased very slowly. In the lowest areas near Coulter, flooding is likely to continue until late June even with favourable weather.
- The water level of the Shellmouth Reservoir, also known as Lake of the Prairies, has been climbing in recent weeks and is now 1,406.9 feet. The total rise this spring is now at 21.2 feet. A peak elevation of 1,407.5 feet is expected in about 10 days, based on normal weather conditions. The reservoir has been used to maximum advantage for downstream flood control this spring. Outflows were kept to less than 100 cubic feet per second (cfs), while peaks occurred on the Assiniboine River. The present outflow of 1,500 cfs is well within the bankfull capacity of the river downstream of the dam.

(more)

- The Red River Floodway and the Portage Diversion also continue to be used effectively for flood control. This morning the flow was 43,900 cfs in the Floodway and 3,930 cfs in the Portage Diversion.
- The provincial government has not released any official figures on the cost of the 1997 flood. Many areas of the Red River Valley remain under water levels as high as 1979 peaks, and it will be several weeks before the impact of the flood can be determined.
- The number of military personnel in Manitoba has been further reduced by 480 troops to a total of 5,301 persons.

Media Contact: 945-0730

Editor's Note: A provincial emergency communications person will be on call at 945-0730 until 8 p.m. tonight. They will be on a cell phone, so if you call and do not get an answer, it means they are on another call. Please call back again in a few minutes.

May 14, 1997

\$25 MILLION IN ADVANCE PAYMENTS FLOW TO MUNICIPALITIES, INDIVIDUALS

Premier Gary Filmon today announced that \$25 million in advance disaster assistance payments will begin flowing to municipalities and individuals impacted by the 1997 Red River Flood.

"Over the past several weeks we have seen an unprecedented effort by Manitobans to protect people, their homes and their livelihoods," said Filmon. "This effort has placed a heavy financial burden on municipalities and individuals who were on the front lines in this flood fight. We are acting quickly to ensure our communities are in a strong position to rebuild."

The advance of \$18.75 million to municipalities and \$6.25 million to individuals is a component of the Canada-Manitoba Agreement on Red River Valley Flood Disaster Assistance (1997) signed by the two levels of government on May 1.

For the municipalities most heavily affected by the flood, the advance is equivalent to 45 per cent of their reported costs, with a further 30 per cent top-up to municipalities whose flood-fighting costs exceeded 30 per cent of their annual budgets.

Individuals who suffered damage to their homes or buildings are also eligible for a \$2,500 per claim advance to assist with their immediate costs. Arrangements will be made for individuals to apply for and receive advances through their municipalities. The arrangements will be in place within a week. It is estimated that 2,500 individual claims will be received from the flooded areas.



"With water levels now starting to recede, people are beginning the great task of cleaning up the flood damage, and restoring their homes and properties," said the premier. "These advance payments will assist greatly in these efforts by providing some immediate cash flow."

Media contact: Manitoba Emergency Management Organization, 945-0730

TABLE ATTACHED.

Municipalité	Paiement anticipé
Brokenhead	67 500 \$
East St. Paul	135 000 \$
Emerson	136 500 \$
Franklin	62 400 \$
Macdonald	252 500 \$
Montcalm	300 000 \$
Morris (M. R.)	1 500 000 \$
Morris (Ville)	94 500 \$
Reynolds	46 800 \$
Rhineland	90 000 \$
Ritchot	4 500 000 \$
St. Andrews	450 000 \$
St. Clements	452 300 \$
Saint-Pierre-Jolys	150 000 \$
Selkirk	292 500 \$
Taché	270 000 \$
West St. Paul	112 500 \$
Winnipeg	9 000 000 \$
Total	17 912 500 \$
Réserve pour dépenses non déclarées des municipalités	837 500 \$
Total	18 750 000 \$



#55

4:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 14, 1997

**MEDIA UPDATE
FLOOD OF '97**

- Natural Resources reports that despite declining water levels, the flood situation remains serious throughout the Red River Valley. Many areas of the valley continue to be at or near 1979 flood levels. The flood of 1979 was considered a major emergency in the valley and one of the largest floods on record in Manitoba. With water levels still in the 1979 range, serious flooding will continue in the valley for at least the next few weeks.
- Red River levels declined three inches from Emerson to Ste. Agathe and close to half a foot from St. Adolphe to St. Norbert in the past 24 hours. There was a slight rise at Letellier due to the strong north wind. River levels will continue to decline slowly during the next 10 days or so and then will fall more rapidly unless heavy rain develops.
- River levels south of Ste. Agathe will continue to fall more slowly than at points further north until Lake Morris has significantly receded. This is expected to take almost two weeks. Levels at Morris are expected to fall 10 feet by the end of May if weather conditions remain favourable.
- Winnipeg River levels declined about two inches at Nutimik Lake since yesterday. A gradual decline of river levels will continue unless heavy rain develops.
- Levels of large lakes have been difficult to estimate in recent days due to strong winds. However, the present level of Lake Winnipeg, without wind, is estimated at about 715.25 feet; the level of Lake Manitoba is about 812.7 feet and Lake Winnipegosis is about 832.7 feet. Lake Winnipeg is expected to rise to 715.6 feet and Lake Manitoba to 812.9 feet, based on normal weather conditions. Lake Winnipegosis is very near its crest. More accurate estimates of lake levels will be provided when winds subside. Peak levels last year were 715 feet on Lake Winnipeg, 813.2 feet on Lake Manitoba and 832.7 feet on Lake Winnipegosis.

(more)

- Lake levels in the Whiteshell area, other than those along the Winnipeg River are unusually high, due to heavy spring runoff and last Wednesday's 35 mm rain. Most lakes are currently very near their crest and should begin falling slowly with favorable weather. Falcon Lake will remain very high for the next few months.

Media Contact: 945-0730

Editor's Note: There will be a provincial emergency communications person on call at 945-0730 until 8 p.m. tonight. They will be on a cell phone, so if you call and do not get an answer, it means they are on another call. Please call back again in a few minutes.



#54

4:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 13, 1997

**MEDIA UPDATE
FLOOD OF '97**

- The mandatory evacuation order has been lifted for the R.M. of MacDonald north of the Brunkild dike including the communities of Brunkild, Sanford, La Salle and Domain. Residents living east of PTH 3 and south of the Brunkild dike remain under the mandatory evacuation order due to continued flooding in the area.
- Red River levels fell about a quarter of a foot at most points in the past 24 hours, except in downtown Winnipeg where levels rose half a foot due to increased flows on the Assiniboine River. River levels in Winnipeg will change little until tomorrow morning and then will begin declining an average of two to three inches per day. Fluctuations may occur due to strong winds.
- Red River levels this morning were still above peak elevations observed in the 1979 flood. It will be several weeks before the river returns to within its banks, even with favorable weather. The weather outlook remains good, with little precipitation for the next five days.
- Assiniboine River levels rose just over one foot at Baie St. Paul and one and three quarters of a foot at Headingley in the past 24 hours. Minimal rises are expected at Baie St. Paul during the next five days, however, points from Headingley to Assiniboine Park will see additional rises of about one foot by noon Wednesday. The level at Arlington Street will rise about another half foot. These levels are well below crest levels experienced in late April and early May.
- The Winnipeg River finally crested yesterday in Nutimik Lake at one foot below the 1992 crest. There has been considerable damage to docks and boathouses. While cottage properties are affected, the water has remained below floor level. The river will likely fall about one foot in the next seven days.

(more)

- Lake levels in the Whiteshell area, other than those along the Winnipeg River are unusually high, due to heavy spring runoff and last Wednesday's 35 mm rain. Most lakes are currently very near their crest and should begin falling slowly with favorable weather. Falcon Lake will remain very high for the next few months.

Media Contact: 945-0730

Editor's Note: There will be a provincial emergency communications person on call at 945-0730 until 8 p.m. tonight. They will be on a cell phone, so if you call and do not get an answer, it means they are on another call. Please call back again in a few minutes.



#53

4:30 p.m. Monday, May 12, 1997

**MEDIA UPDATE
FLOOD OF '97**

- Red River levels fell about three inches at most points in the past 24 hours. At Letellier, the level fell two thirds of a foot due to yesterday's wind. River levels fell about one foot in the Winnipeg area and about half a foot at Selkirk.
- At Morris, the Red River is still half a foot higher than the 1979 peak and more than two feet higher than last year's peak. Due to the large amount of water still stored in "Lake Morris", levels of the Red River will continue to fall relatively slowly. Levels at Emerson will also fall slowly due to storage in another "lake" in the Drayton area south of the International Boundary.
- The latest projections show levels at Morris declining to the bankfull stage - a drop of 12 feet - by May 26, based on favorable weather. The level in the City of Winnipeg is likely to remain above 15 feet until the end of May. The normal summer level in downtown Winnipeg is 6.3 feet with The Forks walkways at nine feet.
- Assiniboine River levels at Baie St. Paul, mid-way between Headingley and Portage la Prairie, rose three feet in the past 24 hours. This was due to a reduction of flows in the Portage Diversion which carries water northward into Lake Manitoba. A further rise of one foot is likely at Baie St. Paul. The river level at Headingley rose one and one-half feet and will rise a further two and one-half feet in the next 24 hours.
- The Assiniboine River in the City of Winnipeg, will rise about two feet near Assiniboine Park, one and one-half feet near Arlington Street and only one foot at the Maryland Bridge. These levels are all significantly lower than peak levels experienced earlier this spring.

(more)

- Levels of the Winnipeg River crested near Pointe du Bois early Saturday (May 10) and are currently cresting in the Nutimik area. The level at Nutimik was 907.1 feet this morning, almost one foot lower than the 1992 crest. Many boathouses, docks and some parks are affected. Some cottages are surrounded by water, but the water is expected to remain below floor levels.
- Manitoba Emergency Social Services (ESS) will continue to provide temporary accommodations to evacuees registered with the Canadian Red Cross Society who have evacuee status. These temporary accommodations costs are not included in the \$100,000 maximum claim for individual home owners.
- At the discretion of the local authority, people will retain evacuee status until they can live in their own home again; or have made the decision not to repair their home; or, in the case of renters, until they have found alternative housing. Evacuees will be encouraged to complete necessary repairs to their homes as soon as feasible because time restrictions may apply.
- Inspectors from the Manitoba Emergency Management Organization's Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) section are working with local officials and individual home owners to process claims for disaster financial assistance related to the flooded properties.
- A continuing State of Emergency is not required to provide ongoing support to persons affected by flood waters. Evacuees are advised to keep in touch with their municipality regarding procedures for ESS and DFA.
- DFA inspectors will be wearing photo identification cards. Evacuees who have returned home are urged not to let anyone in their home without proper identification.
- The Consumers' Bureau of Manitoba Consumer and Corporate Affairs is coordinating a special investigation unit made up of several enforcement agencies including: the RCMP Commercial Crime Division, Winnipeg Police Services Fraud Unit and Citizenship and Immigration Canada. The unit will investigate fraudulent activities reported during the post-flood clean-up period. Contact the Consumers' Bureau at 945-3800 in Winnipeg or 1-800-782-0067 in rural Manitoba.

Media Contact: 945-0730 **Editor's Note:** There will be a provincial emergency communications person on call at 945 - 0730 until 8 p.m. tonight. They will be on a cell phone, so if you call and do not get an answer, it means they are on another call. Please call back again in a few minutes.



#52

12:30 p.m., Monday, May 12, 1997

**MEDIA UPDATE
FLOOD OF '97**

Amended Entry Routes Into The Town of Emerson

- **From the East:** Via Highway 59 south, to PR 201 west to PR 200, PR 200 south to Emerson.
- **From the West:** Via Highway 3 (to vicinity of Morden) to Highway 14 , Highway 14 east to Highway 75, Highway 75 south to Emerson. Heavy equipment will be working on Highway 75 and the access into Emerson. Some delays and detours may be required.
- **From Altona:** North on Highway 30 to PR 201, east on PR 201 to Highway 75, Highway 75 south to Emerson.
- Town of Emerson officials advise that re-entry check points will close today at 6:00 p.m. and re-open Tuesday morning at 8:00 a.m. Before returning to Emerson, residents should call the Highways Information line at (204) 945-3704 to confirm road conditions.

-30-

Media Contact: 945-0730



#51

5:30 p.m. Sunday, May 11, 1997

**MEDIA UPDATE
FLOOD OF '97**

- Residents of the Town of Emerson will begin re-entry at 8:00 a.m. Monday, May 12. Re-entry decisions concerning those residents unable to care for themselves, such as hospital or personal care home residents, will be announced later this week.
- Residents will be required to report to checkpoints on arrival in the community. Fire department personnel will be inspecting individual homes prior to re-entry by residents.
- Access to the community from the west will be via Highway 3 south to PR 336; south on PR 336 to Highway 23; east on Highway 23 to PR 332; south on 332 to Highway 14; east on Highway 14 to Highway 75, south on Highway 75 to Emerson. Heavy equipment will be working on Highway 75 and the access into Emerson. Some delays and detours may be required.
- From the east side of the Red River, Emerson residents can return home via Highway 59 south to PR 218; PR 218 southwest to PR 200 and PR 200 south to Emerson. Before returning to Emerson, residents should call the Highways Information line at (204) 945-3704 to confirm road conditions.
- Town of Emerson Media Contact: (204) 373-2005
- Highway 59 in the Grande Pointe area has reopened to light traffic only. Motorists are urged to drive cautiously and will be required to pass through police checkpoints in the area.
- Highway 75 will re-open tomorrow morning from Highway 14 south to Emerson.
- Levels of the Red River continued to decline in the last 48 hours. Levels are expected to continue falling gradually for the next few weeks due to the high volume of water remaining in the Red River Valley.

- Flows in the Portage Diversion at Portage la Prairie have been reduced to help prevent levels on Lake Manitoba from exceeding the desirable range. This means that levels on the Assiniboine River will increase five to six feet at Baie St. Paul by late today and four to five feet at Headingley by noon Monday. River property owners are advised to expect rapidly rising water levels. These levels are well below peaks recorded earlier this spring.

-30-

Media Contact: 945-0730

Editor's Note: There will be a provincial emergency communications person on call at 945-0730 until 7:00 tonight. They will be on a cell phone, so if you call and get no answer it means they are on another call. Please call back again in a few minutes.



**Manitoba
Natural Resources
Water Resources Branch**



#50

3:00 p.m., Friday, May 9, 1997

**MEDIA UPDATE
FLOOD OF '97**

- A 24-hour, toll-free line has been established for re-entry inquiries. Evacuated residents will be directed to their individual municipalities for a status update. The telephone number is 1-888-993-2525.
- In preparation for re-entry, the Town of Emerson yesterday allowed essential services personnel to return to the community. No date has been set for the return of the remainder of the residents.
- Disaster assistance claims adjusters have begun working with local officials and individual home owners to process claims for disaster financial assistance related to flooded properties.
- In the past 24 hours, Red River levels dropped from one to four inches at most points between Emerson and St. Adolphe. At Letellier, the level fell three quarters of a foot due to yesterday's wind. In the Winnipeg and Lockport areas, levels generally fell from one and a half to just over two feet. In the Fort Garry and St. Norbert areas, levels fell as much as two and a half to almost three feet. The large declines in Winnipeg are due partly to yesterday's strong northerly winds which reduced the amount of flow in the Ste. Agathe area. The operation of the Floodway gates also contributed to declining levels.
- The lower levels in the Winnipeg area will help reduce the chances of sewer backup in the event of additional rain. River levels in Winnipeg will decline much less rapidly in the next few weeks

(more)

- Levels in the Winnipeg River continue to rise slowly due to Wednesday's heavy rain. The level at Nutimik Lake this morning was 906.8 feet. A crest of 907 feet is expected at Nutimik this weekend. This level is one foot lower than that of the autumn 1992 flood. Many docks and boat houses and some parks along the Winnipeg River are being affected, but most cottages are not expected to experience flooding.

Media Contact: 945-0730

Editor's Note: The Water Resources Branch will not be preparing another flood forecast until Monday, May 12. There will be no media updates this weekend, but there will be a provincial emergency communications person on call at 945-0730 between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. on both Saturday and Sunday. They will be on a cell phone, so if you call and get no answer it means they are on another call. Please call back again in a few minutes.



Manitoba
Natural Resources
Water Resources Branch



#49

7:00 p.m., Thursday, May 8, 1997

**MEDIA UPDATE
FLOOD OF '97**

- The R.M. of Ritchot has lifted the evacuation order for residents living along PR 247 and Brady Road, south of the La Salle River and west of the Brunkild Dike. Residents are being permitted today to return to their homes. Access is through the community of La Salle.
- The R.M. is also allowing residents living north of the La Salle River on Waverley Street to return home today. Access to these properties is down Brady Road to Rue des Trappistes to Waverley.

-30-

Media Contact: 945-0730



**MEDIA UPDATE
FLOOD OF '97**

- A Manitoba Flood Relief Committee has been established to oversee financial, material and volunteer flood relief assistance to flood victims. Representatives of the Red Cross, Salvation Army, Mennonite Central Committee and Manitoba Government Services will co-ordinate the activities of the committee. Membership also includes representation from provincial and municipal governments, registered charitable/religious organizations, chartered accountants and the legal profession.
- The Manitoba Emergency Management Organization is assisting municipal authorities with re-entry procedures and efforts to restore services and recover from the effects of the flooding.
- Approximately 20,000 Manitobans remain evacuated due to the flood. Re-entry for evacuated communities and municipalities will be evaluated on an individual basis as flood waters recede. Re-entry will only be allowed once safe road access is available and essential services can be restored.
- Despite the recent rain, levels of the Red River will continue to fall. Rain is expected over the weekend. If it exceeds one inch, many smaller streams in the Red River Valley and east to the Ontario border will rise, but should remain well below the extreme levels experienced in the past few weeks.
- Red River levels declined from half a foot to one foot from Ste. Agathe to Lockport in the last 24 hours. Strong northerly winds reduced outflows from Lake Morris causing the large declines. Levels at Morris and St. Jean remain unchanged from yesterday while the level at Letellier rose half a foot due to wind action.
- Strong wave action is pounding heavily on dikes today, especially those not sheltered on the north side.
- The water level at Grande Pointe declined three quarters of a foot, partly due to the wind.

- At Selkirk the river fell about one third of a foot. The level at Breezy Point rose slightly because of the strong north winds.
- Natural Resources reports that despite declining water levels, river flows will remain high with strong currents. For instance, today's river flows at Emerson are 78,000 cubic feet per second (cfs), 6,000 cfs higher than during peak flows in 1996.
- Levels of the Winnipeg River continue to rise slowly mainly as a result of yesterday's 20-40 millimetres of rain in the Whiteshell area. The level at Nutimik Lake this morning was 906.7 feet, 1.3 feet lower than the crest in the autumn of 1992. An updated forecast based on the additional rainfall will be available tomorrow. Nutimik Lake could rise to 907 feet by Sunday.
- Cottagers along the Winnipeg River are reminded to take appropriate action to protect their docks and boathouses if possible. Boaters should stay off the river due to dangerous currents and debris.



Manitoba
Natural Resources
Water Resources Branch



#47

3:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 7, 1997

**MEDIA UPDATE
FLOOD OF '97**

- A provincial re-entry committee met with municipal authorities yesterday to discuss re-entry procedures. Re-entry for evacuated communities will only be considered once road access has been restored and essential services can be provided.
- Guidelines for evacuated Manitobans returning to their homes will be available tomorrow or Friday. The booklet, *After Flooding*, was prepared by the Manitoba Emergency Management Organization and will be distributed to individuals and municipal offices free of charge by Canada Post. The booklet contains important information for evacuees re-entering their homes. For example, water in basements should be drained slowly. The pressure outside the walls may be much greater than the pressure inside the walls. Draining the basement too quickly may cause the walls and floor to crack, or even collapse, resulting in serious damage. Homeowners should consult the *After Flooding* booklet for proper procedures.
- Inspectors with Disaster Financial Assistance are now responding to inquiries from municipalities and accepting applications for assistance. Individual property owners should direct assistance inquiries to their municipal or local government.
- A provincial co-ordination team will work with volunteer agencies to disperse financial donations to the flood effort. Municipal authorities will be consulted in all decisions.
- Levels on the Red River fell three inches between Emerson and Ste. Agathe in the past 24 hours. The river fell half a foot at St. Adolphe and three-quarters of a foot at the Floodway Inlet. Levels remained steady in the City of Winnipeg. At Selkirk, the river level fell three inches.

- more -

- Environment Canada's weather radar indicates 15 to 25 millimetres of rain may have fallen in the Red River Valley from Emerson to just south of Winnipeg. There is a chance of additional showers tonight when a cold front passes through the area. The rain will slow down the rate of decline in river levels, but is not expected to produce any rises unless many areas in the valley receive 35 mm or more.
- Strong northerly winds are expected to develop late tonight and continue on Thursday. Serious wave action is expected in open areas of the Red River flood plain.
- River levels in the Winnipeg area will begin to decline slowly in the next few days, with a drop of almost one foot expected by late Saturday.
- Levels in the Grande Pointe area fell three-quarters of a foot since yesterday, however, strong winds today are affecting declines. Once the wind dies down, levels in the area should continue to fall gradually.
- The Red River near Netley Creek has begun to fall, but could rise as much as one foot tomorrow due to anticipated strong northerly winds.
- Water has now reached all portions of the Z dike near Brunkild. Natural Resources will be contacting property owners affected by construction of the dike to see if they wish to pursue compensation or land acquisition arrangements.
- Residents in the Red River Valley who have returned to their homes are cautioned not to drive on water-topped roads. These roads are dangerous for travelling as the water may obscure areas washed away due to erosion.



Manitoba
Natural Resources
Water Resources Branch



#46

3:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 6, 1997

**MEDIA UPDATE
FLOOD OF '97**

- The R.M. of St. Andrews advises that no further volunteers are needed at Petersfield. Water levels are at their peak in the Selkirk area and near peak at Breezy Point.
- Armed Forces personnel continue to assist in dike maintenance and surveillance as well as providing security and water rescue in flooded areas.
- The R.M. of MacDonald is continuing to allow limited re-entry to parts of the evacuated area. Residents living in the area north of the Brunkild Dike and the area south of the dike west of PR 330 may now obtain an occupancy pass to return to their homes. This includes the communities of La Salle and Domain. An occupancy pass can be obtained at the Oak Bluff Community Hall until 8 p.m. tonight and between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. tomorrow. Residents are reminded that they may be required to evacuate if conditions change. The mandatory evacuation order for the area south of the Brunkild Dike and east of PR 330, including Osborne, remains in effect.
- The Manitoba Emergency Management Organization has prepared information for evacuated residents returning to their homes. The booklet covers subjects such as how to determine if your home is safe, restoring utilities, clean-up and flood proofing and how to deal with stress following a flood. The booklets will be distributed by their municipalities during re-entry.
- Manitoba Highways and Transportation along with Natural Resources are continuing to reinforce the Z dike near Brunkild. Semi-trailers are hauling gravel onto the dike for surface cover. Work to protect portions of the dike with polyethylene wrap is now complete. Approximately six miles of oil boom are being used to reduce wave action on the dike. A total of 400 pieces of construction equipment were used to build the dike which is considered an engineering feat considering the amount of time in which it was built and its high quality and effectiveness.

www.gov.mb.ca/flood



**Manitoba
Natural Resources
Water Resources Branch**



#45

10:30 a.m, Tuesday, May 6, 1997

**MEDIA UPDATE
FLOOD OF '97**

- Manitoba Environment advises that flood waters have dislodged an unknown number of hazardous material containers such as fuel storage tanks, propane tanks, compressed gas cylinders and 45 gallon drums. Anyone seeing such containers should not attempt to recover them. Report all sightings to Manitoba Environment at 945-4888 (call collect if outside Winnipeg) or your local fire department.
- Properly trained recovery teams will locate and remove the containers as soon as possible. Property owners or businesses with hazardous materials contaminated by flooding and requiring disposal should call Manitoba Environment regional offices, or 945-4888.

-30-

Media contact: 945-0730



#44

3:30 p.m., Monday, May 5, 1997

**MEDIA UPDATE
FLOOD OF '97**

- Natural Resources reminds residents in flooded areas that until there is a substantial reduction in flood waters, all permanent and temporary dikes will remain under extreme pressure and therefore, a full level of emergency preparedness will need to be maintained for the next couple of weeks.
- Red River levels will fall less rapidly in the next 24 hours and may even rise slightly due to winds shifting to southerly overnight. South winds of 30 to 40 kmph are expected for Tuesday afternoon. However, river levels are unlikely to rise above crest levels experienced in the past few days.
- Levels of the Red River from Emerson to Selkirk fell one to three inches at most points during the past 24 hours. The largest declines were at the Floodway Inlet and Grande Pointe where levels fell about half a foot due to strong northerly winds. In some areas, such as Letellier, the wind caused levels to rise slightly. The winds will create strong wave action today on the north side of dikes.
- Levels will fall slowly in the next few weeks with normal weather conditions. By May 15, levels will have declined by four feet at Emerson and Morris and two to four feet from Ste. Agathe to the Floodway Inlet. In the City of Winnipeg, Red River levels will remain steady for the next four to five days and will then fall to about 20 feet James Avenue by mid-May. Heavy rain would delay the recession of flood waters, however, little rain is expected for at least the next five days.
- Levels of the Winnipeg River continue to rise due to heavy runoff from both Manitoba and Ontario portions of the watershed. The level at Nutimik Lake this morning was 1.5 feet below the crest of the autumn 1992 flood. Levels at Nutimik Lake will likely rise a further three to four inches before the crest arrives on Wednesday or Thursday. Outflows from Lake of the Woods at Norman Dam have been decreased to reduce peak levels downstream.

- more -

- Inspectors from the Disaster Financial Assistance Program are beginning the process of inspecting accessible properties affected by the flood. Applications for assistance are available at municipal offices and residents must file claims with their local government.
- The province will meet with the City of Winnipeg this week to begin discussing the distribution of the \$25 million advanced to the province by the federal government. This follows a similar meeting held today with rural municipal officials. As a result of today's meeting, rural municipalities are now compiling estimates of damages to municipal infrastructure and will meet with the province again later this week to finalize details for advanced funding. In addition to the advancement of funds for municipal damage, local governments will also be identifying individual property owners who have the most urgent needs and will arrange for them to receive some up-front payments.
- As of Sunday, May 4, over 28,000 evacuated Manitobans were registered with the Red Cross, with over 17,000 evacuees receiving assistance through reception centres.
- The 400 residents of Dominion City have returned to their community. The 185 residents of Letellier began returning home at noon today. Re-entry of the community will continue until 8 p.m. tonight and resume at 8 a.m. on Tuesday.
- The province is finalizing a re-entry package for rural residents returning to their homes. Preliminary material from the package was used successfully in the Dominion City and Letellier re-entries.
- Manitoba Agriculture is working with municipal authorities on a plan for the return of farm stock removed from flooded areas.



#43

7:45 a.m. Monday, May 5, 1997

**MEDIA UPDATE
FLOOD OF '97**

- A third barge is helping to move sandbags to the Grande Pointe area. Military personnel and the Coast Guard are continuing with efforts to raise and maintain sandbag dikes in the area.
- A sandbag dike around a private residence on Highland Park Road in East St. Paul was partially breached at approximately 3:30 a.m. this morning. Flood waters came in underneath the dike. Emergency responders are at the scene with extra pumps to keep the water out while repairs are being made.
- Permanent and temporary dikes throughout the entire Red River Valley, including the City of Winnipeg, will remain under extreme pressure from high water levels and winds for the next couple of weeks. Flood fighting efforts will remain in full operation for at least several more weeks.
- Residents of the Town of Letellier will begin returning home at noon today. Approximately 163 people will return home through roadblocks set up on highways into the community. All services required for the community to return safely are in place. Re-entry will take place until 8:00 p.m. tonight and continue tomorrow from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

- 30 -

Media contact: 945-0730



#42

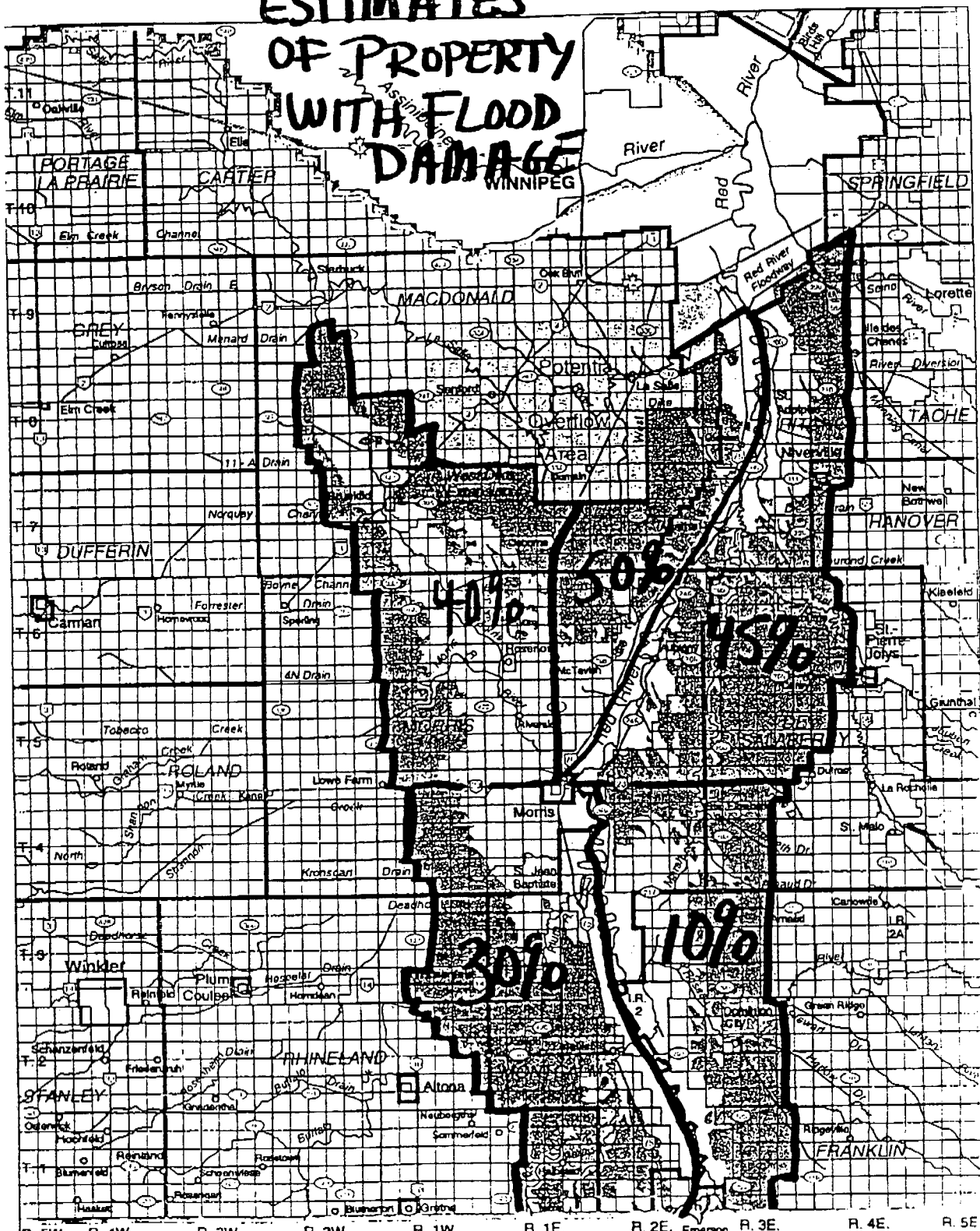
3:00 p.m., Sunday, May 4, 1997

**MEDIA UPDATE
FLOOD OF '97**

- Dike raising and maintenance continues in Grande Pointe. Military personnel are still assisting in this area and the Coast Guard has sent a second barge to help with the movement of sandbags.
- The community of Letellier has begun to prepare for re-entry of its residents. People will be able to return early this week.
- Approximately 400 residents of Dominion City began returning to their homes this morning.
- Approximately 27,400 Manitobans have been evacuated due to the flood. Of this number, the Red Cross reports 15,080 people are receiving assistance through reception centres.
- There are currently, 8,470 military personnel in Manitoba in support of provincial and municipal flood fighting efforts.
- Estimates of individual properties outside of ring diked communities that have been damaged by flood waters are as follows:
 - south of Highway 23 and east of the Red River - 10 per cent
 - south of Highway 23 and west of the Red River - 30 per cent
 - north of Highway 23 and west of Highway 330 - 40 per cent
 - north of Highway 23, east of Highway 330 and west of the Red River - 50 per cent
 - east of the Red River and north of Highway 23 - 45 per cent.
- Natural Resources reports that while the Red River appears to have crested in most areas, permanent and temporary dikes throughout the entire Red River Valley, including the City of Winnipeg, will remain under extreme pressure from high water levels and winds for the next couple of weeks. Flood fighting efforts will remain in full operation for at least several more weeks.

- Red River levels from St. Adolphe northward through Winnipeg and Selkirk remained virtually unchanged in the past 24 hours. Unless significant winds develop, the crest has now been reached along the entire Red River in Manitoba. However, if moderate southerly winds develop later this afternoon, river levels could rise up to four inches from Ste. Agathe to the Floodway Inlet by early Monday.
- Southerly winds forecasted for late Tuesday and Wednesday could also cause a rise in levels from Ste. Agathe to the Floodway Inlet. However, due to declining river flows, Tuesday's levels, even with wind, should be slightly lower than Monday's.
- The water level at Grande Pointe rose half an inch since yesterday. Winds will cause levels to fluctuate for the next five days or so, with possible rises of three to four inches above this morning's levels.
- The flow upstream of the Floodway Inlet today is 138,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) of which 65,000 cfs is being diverted through the Red River Floodway. The flow at James Avenue in downtown Winnipeg is 79,000 cfs and at Selkirk, is 150,000 cfs.
- The Portage Diversion continues to be operated effectively to reduce water levels from Winnipeg to Breezy Point. Today 10,400 cfs of the Assiniboine River is being diverted, with only 100 cfs coming down the river into the City of Winnipeg.
- Manitoba Highways and Transportation and Natural Resources, with the assistance of the military, continue to re-enforce the Z dike near Brunkild. Crews are using polyethylene to wrap vulnerable portions of the dike which will help to reduce erosion from waves. Highways and Natural Resources are patrolling the dike on a 24 hour basis and Manitoba Hydro is providing 24 hour engineering assistance. There is now water at approximately 40 per cent of the dike. Depths range from up to six feet.

ESTIMATED OF PROPERTY WITH FLOOD DAMAGE

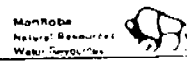


R. 5W. R. 4W. R. 3W. R. 2W. R. 1W. R. 1E. R. 2E. Emerson R. 3E. R. 4E. R. 5E
NORTH DAKOTA UNITED STATES

RED RIVER VALLEY

 PREDICTED FLOOD AREA FOR 1997
 1979 ACTUAL FLOODED AREA

April 27, 1997





**Manitoba
Natural Resources
Water Resources Branch**



#41

3:00 p.m., Saturday, May 3, 1997

**MEDIA UPDATE
FLOOD OF '97**

- The severe flooding in the Grande Pointe area is localized. Additional water from the St. Adolphe area is being channelled into Grande Pointe by road and railway embankments. The department reports that this occurrence was impossible to predict due to unprecedented water levels and flows in the area.
- The water level in the Grande Pointe area rose a quarter of a foot in the last 24 hours and has stabilized. However, with southerly winds of 20 to 30 km per hour predicted for Sunday, levels may rise a further four inches by early Monday due to increased overflows from the Red River near St. Adolphe.
- A combined effort between the Manitoba Emergency Management Organization, the Armed Forces, the Canadian Coast Guard and the municipality is ensuring that Grande Pointe homes threatened by water are getting additional sandbags.
- Coast Guard barges are being used to ferry sandbags into Grande Point from the north and south. Thousands of excess (filled and empty) bags have been supplied to the municipality by the City of Winnipeg. Sandbags are being filled at the Ile de Chenes Arena, trucked to a location near the intersection of PR 300 and PTH 59 and loaded onto the barge.
- As of 8:00 this evening, all sandbaggers should be out of the Grande Pointe area. Access will be restricted on Sunday due to predicted high winds which will increase the risk in the area.
- Residents of Dominion City will begin returning home Sunday morning. Residents will be given an occupancy pass at a road block set up at the Municipal Work Sheds on PR 201.

- more -

www.gov.mb.ca/flood

-2-

- Other ring diked communities will assess their situation in consultation with the province to determine when it will be safe for residents to begin considering a return home. Roads and basic services need to be in place to ensure the community is safe and habitable.
- Crews continue to reinforce the Z-dike near Brunkild. Polyethelene, straw and oil booms are also being used to reduce wave impact. The dike is being closely monitored 24 hours a day.
- Manitoba Natural Resources reports that maintaining the Red River at 24.5 feet in Winnipeg as per the operating rules of the Floodway, has resulted in a rise of one half foot above natural water levels immediately upstream of the Floodway Inlet.
- Levels of the Red River from St. Adolphe to the Floodway Inlet have risen an inch or two in the past 24 hours. The river is presently cresting in this area and should not rise further unless significant southerly winds develop. If winds predicted for Sunday develop, river levels from Ste. Agathe to the Floodway Inlet could rise a further three to four inches in the next 48 hours due to the wind pushing additional flows out of Lake Morris south of Ste. Agathe.
- Water levels continue to rise slowly in the Selkirk area where additional rises of three to four inches are likely by the crest on May 5. Red River levels from Ste. Agathe to Emerson declined one to three inches in the past 24 hours.
- Levels of the Red River will remain very high for the next several weeks and are unlikely to return to normal until well into June, even with favourable weather conditions.
- Levels on the Winnipeg River have risen to flood stage in areas upstream of Eleanor Lake. Levels are now within two feet of the severe flood levels observed in the autumn of 1992. Additional rises should be less than half a foot, with crests expected next week. Cottagers along the Winnipeg River are advised to take the necessary precautions and boaters should stay off the river due to strong currents and floating debris.

- 30 -

Media contact: 945-0730



Manitoba
Natural Resources
Water Resources Branch



#40

noon, May 3, 1997

WINNIPEG RIVER FLOOD ADVISORY

- Water levels along the Winnipeg River in the Whiteshell area have risen to flood stage in many areas. The river has been rising steadily in recent weeks due to the melt of a very heavy snowpack in both the Manitoba and Ontario portions of the watershed.
- Water levels on Eleanor Lake, Dorothy Lake and Nutimik Lake are expected to crest next week at levels two and a half to four feet above normal summer levels. Crest elevations will be only one and half to two feet below those of the autumn flood of 1992. Levels will remain unusually high for at least three weeks, even with favourable weather conditions.
- Cottagers in the Whiteshell area are advised to take appropriate actions, where possible, to minimize damage from high water levels and wave action.
- Boaters are urged to stay off the Winnipeg River due to strong currents and floating debris. Extreme caution is recommended.

- 30 -

Media contact: 945-0730



#39

10:30 a.m. May 3, 1997

**MEDIA UPDATE
FLOOD OF '97**

- The Canadian Coast Guard and military personnel are providing assistance to residents with sandbagging efforts in Grande Pointe today. High water levels have made the area unsafe without appropriate water safety equipment.
- The R. M. of MacDonald is allowing a limited re-entry to evacuated parts of the municipality. This applies to the area north and west of P.T.H. #3 including the communities of Brunkild and Sanford. An Occupancy Pass must be obtained at the Oak Bluff Community Hall from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. today and Sunday. The mandatory evacuation order for other parts of the municipality including the communities of La Salle and Domain remains in effect.
- The R.M. of Franklin will begin allowing residents of Dominion City back into the ring diked community beginning Sunday morning. Residents only will be granted an Occupation Pass at a road block set up at the Municipal Work Sheds on P.R. 200. Residents with any questions should contact the R.M. office.

- 30 -

Media contact: 945-0730



#38,

3:00 p.m., Friday, May 2, 1997

**MEDIA UPDATE
FLOOD OF '97**

- Flooding in the Grande Point area has worsened as water levels have risen more than half a foot since yesterday. Water is flowing overland from the Red River near St. Adolphe toward Grande Point. If Sunday's southerly winds develop as predicted, levels at Grande Point could rise a further half a foot due to increased overland flows from the St. Adolphe area.
- On behalf of the R.M. of Ritchot, Manitoba Emergency Management Organization (EMO) has requested additional military support to assist in the Grande Pointe area.
- On Monday, EMO will meet with officials from towns and municipalities affected by the flood to consult on the equitable distribution of the \$25 million in disaster assistance that was advanced by the federal government on Thursday.
- Next week, disaster financial assistance inspectors from EMO will begin flood damage inspections in municipalities outside of the Red River Valley. Inspections in the valley will not be possible until the flood waters recede.
- Red River levels are continuing to rise slowly in the area from St. Adolphe northward. In the past 24 hours, levels rose less than half a foot at St. Adolphe and just over half a foot at the Floodway Inlet. In the City of Winnipeg, levels rose several inches in Fort Garry, but remained steady in the downtown area due to declining flows on the Assiniboine River. At Lockport and Selkirk, the river rose a third of a foot. Levels remain steady at Ste. Agathe and have fallen slowly from Morris southward.
- The Red River is very near crest elevations in the Winnipeg area. However, strong southerly winds predicted for Sunday may push water northward from the Morris area and may cause further rises of four to five inches at St. Adolphe and the Floodway Inlet May 4 -5.

- more -

- From Lockport to Selkirk and Breezy Point, river levels are within half a foot of the crest which is expected within a few days. Minor additional rises may occur late next week if Sunday's strong winds develop.
- The Red River flow upstream of the Floodway Inlet was near 135,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) today. Without flood control works like the Floodway, flow in downtown Winnipeg today would be near 155,000 cfs. This makes the 1997 flood greater than that of 1861 (125,000 cfs) and much greater than those of 1950 and 1979 (108,000 cfs). The only greater floods in the last two centuries are those of 1826 (225,000 cfs) and 1852 (165,000 cfs).
- Evacuated property owners in rural Manitoba who live outside ring dike communities and want to check their homes or feed their livestock can contact Manitoba Natural Resources at 945-5444 to obtain travel passes. These passes will be required in order for residents to get past the checkpoints.

Media Contact: 945-0730

Manitoba Government NEWS RELEASE



Information Services, Room 29, Legislative Building, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0V8.
Internet at: <http://www.gov.mb.ca>

Telephone: (204) 945-3746
Fax: (204) 945-3988

May 2, 1997

RETAIL SALES TAX DEADLINES EXTENDED FOR FLOOD-AFFECTED BUSINESSES

Manitoba businesses affected by flooding will be allowed extra time to submit retail sales tax to the provincial government this month, Finance Minister Eric Stefanson announced today.

The regular due date of May 20 will be extended for businesses impacted by the flooding emergency. Consideration will also be given to other businesses in the province if their businesses have been disrupted by the flood and are unable to meet filing requirements.

"This is a time of great disruption for many Manitobans who have either been forced from their communities, or are assisting in the flood fight," said Stefanson. "Businesses have also been impacted by the flood, and we want to do our part to lessen the burden on them during this difficult time."

Manitoba Finance will monitor the situation to determine how long the deadline should be extended, Stefanson said. Notice of the extension will be included on retail sales tax returns mailed out next week. Businesses that are unable to file by May 20 are asked to include a letter with their return outlining the reasons for their delay in filing.

The provincial government will make similar allowances for payment of payroll and capital taxes by businesses affected by the flood.

- more -



XIII Pan Am Games
Winnipeg 99

"Our first priority continues to be the protection of people, their homes and their livelihoods," said Stefanson. "We want to do as much as possible to help Manitobans in their flood fighting efforts, so we can concentrate on the task at hand."

Further information may be obtained from Tax Information Services at 945-5603 or toll free at 1-800-782-0318.

Manitoba Government NEWS RELEASE



Information Services, Room 29, Legislative Building, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0V8
Internet at: <http://www.gov.mb.ca>

Telephone: (204) 945-3746
Fax: (204) 945-3988

May 2, 1997

OFFICE SPACE BEING OFFERED TO RURAL BUSINESSES AFFECTED BY FLOOD

Rural businesses displaced by flooding in the Red River Valley can now apply for temporary office space in a number of locations throughout rural Manitoba, Rural Development Minister Len Derkach announced today.

The service is being made available through a joint initiative involving the Manitoba Chamber of Commerce and Manitoba Rural Development. In addition to office space, telephone, fax, photocopier, general reception and mail drop services will be provided.

"We hope to give rural businesses the opportunity and ability to carry on some business functions including contacting their clients and developing their plans for resuming operations once flood waters have receded," said Derkach.

"Small businesses are vital to the health of our rural communities. By announcing this initiative we want to provide flooded out businesses with the interim space they need as they begin to refocus and rebuild."

"The Manitoba chamber is pleased to participate in this joint initiative which will help to alleviate the concerns of the businesses that have been affected," said Lance Norman, executive director for the Manitoba Chamber of Commerce.

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XIII Pan Am Games
Winnipeg 99



Office of the Lieutenant Governor
Room 235, Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
R3C 0V8

May 1, 1997

The following message has been received today by The Honourable W. Yvon Dumont,
Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba, from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II:

*“I have read with dismay of the extensive floods in
Manitoba. My thoughts are with everyone who has
suffered, who is helping those made homeless, or who
is battling to prevent further damage.”*

May 5, 1997

The following message was sent to Premier Gary Filmon from His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

"I was horrified to learn the news of the very serious flooding in so many parts of southern Manitoba. My heart goes out to all those who have had to leave their homes or who have lost their possessions. I also wanted you to know that the people of Manitoba are very much in my thoughts."

Charles,

The Prince of Wales



#37

11:00 a.m., Friday, May 2, 1997

**MEDIA UPDATE
FLOOD OF '97**

- Manitoba Natural Resources reports water levels in the Grande Pointe area are slightly higher than yesterday's prediction due to rising levels in the St. Adolphe area. The rises in St. Adolphe are occurring due to increasing road washouts between Ste. Agathe and St. Adolphe. The crest in the Grande Pointe area is expected May 4-5, however strong south winds forecast for May 4 will likely result in peak levels approximately 5 inches above today's level.
- The Manitoba Emergency Management Organization will begin meeting with officials from towns and rural municipalities affected by the flood early next week. The meetings will deal with the distribution of the \$25 million of disaster assistance that was advanced by the federal government on Thursday.
- Manitobans who are uncertain of telephone or door-to-door solicitations for funds to contribute to flood relief efforts should contact their municipality (for local charities only) or the Consumers Bureau at 945-3800 to ensure the charity is registered to operate in Manitoba. The Red Cross is operating the Manitoba Flood Appeal Line at 1-800-356-6336 and the Salvation Army has undertaken "Operation We Care".
- The Perimeter Highway (PTH #100) is now re-opened for traffic between the Red River bridge and Highway 75. Westbound traffic is limited to one lane. All commercial truck traffic is urged to use Highway 101 North to bypass the city.
- All boaters are reminded that the area around dikes are 'no wake' zones. Wakes caused by boaters travelling at excessive speed can weaken dikes.

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Contact (media only): 945-0730

News Release

May 1, 1997

**CANADA-MANITOBA AGREEMENT SIGNED
ON RED RIVER FLOOD DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

Manitoba will be receiving an interim advance payment of \$25 million from the federal government to help cover initial costs of one of the most severe floods in Manitoba's history as a result of an agreement between the Province of Manitoba and the Government of Canada signed today.

The Canada-Manitoba Agreement on Red River Valley Flood Disaster Assistance (1997) was signed by Manitoba Premier Gary Filmon, federal Minister of Foreign Affairs Lloyd Axworthy, federal Minister of National Defence Doug Young, Manitoba Natural Resources Minister Glen Cummings, Secretary of State responsible for Western Diversification Jon Gerrard and Manitoba Government Services Minister Franklin Pitura. The agreement is a complement to the existing Province of Manitoba Disaster Financial Assistance Policy and to Canada's Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA).

The \$25 million advance is for costs eligible for support under DFAA. Further advances will be provided as soon as possible when requested by the province.

"We will now be able to make arrangements to provide compensation advances to local governments and individuals, based on demonstrated need, to assist them in meeting the initial eligible costs associated with the flood disaster," Filmon said. "As I announced earlier, the disaster assistance claim settlement limit for individual home owners and property owners will be raised from \$30,000 to \$100,000, in line with levels established in other provinces."

- more -

Financial institutions have been co-operative in extending lines of credit to allow local governments to deal with flood fighting expenditures. The advance payments to the local governments will ease the pressure on those lines of credit.

Eligible agricultural producers will be compensated at levels similar to those provided under the Crop Insurance Program. For uninsured farmers, on a one-year-only basis, Canada and Manitoba will develop a joint proposal, to be announced soon, to cover the costs of agricultural compensation and reconstruction. The cost-sharing formula under DFAA will also apply to eligible expenditures undertaken by small business.

Canada and Manitoba will also deliver a separate program outside of the DFAA to help address the recovery of the economy in the Red River Valley.

"In addition to beginning the mammoth task of restoring the Red River Valley after the flood waters recede, we are determined to step up our defences against flooding in the future," said Axworthy. "This agreement contains a number of measures we believe will assist us in improving the protection our citizens, our farms and our businesses depend on us to provide."

Dike enhancement and other work related to the 1997 flood which remains in place will be cost-shared under the terms of the DFAA formula.

In addition, the governments of Canada and Manitoba will begin discussions to develop a joint, longer-term plan for improved permanent diking and enhanced flood protection. The province will also examine and revise land use and zoning criteria to minimize flood damage potential.

Internationally, Manitoba and Canada will work closely with the U.S. federal government and state governments to ensure continuing technical improvements and optimal co-operation among jurisdictions in flood and other emergency forecasting. These efforts will be complemented by Manitoba's advances in remote sensing and new Doppler Radar installations in Canada.

CANADA - MANITOBA AGREEMENT
ON
RED RIVER VALLEY FLOOD DISASTER ASSISTANCE (1997)

MAY 1, 1997

**CANADA - MANITOBA AGREEMENT
ON
RED RIVER VALLEY FLOOD DISASTER ASSISTANCE (1997)**

In the spring of 1997, the Red River Valley has experienced one of the most severe floods in the recorded history of the Province of Manitoba.

In the face of this natural disaster, cooperation among governments, the Canadian armed forces, public and volunteer agencies, communities and individuals has been unequalled, and a great credit to the people of Manitoba and Canada.

To extend existing cooperation and to clarify important elements of disaster assistance and support at a critical time, the Governments of Canada and Manitoba are entering into this **Canada-Manitoba Agreement on Red River Valley Flood Disaster Assistance (1997)**. This agreement is a complement to the existing Province of Manitoba Disaster Financial Assistance Policy and to Canada's Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements.

Under this agreement, the Governments of Canada and Manitoba have committed to the following specific actions, in addition to those underway and planned under existing arrangements:

- 1) **Advance Payments** - The Government of Canada will forward to the Government of Manitoba, at the earliest opportunity, an advance payment of \$25 million to help cover initial costs incurred by the Province, eligible for support under the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA). Both parties understand that one or more subsequent advance payments may be requested and agree that such advances shall reflect actual expenditures by the Province, and be supported by appropriate documentation. A special federal-provincial officials' committee will be established as soon as practicable to review updates on 1997 flood disaster costs.
- 2) **Accountable Advances to Individuals and Local Governments** - Upon receipt of the advance, the Province of Manitoba will provide compensation advances to local governments and to individuals in cases of demonstrated need to assist them in meeting initial eligible costs associated with the flood disaster. Specific information will be made available in the near future.
- 3) **Local Government Credit Guarantees** - As required, and to complement existing special arrangements with financial institutions, the Province of Manitoba will provide municipalities with credit guarantees to ensure their ability to meet local financing requirements related to the flood disaster.
- 4) **Increased Compensation for Individual Property Owners** - The limit for cost-shareable compensation to individual property owners under the provincial program of assistance will be raised to \$100,000, in line with levels established in some other provinces. The Province has decided that this compensation will be for losses of real and personal property which are eligible for cost-sharing under the DFAA.
- 5) **Flood Proofing and Enhanced Diking**

- (a) Dike enhancement and related work which has been or is being undertaken to prevent or reduce damage from the 1997 flood and which remains in place is cost-shareable under the terms of the DFAA.
- (b) Discussions will take place between Canada and Manitoba for the purpose of developing a joint, longer-term plan outside the DFAA, including financial arrangements, for improved permanent diking and enhanced flood proofing in the Red River Valley.
- (c) The province will revise land use and zoning criteria in light of recent flood experience to minimize potential flood damage in future.
- 6) **Agricultural Compensation and Reconstruction** - Eligible agricultural producers will need to be compensated for damages caused by the 1997 flood at levels generally consistent with those provided under the Crop Insurance Program. Many potential claimants are not currently insured. To ensure that key agricultural resources can be placed back into production as soon as possible, Canada and Manitoba will develop a joint proposal, to be announced in the near future, to cover the cost of agricultural compensation and reconstruction for this year. Canada and Manitoba will also undertake a joint review of the adequacy of the existing Crop Insurance system with respect to future floods.
- 7) **Red River Valley Business Restoration Program** - Canada and Manitoba will put in place as soon as possible a separate program, outside of the DFAA, to help address the recovery of the economy of the Red River Valley, including the restoration of business operations. Previous programs in Alberta and Quebec will serve as guidelines. Small business, as defined in the DFAA guidelines, will be assisted through the DFAA.
- 8) **Improved Regional Water Management Planning** - Cooperation among agencies involved in water management planning in the Red River basin is increasing on both sides of the international boundary. Joint steps will be taken to improve this cooperation still further in the wake of this year's flood experience.
- 9) **Enhanced International Technical Cooperation** - Canada and Manitoba will work closely with the U.S. federal government and state governments to ensure continuing technical improvements and optimal cooperation among jurisdictions in flood and other emergency forecasting. These efforts will be complemented by Manitoba's advances in remote sensing and data analysis and new Doppler Radar installations in Canada.

Activities under this Agreement will be initiated immediately and reviewed regularly and jointly by the Governments of Canada and Manitoba.

A federal-provincial officials' coordinating group, co-chaired by the Clerk of the Executive Council for Manitoba and the Assistant Deputy Minister of Western Economic Diversification for

Canada, will confirm departmental responsibilities for each of the undertakings under the Agreement. Wherever appropriate, existing arrangements for departmental cooperation will be maintained. The coordination committee will also monitor progress under this agreement and report directly to the undersigned, who will meet to review these reports and take such further joint action as may be required.

For Canada:

For Manitoba:

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Premier

Minister of National Defence

Minister of Government Services

Secretary of State for
Western Economic Diversification

Minister of Natural Resources

Manitoba Government NEWS RELEASE



Information Services, Room 29, Legislative Building, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0V8
Internet at: <http://www.gov.mb.ca>

Telephone: (204) 945-3746
Fax: (204) 945-3988

April 30, 1997

RURAL FORUM '97 DATES MOVED TO JUNE 5 - 7

- - -

Flood Assistance to Take Priority, says Derkach

The Flood of the Century along Manitoba's Red River has resulted in the re-scheduling of Rural Forum '97, a three-day exhibition of rural business and community success.

Originally planned for May 8 to 10, the event has been re-scheduled to June 5 to 7 at Brandon's Keystone Centre, Rural Development Minister Len Derkach announced today.

"Our current and most pressing concern is for the people of the Red River Valley and Winnipeg. Therefore, it is with the full understanding and support of our Rural Forum partners and sponsors that we have decided to postpone the event and refocus our energies to assisting with flood relief efforts," said Derkach.

"When Rural Forum '97 convenes in early June, special efforts will be focused toward fund-raising and supplying assistance for flood victims. Working through the Manitoba Flood Relief Fund which is being administered by the Red Cross, we will use Rural Forum '97 to raise money and awareness to assist Manitobans who have been adversely affected by the flood situation," the minister added.

Information sessions are also being arranged to give people the opportunity to understand the needs of flood victims and what is required in terms of assistance.



XIII Pan Am Games
Winnipeg 99

Manitobans who planned to participate in the Rural Forum will have their registrations honoured for the June dates. Efforts are also underway to inform all Manitobans of the change in dates, said Derkach.

Rural Forum, now in its fifth year, is the largest business and trade exhibition in Manitoba with more than:

- 350 exhibitors;
- 'Flavour of Rural Manitoba Food Court';
- two-day youth forum;
- seminars;
- regional exhibits;
- franchise business opportunity centre;
- reverse trade show;
- rural innovator's showcase; and
- for 1997, a new activity centre for children.

"The exceptional growth of the Rural Forum which attracted more than 10,000 people in 1996 speaks to the positive attitude and spirit of rural Manitobans and that of our many partners and sponsors who stand in support of the event," said Derkach.

"The flood presents an incredible challenge. It is the inner strength and determined spirit of all Manitobans that draws us together in this time of need. No matter where you live in our province, our hearts go out to the families and communities affected."

For more information about the Manitoba Flood Relief Fund or to make a donation, call: 1-888-662-3211.

Manitoba Government NEWS RELEASE



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April 30, 1997

DRIVER'S LICENCE, VEHICLE REGISTRATION DEADLINE EXTENSION ANNOUNCED BY FINDLAY

Move to Accommodate Evacuees, Red River Flood Workers

Manitoba motorists have been given an extension for driver's licence and vehicle registration deadlines to accommodate those who have been evacuated or are working on the Red River flood.

Highways and Transportation Minister Glen Findlay announced today that due to the exceptional circumstances surrounding the flood emergency, a revised deadline of May 23 has been set for driver's licences expiring on April 30 and vehicle registrations through Manitoba Public Insurance expiring between April 18 and May 22.

"We are granting this extension to give flood evacuees and workers ample opportunity to have their driver's licences and vehicle registrations renewed, without distracting their attention from the emergency at hand," said Findlay.

The minister added that while Manitobans not directly involved in the flood fight are still expected to renew by their regular deadlines, for the sake of simplicity and enforcement, this extension will apply to all.

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XIII Pan Am Games
Winnipeg 99

Manitoba Government NEWS RELEASE



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INFORMATION
SERVICES

April 30, 1997

FLOOD COMPENSATION LIMIT TO INCREASE

Premier Gary Filmon announced in the Manitoba legislature today that the disaster assistance claim settlement limit for individual home owners and property owners will be raised from \$30,000 to \$100,000, effective immediately.

Upper limits to individual claim amounts under federal/provincial disaster assistance guidelines were set some 20 years ago, the premier said. After a review of current guidelines in other provinces, the new limit was set to bring compensation in Manitoba to the same level as that in Quebec, Alberta and British Columbia.

"My purpose in making this announcement today is to provide assurances to the citizens of Manitoba who have been affected or will be affected by the Red River flood of 1997, that we are sensitive to their concerns and will implement those changes immediately," Filmon said. "I believe the federal government concurs with these moves and I will be seeking early confirmation from them."

Specific details of the programming will be announced at a later date.

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XIII Pan Am Games
Winnipeg 99



#35

8:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 30, 1997

**MEDIA UPDATE
FLOOD OF '97**

- Manitoba Highways and Transportation has closed the South Perimeter Highway (PTH 100) from Waverley Street to St. Mary's Road, to assist the City of Winnipeg with a water pumping operation. Large hoses will be running across that section of road. A detour will divert traffic along Waverley to Bishop Grandin to St. Mary's Road back to the south Perimeter. Commercial traffic is requested to use the North Perimeter Highway.

The detour will be in effect until further notice.

-30-

The media office will close as of 10:00 tonight and will reopen Thursday at 7:00 a.m.

Media Contact: 945-0370



Manitoba
Natural Resources
Water Resources Branch



#34

3:00 p.m, Wednesday, April 30, 1997

**MEDIA UPDATE
FLOOD OF '97**

- The mandatory evacuation of portions of the R.M. of MacDonald (including the communities of La Salle, Sanford and Domain) is complete. More than 2,200 residents have been evacuated and some remain in the municipality to assist with dike maintenance and security.
- Approximately 24,000 Manitobans have now been evacuated due to the flood. As of April 27, approximately 12,000 evacuees were registered with the Red Cross and accommodation has been provided to approximately 5,500 people.
- Natural Resources and Highways and Transportation staff continue work on the Z dike northeast of Brunkild. Construction of the dike is now complete. Work will continue to add extra height and compaction.
- If the Brunkild dike were to fail, it could cause higher levels than previously predicted on the Red River in Winnipeg. Actual flows after a breach are difficult to determine but at this point the worst case assumption would see up to 40,000 cubic feet per second flowing through the Red River in the city. With Floodway operation, water levels can be contained within the primary diking system in Winnipeg. Water levels upstream of the Floodway would be affected as far as St. Adolphe but would be lower than the community's current level of protection.
- Manitoba Natural Resources Water Resources Branch reports that in the past 24 hours, Red River levels rose a quarter of a foot at Ste. Agathe and three quarters of a foot at St. Adolphe. In the City of Winnipeg, levels rose from one foot in the downtown area to nearly two feet in the Fort Garry area. In the Selkirk area, the river rose half a foot. Levels from Morris southward remained quite steady.
- The relatively rapid rises from St. Adolphe through Winnipeg are due to a surge of water coming through Ste. Agathe from Lake Morris. Roads west of Ste. Agathe have been washed out by this water surge.

- more -

- The crest of the Red River is presently at Ste. Agathe and is expected at St. Adolphe tomorrow morning and at the Floodway Structure and the City of Winnipeg late tomorrow (May 1). The crest (peak water levels) will reach Lockport May 2; Selkirk May 3; and Breezy Point May 4. After the crest is reached at any given location, levels will remain relatively steady for the following five days or so.
- River crest elevations remain unchanged from St. Adolphe to Breezy Point.
- Serious flooding is also taking place in the downstream areas of Red River tributaries due to backup from the swollen Red River. Levels in the Grande Pointe area rose another inch overnight and will likely rise a further half foot until the crest expected late tomorrow. Severe flooding is anticipated on the lower Netley Creek in the Petersfield area within the next five to seven days due to backup from the Red River.
- Flows in the Portage Diversion have been increased in recent days to greatly reduce Assiniboine River flows. This will result in a slight decline in levels of the Red River in downtown Winnipeg starting Friday, May 2.
- The crest in downtown Winnipeg (James Avenue) is expected to be 24.5 feet late Thursday, May 1. The highest previous level recorded at this location since the Floodway went into operation 28 years ago is 19.4 feet. The 1950 crest was 30.3 feet.
- Localized flooding has occurred on the Whitemouth River in the Beausejour area. The flooding had been caused by ice jamming and the water has receded by one foot.
- Manitoba motorists who have been evacuated by or are working on the flood have been given an extension for renewing their driver's licence and vehicle registrations. May 23 is the new deadline for renewal of licences expiring April 30 and vehicle registrations expiring between April 18 and May 22.

NON-EVACUEES BY COMMUNITY

<u>RM/Town</u>	<u># of People</u>	
	<u>Apr. 28/97</u>	<u>April 29/97</u>
- Town of Emerson	30	20
- RM of Montcalm	42	33
- Town of St. Jean- Baptiste	42	42
- Town of Dominion City	55	52
- Rousea River	—	5
- RM of Morris	40	0
- Town of Morris	75	75
- Town of Rosenort	40	40
- Town of Aubigny	16	6
- RM of Ritchot*	40	6
- Town of St. Adolphe	17	17
- Town of St. Agathe	37	0
- RM of De Salaberry	30**	30
- RM of Rhineland*	25	25
- RM of MacDonald	N/A	N/A
- Town of Brunkild	N/A	N/A
- Town of Sanford	N/A	N/A
- Town of LaSalle	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>
Total # of people <u>known</u> (probably ± 5%)	489	351

* Not counted, yesterday's numbers
 ** In evacuated area along Marsh River
 N/A - Not applicable



#33

9:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 29, 1997

**MEDIA UPDATE
FLOOD OF '97**

- The R.M. of St. Andrews, located north of Winnipeg, has declared a state of emergency due to the threat of overland flooding. Residents of Netley, Wavey and Muckles Creeks, as well as residents of Breezy Point Road, north of Clandeboye Road, are affected. If an evacuation is necessary, residents of these areas will be given 24 hours notice.
- The Village of St-Pierre Jolys has rescinded its voluntary evacuation order. All residents who have voluntarily departed are asked to contact the village office at 204-433-7832 prior to returning to ensure an organized re-entry. This is particularly important for those residents who were directly affected by flooding. Preparations are underway to re-establish all services within the village.
- Municipalities and communities which have been evacuated to date include:
 - The Town of Emerson
 - The R.M. of Montcalm, including Letellier and St. Jean Baptiste
 - The R.M. of Franklin, including Dominion City
 - The R.M. of De Salaberry
 - The R.M. of Rhineland
 - The R.M. of Morris
 - Town of Morris, including Rosenort
 - The R.M. of Ritchot, including the Towns of St. Adolphe and Ste. Agathe
 - The R.M. of MacDonald (portions), including Brunkild, Sanford, La Salle and Domain.
- To date, approximately 24,000 residents of the Red River Valley including portions of the City of Winnipeg have been evacuated due to spring flooding.

-30-

Media Contact: 945-0730 (Note: The media office is closed as of 10:00 p.m. tonight and will re-open at 6:30 a.m. on Wednesday).



#32

3:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 29, 1997

**MEDIA UPDATE
FLOOD OF '97**

- Manitoba Natural Resources Water Resources Branch reports that levels of the Red River rose from less than one inch at Morris to 0.8 feet at Ste. Agathe and half a foot at St. Adolphe since yesterday. Strong north winds made it difficult to obtain accurate river readings this morning and caused unusual changes in water levels due to wind and wave action.
- There is wave action on the valley town ring dikes but no problems have occurred and none are expected. The flooding at Ste. Agathe is due to water entering the town from the west across the railway tracks. Ste. Agathe does not have a ring dike due to its relatively high elevation.
- At Emerson the Red River has fallen slightly and only small rises are expected at Letellier and St. Jean Baptiste. Predicted peak levels for the Red River have been revised downward by one foot at Morris and St. Adolphe and half a foot at Ste. Agathe.
- Crests, (peak water level dates), are difficult to define exactly because the crest will be broad with levels remaining virtually unchanged for about five days near the crest. The crest is expected at Morris May 1 - 5, at the Floodway Inlet May 2 - 7 and in Selkirk May 4 - 9. In the City of Winnipeg, the crest will likely be a little earlier, between May 1-3, due to operation of the Portage Diversion and the Red River Floodway. Virtually all Assiniboine River flows at Portage la Prairie will be diverted to keep levels in downtown Winnipeg from exceeding 24.5 feet.

- more -

- 2 -

- Most smaller streams in the Red River Valley and eastward have crested but remain very high with considerable flooding of farmland. The Seine River at Grande Point has been rising slowly in recent days due to backup from high water levels in the Red River Floodway. Levels are likely to rise a further three to four inches.
- Weather conditions look favourable for the next five days, with little rain expected and lighter winds expected.

- 30 -

Media Contact: 945-0730



#31

9:00 a.m., Tuesday, April 29, 1997

**MEDIA UPDATE
FLOOD OF '97**

- At approximately 3:00 this morning, a breach occurred in the Ste. Agathe dike. Parts of the community are covered in up to five feet of water. All 37 emergency personnel remaining in the community were safely evacuated by military personnel.
- Ste. Agathe is located 24 km south of Winnipeg on Highway 75 and has a population of approximately 475 people who were evacuated last Friday.
- Ste. Agathe is not a ring-diked community.
- The mandatory evacuation order for portions of the Rural Municipality of MacDonald remains in effect for 8:00 tonight. Approximately 3,000 people live in the potential overflow area of the Z dike, which includes the communities of La Salle, Sanford and Domain. Evacuees are urged to contact the St. Vital Arena reception centre at 945-0792 or 986-6872.

- 30 -

Media Contact: 945-0730



#30

9:00 p.m., Monday, April 28, 1997

**MEDIA UPDATE
FLOOD '97**

- A mandatory evacuation order for portions of the Rural Municipality of MacDonald remains in effect. Approximately 3,000 residents in the potential overflow area, including the communities of Sanford, La Salle and Domain, must evacuate by 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 29. Anyone requiring assistance with accommodations is advised to register at the St. Vital Arena. Those not requiring this assistance are asked to register with the Red Cross at 982-7330 in Winnipeg or toll-free at 1-888-662-3211 elsewhere in Manitoba.
- Students who have been forced to evacuate have either been relocated to other schools in the province or are working from home school plans provided by their teachers. Once families are safely relocated, parents are encouraged to call their local school divisions, if they have not already done so. Parents can call the following temporary telephone numbers to get information as to where children will be attending classes:

Boundary School Division - 425-3779/425-3535
Red River School Division - 433-7815
Morris-MacDonald School Division - 736-2625/736-4368
Seine River School Division - 422-8807
Francophone School Division - 878-9399
- School officials and parents across the province are reminded to warn children about the dangers of both running and standing water to avoid further tragedies.
- Crisis counselling is being made available by Manitoba Education and Training for children whose homes and families have been affected by flooding. Schools looking to help students and staff cope with the situation can contact their school division to access departmental assistance.

- 30 -

Media Contact: 945-0730 (Note: the media office closes at 10:00 p.m. tonight and will re-open at 7:00 a.m. Tuesday.)



#29

6:00 pm, Monday, April 28, 1997

**MEDIA UPDATE
FLOOD OF '97**

- The Rural Municipality of MacDonald, in consultation with the Manitoba Emergency Management Organization, is issuing a mandatory evacuation order for portions of the R.M. of MacDonald. Residents in this area had been on 24-hour evacuation standby. They are now being notified that they must evacuate by 8:00 pm, Tuesday, April 29th. Residents in the potential overflow area, including the communities of Sanford, La Salle and Domain are affected.
- The evacuation order is necessary to ensure residents' safety in case the new Z Dike near Brunkild fails. Flood waters are nearing the base of the dike and residents need to move from the area before there is any significant increase in water levels.
- The municipality will be providing residents with information on registering before they leave the community.

- 30 -

Media Contact: 945-0730

www.gov.mb.ca/flood



#28

3:30 p.m., Monday, April 28, 1997

**MEDIA UPDATE
FLOOD '97**

- The Manitoba Emergency Management Organization reports that the evacuation of non-essential personnel from Red River Valley communities is continuing. Within the ring dike towns, the number of people has been significantly reduced and many individual home owners outside the ring dikes have also agreed to leave.
- Monitoring of the ring dikes in all eight communities (Emerson, Letellier, St. Jean Baptiste, Morris, St. Adolphe, Rosenort, Brunkild, Dominion City) continues 24 hours a day.
- A NOTAM (Notice to Pilots) has been issued for the Red River Valley and is effective immediately. Transport Canada will be strictly enforcing all flights over the flood zone. All aircraft will require specific authorization to fly below 5,000 feet. This restriction is necessary to minimize the risk of congested airspace over the flood zone to ensure authorized personnel are not hampered in emergency and flood response duties.
- Manitoba Natural Resources Water Resources Branch reports levels of the Red River are continuing to rise, although at a slower rate due to the growing size of Lake Morris. Rises during the past 24 hours ranged from over a foot near the Floodway Inlet to a third of a foot at Ste. Agathe and less than a quarter of a foot from Morris southward. There was little change in the level at Emerson.
- Levels will continue to rise slowly until crest elevations are reached in the next ten days. There is no change in the forecasted crest stages and dates for the Red River, except at St. Jean, where the crest will be about one foot lower than earlier predicted.
- Levels of the Pembina River continue to decline.

- more -

- Levels on the Assiniboine River are also declining, except in downtown Winnipeg where levels are rising with the Red River. The level in the downtown area have increased by half a foot since yesterday and the crest is expected to be three feet above today's level. Levels of Shellmouth Reservoir are rising quite rapidly and are within three feet of the summer target level this morning. Outflows will be increased during the next few days to prevent excessive levels in the reservoir, however the increased outflows are not expected to cause any flooding downstream on the Assiniboine River. Natural Resources will be increasing the Portage Diversion flows to lessen the flows on the Assiniboine River.
- Flooding continues on many tributaries of the Red River, either due to water backup from the Red River or due to excessive flows. However, levels are declining slowly on streams not affected by the Red River. Levels are unusually high on the Seine River near Grande Pointe, where the river rose overnight due to strong winds. The winds have caused water to overtop PTH #59. When the wind changes to a westerly direction, water levels will begin to decline.

Media Contact: 945-0730



**Manitoba
Natural Resources
Water Resources Branch**



#27

10:00 a.m. April 28, 1997

- Mandatory evacuations not completed last night are continuing this morning. Strong wind conditions and the anticipated waves raise serious concerns about the integrity of sand bag dikes outside the ring dike communities. It is no longer safe for residents to stay in isolated homes.
- The Z dike construction area is now closed to all non-essential personnel. Only those people and vehicles working on the dike will be allowed in the area. In order for construction of this important protective dike to proceed safely, sightseers are being asked to stay away. Checkpoints will be set up to ensure the heavy equipment in the area has the ability to work safely and quickly.
- Work on the 25 kilometre dike will continue today. There will also be work to augment 15 kilometres of the existing west dike.
- Water levels in Emerson have stabilized, however strong southerly winds today may have an impact on water levels.

- 30 -

Media contact: 945-0730



Manitoba
Natural Resources
Water Resources Branch



#26

9:00 p.m. April 27, 1997

**MEDIA UPDATE
FLOOD OF '97**

- The Z dike construction area is now closed to all non-essential personnel. Only those people and vehicles working on the dike will be allowed in. In order for construction of this important protective dike to proceed safely, sightseers are being asked to stay away. Checkpoints will be set up to ensure the heavy equipment in the area has the ability to work safely and quickly.

- 30 -

Editor's Note: Natural Resources Officers will be manning checkpoints around the construction area. All non-essential personnel, including media, will be turned back to allow work to continue safely. Media wishing to set up or conduct interviews about the dike and its construction should contact the province's Emergency Communications Office at 945-0730.

The media office will close as of 9:00 tonight and re-open on Monday at 7:00 a.m.



Manitoba
Natural Resources
Water Resources Branch



#25

3:30 p.m., Sunday, April 27, 1997

**MEDIA UPDATE
FLOOD '97**

- Due to increasing water levels combined with forecasted strong southerly winds, the Province of Manitoba is ordering all residents in the mandatory evacuation areas who did not comply with the mandatory evacuation, to leave their homes today. Manitoba Natural Resources, the RCMP and the Department of National Defence, will be implementing this order immediately.
- This order includes the Town of Emerson, Town of Dominion City, Town of Lettelier, Town of St. Jean Baptiste, Town of Morris, Town of Ste. Agathe and the Town of St. Adolphe as well as the R.M.'s of Montcalm, Ritchot and Morris (including Rosenort) and portions of the R.M.'s of Franklin, De Salaberry, Rhineland and MacDonald (including Brunkild).
- This action is being taken because anticipated waves and strong wind conditions forecasted for Monday and Tuesday will prohibit rescue attempts if they should be required. The province also has serious concerns about the integrity of sand bag dikes outside ring dike communities if the wind reaches predicted strengths. It is no longer safe for residents to stay in isolated homes.
- Crews continue work on the Z Dike near Brunkild. In addition to the 25 kilometres of new dike, work will continue into Monday to augment 15 kilometres of the existing west dike in the Brunkild area.
- Natural Resources Water Resources Branch reports that water levels at Emerson have not changed since yesterday, however levels could rise a further half a foot or so due to wave action from strong southerly winds expected tomorrow.
- Levels on the Red River have risen from half a foot at St. Jean to nearly a foot from Ste. Agathe to the Floodway Inlet. Levels from Winnipeg northward have changed little due to declining flows on the Assiniboine River.

- more -

www.gov.mb.ca/flood

- 2 -

- Forecasted crests from Ste. Agathe through the City of Winnipeg and north to Breezy Point have been revised upward by half a foot based on recent information on flows at Emerson and on the tributaries from Emerson to Selkirk. The crest elevation at Winnipeg is now expected to be between 24 and 25 feet at James Avenue based on normal weather conditions for the next 10 days.
- Environment Canada is predicting only minor amounts of rain for southern Manitoba during the next five days. Significant rainfall may occur in the United States portion of the Red River Valley late Wednesday but it is unlikely to cause a change in Manitoba's forecast unless more than 25 mm of rain falls.
- The Pembina River crested at Windygates yesterday at the highest level observed since 1950. Extensive flooding of valley lands will gradually decline in the next 10 days or so.
- Levels of the Assiniboine River west of Winnipeg continue to fall due to decreased flows. Portage Diversion flows have been increased to further reduce levels on the Assiniboine and to reduce elevations on the Red River from Winnipeg to Selkirk. Crest elevations on the Assiniboine River in Winnipeg will range from three and one-half feet at The Forks with rises decreasing westward to the Route 90 bridge.
- Water levels on Red River tributaries and other smaller streams in southeastern Manitoba remain very high but have crested in almost all areas. Tomorrow's predicted precipitation of 5 mm will have no significant effect, but strong winds could cause briefly higher stages in some flooded areas due to wave action.

- 30 -



Manitoba
Natural Resources
Water Resources Branch



#24

12:45 p.m., April 27, 1997

**MEDIA UPDATE
FLOOD '97**

- Reports that the Red River has crested anywhere in Manitoba today are incorrect.
- It appeared that the Red River at Emerson had crested this morning. However, levels could rise a further half foot or so due to strong southerly winds expected tomorrow.
- This morning's level at Emerson is 792.43 feet.

- 30 -

Media contact: 945-0730



#23

9:45 a.m., April 27, 1997

**MEDIA UPDATE
FLOOD '97**

- Initial work on the Z Dike near Brunkild is expected to be complete Sunday night. Crews will continue reinforcing work on Monday and Tuesday as water levels allow.
- Most Red River Valley communities are now occupied only by essential personnel. The estimated number of people evacuated from this area is 17,000.
- Highway #75 from St. Norbert to Emerson remains closed to all but essential traffic.
- All evacuees must register with the Red Cross, even if they are staying with friends or family rather than in accommodations provided through social service agencies. Registration can be done in person at a reception centre or by calling the Red Cross at 982-7330 in Winnipeg or toll-free at 1-888-662-3211 elsewhere in Manitoba. Registering will make it easier for people living outside Manitoba to locate loved ones.
- Sightseers are impeding flood response efforts. People not involved in flood related work should stay out of these areas.

-30-

Media Contact: 945-0730



**Manitoba
Natural Resources
Water Resources Branch**



#22

3:00 April 26, 1997

**MEDIA UPDATE
FLOOD '97**

- The evacuation of the Red River Valley is close to complete with most communities now occupied by only essential personnel. The estimated number of people who reside in the evacuated area is 17,000.
- Residents in the northeast area of the Rural Municipality of MacDonald, including the communities of Sanford, La Salle and Domain are on evacuation standby. Residents will be given 24 hours notice to evacuate and must leave once the notice is given. The number of people affected is in excess of 2,000.
- The provincial government is requesting an additional 5,000 - 6,000 military troops and additional military equipment to assist in flood fighting efforts. The troops will be used to assist evacuated communities with security and transportation. They will also be helping with dike building and providing assistance with evacuations.
- Highway #75 from St. Norbert to Emerson is now closed to all but essential traffic.
- Work continues on the dike near Brunkild to keep water from the Red and Morris Rivers from flowing into the La Salle River Watershed.
- If the dike does not hold, it is estimated that water levels could be two to four feet higher at the junction of the La Salle and Red Rivers in the south end of St. Norbert. The Floodway will be operated to keep the remainder of the City of Winnipeg at 24.5 feet.
- Levels of the Red River from Morris to the Floodway Inlet have risen about one foot since yesterday morning. Further south, rises were smaller, ranging from two inches at Emerson to about half a foot at St. Jean. Levels in this area will continue to rise gradually to the crest expected in late April. There is no change in the forecast for the Red River except at Emerson where crest will be one foot lower than had been anticipated.

- more -

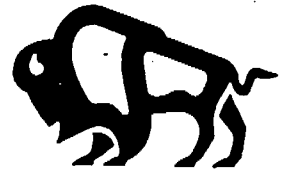
www.gov.mb.ca/flood

- 2 -

- Red River levels from Ste. Agathe northward to the Floodway Inlet will likely reach the top of the forecast range. The range may be revised upward by half a foot in this area, especially if Monday's predicted rain of 10-15 millimetres actually occurs.
- In downtown Winnipeg, levels of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers have fallen slightly since yesterday, due to reduced flows on the Assiniboine. However, levels in this area will begin gradually rising again tomorrow due to increased flows on the Red River. Water levels on the Assiniboine are expected to rise as much as three and one-half feet in The Forks area, with rises decreasing westward to the Route 90 bridge. Assiniboine River levels west of Route 90 will continue to fall significantly in the next few days.
- The Pembina River crested at La Riviere yesterday and will crest at Windygates today. Levels are about one to two feet higher than 1995 crests and somewhat higher than 1974 crests. A record-high crest is expected on the Pembina River at Neche April 28 at 25.5 feet, about half a foot higher than the first crest early this week. Significant boundary overflows are expected to cause serious agricultural flooding in the Halbstadt area of the Aux Marais River Watershed in late April and early May.
- Flooding continues on many tributaries of the Red River and in areas further east. There is serious flooding on the Seine River at Grande Pointe as well as in areas east of PTH 59. Levels should begin to fall very slowly today. Water levels in the PTH 59 and Grand Pointe areas should not exceed current levels when the Red River crest arrives in early May.
- The Brokenhead River remains very high near Beausejour, but has stabilized. The Whitemouth River crest is now in the Whitemouth area. The La Salle River is expected to crest late today or tomorrow at levels slightly higher than last year, when minor flooding occurred.
- There have been reports of children playing near flood waters, including one where two children ventured out in a rubber dinghy. Flood waters are dangerous - the water is cold, currents are extremely strong and there is debris in the water. People, particularly children, must stay away from flood waters.

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Media Contact: 945-0730



#21

12:00 noon, Saturday, April 26, 1997

**MEDIA UPDATE
FLOOD OF '97**

- Residents in the La Salle River watershed within the R.M. of MacDonald continue to be on evacuation standby. The affected area encompasses eastern sections of the municipality south of PH #2, including the communities of Sanford, La Salle and Domain.
- When evacuation of this area is necessary, municipal government officials will give residents 24 hours notice. Residents of the area must evacuate when this notice is given.
- The evacuation is required due to a concern that flood waters from the Morris and Red Rivers may enter the La Salle River watershed.
- Manitoba Natural Resources and Manitoba Highways are constructing a 24 km dike along highways northeast of Brunkild to prevent water from the swollen Morris and Red Rivers from entering the area. The evacuation will be necessary to ensure residents' safety in case the dike does not hold. Flood waters are expected to reach the dike about Monday morning. The dike is expected to be completed sometime on Sunday.
- The municipality is requesting that sightseers stay away from this area as they are impeding flood protection efforts.

-30-

Media Contact: 945-0730



#20

12:00 a.m. Saturday, April 26, 1997

**MEDIA UPDATE
FLOOD OF '97**

- Murky water in the Oak Bluff reservoir has resulted in the temporary shut down of the community's water supply. The community is being served by a temporary water supply located at the Oak Bluff Recreation Centre. Officials continue their investigation into the cause of the water condition.
- The Manitoba Emergency Management Organization reports that sightseers and other non-essential traffic is causing severe traffic congestion on PTH 59 south to Grand Pointe. RCMP and Manitoba Highways and Transportation officials are now restricting access to the area.
- As of 12:00 p.m. (noon) Saturday, April 26, the north bound lanes of Highway 75 will be closed at a point three kilometres south of the Perimeter Highway (Highway 100) at the Floodway inlet. Dike construction in the area will result in one lane of alternating traffic on a south-bound lane.
- The media office is closed and will re-open Saturday at 9:00 a.m.

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Media contact: 945-0730



#19

3:00 p.m. April 25, 1997

**MEDIA UPDATE
FLOOD OF '97**

- Residents in the La Salle River watershed within the R.M. of MacDonald are being advised today to be on 48 hour evacuation standby. This area includes from Highway #2 south to PR #305 and from Highway #332 on the west to Highway #330 on the east. The municipality is contacting all residents affected to advise them of the evacuation notice.
- The evacuation notice is a precautionary measure to ensure residents are prepared to leave if water from the Morris and Red Rivers enter the La Salle River watershed.
- Manitoba Natural Resources and Manitoba Highways are constructing a 24 km dike along highways north east of Brunkild to hold back any water that may spread out towards the La Salle River.
- Natural Resources Water Resources Branch is preparing information to determine the effect flood waters entering the La Salle may have on rivers flowing into the City of Winnipeg. Information will be released as soon as it is available.
- The Manitoba Emergency Management Organization is continuing to work with communities in the Red River Valley to evacuate anyone still remaining in flooded areas by 8 p.m. tonight.
- Natural Resources is working on the east and west riverbanks immediately downstream of the Floodway control structure to prevent erosion. The work is expected to take three to four days to complete. Over the next several days, the department will also be conducting normal maintenance on the equipment within the Floodway Control Structure.
- Red River levels outside the City of Winnipeg have risen close to a foot at most locations during the past 24 hours with some lesser rises near the United States boundary. The river is presently at its crest in Drayton, North Dakota and should crest at Emerson on Sunday or Monday. About 15 millimetres of precipitation is expected tonight and Saturday. However, the Red River forecast remains unchanged as this amount of rain was already built into the forecast. The Red River rose nearly two feet in downtown Winnipeg overnight.

- more -



**MEDIA UPDATE
FLOOD OF '97**

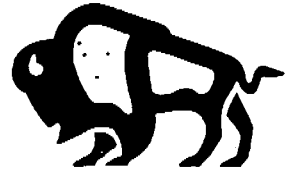
- The 10 to 15 mm of rain expected in the Red River Valley over the next few days will not change the river level forecasts. Natural Resources reports that they had already allowed for this amount of rain in their forecast, and the predicted crest levels remain the same.
- Anyone remaining in communities that are under a mandatory evacuation must leave today. The Manitoba Emergency Management Organization advised municipal and town officials last night that water levels in the area are very high - beyond 1979 levels - and it is no longer safe for people to stay. Working with local and provincial authorities, the RCMP and the military will be going door-to-door in most areas to ensure the orderly evacuation of remaining residents.
- Areas affected are the Towns of Emerson, Dominion City, Letellier, St. Jean Baptiste and Morris as well as the R.M.'s of Montcalm, Morris and portions of the R.M.'s of Franklin, De Salaberry and Rhineland.
- The mandatory evacuation of the Towns of St. Agathe and St. Adolphe is also underway today and is scheduled to be completed by 8:00 p.m.
- Only adult volunteer sandbaggers will be allowed in flood areas in the R.M. of Ritchot. Areas of the municipality are experiencing dangerous flooding conditions. Road check stops have been set up to control traffic.
- Manitoba Health's Emergency Health Branch is working with hospital officials to prepare for potential demands during the flood. Winnipeg hospitals are cancelling most elective in-patient surgery. Due to the flood threat, St. Boniface General Hospital is transferring adolescent and adult patients to the Health Sciences Centre. Beginning today, the St. Boniface General Hospital Emergency Room will accept patients, but transfer out those patients who require admission. St. Boniface will stop admissions to their Obstetrical Unit as of midnight tonight. Other hospitals will accommodate these patients. Plans are in place for Health Sciences Centre to accept intensive care patients should the need arise.

- more -

- A public information health line has been set up to answer questions related to the flood and will operate 24 hours a day. The number is 1-800-848-3035 or in Winnipeg at 945-0456.

- 30 -

Media contact only: 945-0730



#17

6:00 a.m. Friday, April 25, 1997

**MEDIA UPDATE
FLOOD OF '97**

- The Manitoba Emergency Management Organization has advised municipalities and communities in the Red River Valley that anyone remaining in areas that were to be evacuated by Wednesday or Thursday must leave today.
- Floodwaters in these areas have surpassed 1979 levels and it is no longer safe for residents to remain. Areas affected are the Towns of Emerson, Dominion City, Letellier, St. Jean Baptiste and Morris as well as the R.M.s of Montcalm, Morris and portions of the R.M.s of Franklin, De Salaberry and Rhineland.
- Working with local and provincial authorities, the RCMP and the military will be going door-to-door to ensure the orderly evacuation of remaining residents.
- The mandatory evacuation of the Towns of St. Agathe and St. Adolphe and the R.M. of Ritchot is still scheduled to be completed by 8:00 p.m. today.
- With an evacuation underway in the R.M. of Ritchot and many areas of the municipality experiencing dangerous flooding conditions, volunteer sandbaggers should no longer be entering the area. Vehicles bringing in volunteer sandbaggers today will be turned back at road check stops.

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Media contact only: 945-0730



**Manitoba
Natural Resources
Water Resources Branch**



#16

3:00 April 24, 1997

- The evacuation of Emerson and its 721 residents is complete. Approximately 80% of the residents in Letellier, St. Jean Baptiste and portions of the R.M. of Montcalm are now out. Close to 1200 residents of the Town of Morris have also moved to higher ground.
- Communities expected to complete their evacuations by 8:00 tonight are the Town and R.M. of Morris and partial evacuations of the R.M. of Rhineland.
- The reception centres have processed the following numbers of evacuees:
 - St. Vital Arena has found alternative accommodations for 595 people, registration numbers are not available
 - T.G. Smith Arena in Steinbach has registered 35 people and found alternative accommodations for 25 people
 - The Altona Civic Centre has registered 871 people and found alternative accommodations for 166
 - St. Anne has registered and accommodated 194 people
 - St. Malo has just opened to accommodate evacuees.
- Manitoba Agriculture and the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) are coordinating the relocation of livestock from farms that are now at risk from flooding.
- Canada Post is adjusting postal deliveries to accommodate the needs of evacuees.
- The Amateur Radio Emergency Service has established a network in communities within the flood area to provide backup and supplementary communication systems. This service is proving to be invaluable as normal telephone and cellular systems are regularly becoming overloaded.
- Rural Development is making arrangements to send staff from its department and other communities outside the flood zone to provide support staff to communities whose own staff are nearing exhaustion.
- Red River levels have risen from less than a foot at Emerson to 1.7 feet at the Floodway inlet in the last 24 hours.

- more -



**Manitoba
Natural Resources
Water Resources Branch**



#15

9:00 a.m. April 24, 1997

- As of 8:00 P.M. yesterday the Towns of Emerson, Dominion City, St. Jean Baptiste and the R.M. of Montcalm and portions of the R.M. of Franklin were to be evacuated.
- As of 8:00 p.m. today, the Town of Morris and R.M. of Morris and areas of the R.M.s of De Salaberry and Rhineland are to be evacuated.
- By 8:00 p.m. tomorrow, the Towns of St. Agathe and St. Adolphe and R.M. of Ritchot are to be evacuated.
- As of 8:00 p.m. yesterday the reception centres had the following registrations:
 - St. Vital Arena in Winnipeg: 281
 - Altona Civic Centre: 871
 - Steinbach: 35
 - Ste. Anne: 177 (from Roseau River)
- Evacuees who did not register with their local communities before leaving can also contact the Red Cross at 1-888-662-3211 or in Winnipeg at 982-7330. People wanting information about evacuees should also contact the above numbers.
- Ice jams have been forming along the Assiniboine River in the R.M. of St. Francois Xavier. Residents are advised to be on the lookout for ice jams on the river between the Baie St. Paul Bridge and the R.M. of Headingley.
- The Canadian Armed Forces are deploying over 800 personnel in the Red River Valley. Military personnel are involved in sandbagging and evacuation efforts and have been assigned to individual R.M.s and communities. There are 130 in the R.M. of Franklin, 65 are in the R.M. of Montcalm, 100 in the R.M. of Rhineland, 55 in Morris, 284 in the R.M. of Macdonald and 110 in the R.M. of Ritchot. A further 200 military personnel from Petawawa and Valcartier will arrive this morning. A 250-person combat regiment from Edmonton will arrive tomorrow.
- Headingley Correctional Institution now has a sandbagging machine. Approximately 200 inmates will be working in shifts, 24 hours a day filling sandbags. The institution is producing sandbags for use in the R.M.s of St. Clements and West St. Paul.

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Media contact: 945-0730



#14

3:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 23, 1997

**MEDIA UPDATE
FLOOD OF '97**

In the last 24 hours levels of the Red River rose one and one-half to two feet from Emerson to Morris and three to four and one-half feet from Ste. Agathe to the Floodway Inlet. The large rises in the northerly portion of the Red River are due to heavy runoff from tributaries in the past few days. The rate of rise of the river will gradually decrease over the next five days and the river will begin to broaden into a lake.

Predicted crests remain unchanged, but it appears likely that levels will be near the top of the forecast range, especially from Ste. Agathe to Winnipeg.

The river level in downtown Winnipeg this morning was 19.1 feet and is expected to rise slowly to a crest of 24.5 feet on May 5.

North of Selkirk, river ice moved out yesterday and the danger of ice jamming has passed. Peak stages in the Breezy Point area will now occur about May 7. The crest for this area are currently under review and will be available later today. Crests are likely to be a slightly lower than last year.

Some flooding has developed from Baie St. Paul to Headingley where river ice has been stubborn to move. Crests are likely today or tomorrow.

Flooding continues on many tributaries of the Red River, in most cases due to backwater from ice clogged channels. Serious flooding occurred on the Brokenhead River near Beausejour last night. Levels have declined somewhat this morning due to ice moving, but flooding of low lying areas continues. Many smaller streams have had some decline in levels due to ice moving out, but flooding may redevelop during the next few days as river flows increase.

Portions of Red River tributaries will undergo severe flooding in the next two weeks as they will be enveloped by the lake forming along the Red River.

The weather outlook remains good, with little precipitation expected for the next seven days.

- more -

www.gov.mb.ca/flood

Residents evacuating from the Red River Valley should contact their local rural municipality or town office for information on the evacuation process. There are three reception areas presently operating to accept those evacuees in need of accommodation. They are:

- St. Vital Arena in Winnipeg, 945-0792
- Altona Civic Centre, 324-6468 (media 324-6469)
- T.G. Smith Arena in Steinbach, 346-1441

The following is a listing of the communities identified by local authorities for the reception and hosting of evacuees:

- Emerson to Altona
- R.M. of Montcalm to Steinbach and Winnipeg
- R.M. of Franklin to Winnipeg
- R.M. of Morris to Winnipeg and Steinbach
- The Town of Morris to Winnipeg
- R.M. of De Salaberry to St. Malo
- St. Agathe, St. Adolphe, portions of the R.M. of Ritchot, portions of the R.M. of MacDonald to Winnipeg
- St. Pierre-Jolys to Winnipeg and Steinbach
- Halbstadt and portions of the R.M. of Rhineland to Altona

Evacuees who did not register in their local communities before leaving should contact the Red Cross at 1-888-662-3211 or in Winnipeg at 982-7330. People wanting information about evacuees should also contact the above numbers.

Manitoba Agriculture extended the hours of operation for its offices in areas affected by the flood. Effective today offices in Morris, St. Pierre, Starbuck, Altona and Vita will remain open seven days per week from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. until the flooding danger has passed. Calls after these hours will be handled by an answering service which will be checked regularly by staff.

Staff in agricultural offices are assisting the R.M.s involved in evacuation and relocation of livestock. To date nearly 200 dairy cows, almost 1,000 beef cattle, over 17,000 hogs and over 140,000 poultry have been moved or are in the process of moving from the R.M.s of Morris and Montcalm.

Manitoba Agriculture offices are registering facilities available to accept livestock that may have to be moved. Staff are available to facilitate requests or assistance related to agriculture flood issues.

Media Contact: 945-0730 (Please do not give this number out to the public)



#13

Noon April 23, 1997

**MEDIA UPDATE
FLOOD OF '97**

- Manitoba Natural Resources and Highways today will begin construction of a dike northeast of Brunkild. The purpose of the dike is to prevent waters from the Morris River and the flooded Red River Valley from spilling northward into the La Salle River. The dike will be constructed along portions of Highways 3, 305, 334 and several municipal roads tying into the Red River Floodway west dike, to the southeast of Sanford. The departments are confident that this dike will be constructed in time to protect the communities of Sanford and La Salle from serious flooding.
- Forecasted peak levels for rivers and streams in the Red River Valley have not changed, except that the peak levels are expected to occur two to three days later than earlier predicted. However, the quick melt over the last few days has resulted in a rapid rise on many watersheds. The rapid rise means communities in the Valley will now become isolated sooner than expected.
- Manitoba Emergency Management Organization, in consultation with Valley communities has recommended the following staged mandatory evacuation schedule affecting approximately 17,000 people:
 - Wednesday, April 23 (by 8:00 p.m.) - The Towns of Emerson, Dominion City, Letellier, St. Jean Baptiste and the Rural Municipalities of Montcalm and portions of the R.M. of Franklin.
 - Thursday, April 24 (by 8:00 p.m.) - The Town of Morris and the Rural Municipality of Morris and partial evacuations of the Rural Municipalities of De Salaberry and Rhineland.
 - Friday, April 25 (by 8:00 p.m.) - The Towns of St. Agathe and St. Adolphe and the Rural Municipality of Ritchot.
- Residents evacuating from the Red River Valley should contact their local rural municipality or town office for information on the evacuation process. There are three reception areas presently operating to accept those evacuees in need of accomodation. They are:

- St. Vital Arena in Winnipeg, 945-0792
 - Altona Civic Centre, 324-6468 (media 324-6468)
 - T.G. Smith Arena in Steinbach, 346-1441
- The following is a listing of the communities identified by local authorities for the reception and hosting of evacuees:
 - Emerson to Altona
 - R.M. of Montcalm to Steinbach and Winnipeg
 - R.M. of Franklin to Winnipeg
 - The R.M. of Morris to Winnipeg and Steinbach
 - The Town of Morris to Winnipeg
 - The R.M. De Salaberry to St. Malo
 - St. Agathe, St. Adolphe, portions of the R.M. of Ritchot, portions of the R.M. of MacDonald to Winnipeg
 - St. Pierre-Jolys to Winnipeg and Steinbach
 - Halstad and portions of the R.M. of Rhineland to Altona
 - Evacuees who did not register in their local communities before leaving should contact the Red Cross at 1-888-662-3211 or in Winnipeg at 982-7330. People wanting information about evacuees should also contact the above numbers.
 - The Town of Morris has issued a mandatory state of evacuation in keeping with the request from the province to begin evacuating the Red River Valley. All residents, except for essential personnel, should be out of the town by Thursday, April 24, 1997, 8:00 p.m.
 - The R.M. of Franklin has declared a state of local emergency. Areas identified by the province as being in the critical area will be part of the mandatory evacuation order. The R.M. is also putting other residents on a state of alert. Residents affected by the mandatory evacuation order must leave by Wednesday, April 23, 1997, 8:00 p.m.
 - The Village of St. Pierre-Jolys has declared a state of local emergency and asked residents to evacuate. Residents are asked to register at the St. Pierre-Jolys District Fire hall on Prefontaine Avenue or call 433-3100 before they leave.



12

6:00 a.m., Wednesday, April 23/97

**MEDIA UPDATE
FLOOD OF '97**

- Forecasted peak levels for rivers and streams in the Red River Valley have not changed. However, the quick melt over the past few days has resulted in a rapid rise on many watersheds.
- This rapid increase in water levels means that communities in the Red River Valley will now become isolated sooner than expected. To ensure residents can evacuate safely before roads are closed, the Manitoba Emergency Management Organization is now recommending the following mandatory evacuation schedule:
 - Wednesday, April 23 (by 8:00 p.m.) - The Towns of Emerson, Dominion City, Letellier, St. Jean Baptiste and the Rural Municipality of Montcalm and portions of the Rural Municipalities of Franklin and Rhineland.
 - Thursday, April 24 (by 8:00 p.m.) - The Town of Morris and the Rural Municipality of Morris and portions of the Rural Municipality of De Salaberry.
 - Friday, April 25 (by 8:00 p.m.) - The Towns of St. Agathe and St. Adolphe and portions of the Rural Municipality of Ritchot.
- Manitoba EMO is in close contact with all the affected local governments and has consulted with them on the evacuation schedule. Many of these communities have already started voluntary evacuations. Emerson and Dominion City are nearly finished their evacuations and the Town of Morris and the Rural Municipality of Morris were set to begin evacuating today.
- Residents in these areas are asked to contact their Town or Municipal office to find out where to register before leaving the community. Emergency Social Services will be working with receiving communities to arrange accommodation for anyone who does not have a place to stay.

- more -

- Once the evacuation schedule is complete, the total number of evacuees is estimated to be around 17,000. Firmer numbers will be available after the community registrations have taken place.
- The Manitoba Emergency Management Organization advises evacuees to take the following precautions:
 - Turn basement furnaces off and shut off outside gas valves.
 - Shut off electrical power if advised by your municipality. If the area surrounding the switch is wet, call Manitoba Hydro.
 - Store drinking water in case tap water supply becomes contaminated. Use a clean container that has been rinsed with a small amount of bleach.
 - Disconnect eavestroughs that drain into the sewer.
 - Remove all chemicals from the basement and move personal belongings to upper floors.
- Evacuees are also reminded to take the following items with them:
 - flashlight
 - battery-powered radio
 - waterproof outerwear and footwear
 - extra clothing
 - blankets and pillows
 - essential medicines and toiletries
 - emergency supplies
 - personal documents and family identification.



11

4:00 p.m, April 22/97

**MEDIA UPDATE
FLOOD OF '97**

- Franklin Pitura, Minister Responsible for the Emergency Management Organization, has declared a State of Emergency for the area of Manitoba south of the 51st parallel. This does not take any authority away from municipal governments but does give the provincial government the ability to take actions which may be required to fight the flood emergency. The province will continue to work with local authorities and will share all information and resources required to fight the flood.
- Levels on the Red River rose between four and five feet from Morris to the Floodway structure during the past 24 hours, mainly due to heavy inflows from tributaries in this area. At Emerson the river level rose two feet. River ice is still in place downstream of Morris but the ice is expected to begin moving later today. This will cause a rise at the Floodway Inlet from 760 feet to 762.5 feet tomorrow morning.
- The Red River Floodway was put into operation at approximately 10:00 p.m last night. As of this morning, the Red River above the inlet control structure was flowing at 59,000 cubic feet per second (cfs). Approximately 16,000 cfs was diverted into the Floodway. Actions are being taken to minimize the risk of ice jamming upstream of the Floodway structure and in the Floodway channel.
- The predicted peak stages along the Red River remain unchanged from the forecast issued Sunday, April 20. Property owners along the river between Winnipeg and Selkirk are being advised that last Sunday's forecast revision will mean that levels will be higher than earlier predicted. Residents should contact the Selkirk Flood Liaison Office at (204) 785-5015. North of Selkirk, ice jamming may develop within the next few days. If severe ice jamming occurs, residents should expect rapidly rising levels, similar to 1996 crests.
- On the lower Assiniboine River, the crest is now in the Baie St. Paul area and will reach Headingley tomorrow. Peak levels will be half a foot higher than last year unless the ice begins to move. Some flooding of low-lying areas may occur.

- Levels of the Pembina River continue to rise quite rapidly in the Swan Lake area. Rock Lake crested yesterday at a level 0.3 feet higher than in 1995. Flooding is expected to develop in the La Riviere area when the crest arrives this weekend.
- Serious flooding continues on many tributaries of the Red River, especially on the east side where many streams are close to 1974 crest elevations. Only 1950 had greater crests on some streams. Levels are expected to crest in the next few days. Some areas have already crested due to ice and snow blockages and levels have begun to fall.
- On the Brokenhead River, levels have now exceeded 1996 crests near Beausejour. No significant further rises are expected. Levels are also high on the Whitemouth River with localized flooding.
- Western tributaries of the Red River are also flooding in some areas. Crests have occurred in the Rosenfeld and Carman areas, but have not yet occurred on the Morris River and the La Salle River where 1996 crest elevations are expected.
- There has been little change on the Souris River and the Assiniboine River upstream of Brandon where some flooding of valley lands is underway. Little further rises are expected in these areas. Shellmouth Reservoir has already risen five feet and should reach the summer target level by the end of April.
- The R.M. of Morris (the area surrounding the town of Morris) began a voluntary evacuation today. Residents of the R.M. are asked to contact 746-6437 for information or to leave a contact number where they can be reached.
- Highway #75 is open to local traffic only from south of St. Norbert to the U.S. border. To enter Morris from the north, drivers must detour east on Highway 205, south on Highway 200 and turn west onto Highway 23.
- Total number of residents in communities that are in the process of evacuating today: 3,200. (This includes Emerson, Dominion City and the R.M. of Morris.)
- Anyone inquiring about a friend or relative who has been evacuated from Emerson, Dominion City, the R.M. of Morris or the Town of Morris is asked to contact the province's Citizens' Inquiry Service at 945-3744 in Winnipeg or toll-free at 1-800-282-8060 from outside Winnipeg.
- Manitobans are urged to stay away from flood waters. People can be swept off their feet by only 15 cm of moving water and even shallow standing water can be dangerous for small children.



10

noon, April 22/97

**MEDIA UPDATE
FLOOD OF '97**

- The Town of Morris is beginning a voluntary evacuation April 23 at 8:00 a.m. to coincide with the evacuation of the Morris Hospital and the Red River Valley Lodge. Before leaving, all residents should register at the town office where additional information will be provided.
- The R.M. of Morris (the area surrounding Morris) is beginning a voluntary evacuation today. Residents of the R.M. are asked to contact 746-6437 for information or to leave a contact number where they can be reached.
- Highway #75 is open to local traffic only from south of St. Norbert to the U.S. border. To enter Morris from the north, drivers must detour east on Highway 205, south on Highway 200 and turn west onto Highway 23.
- Ice jams on the Red River at the south St. Mary's Road bridge required two dynamite blasts after midnight last night. While the blasting was not successful in breaking up the ice, the ice moved out on its own around 6:30 a.m.
- Natural Resources is working on bringing 1.5 million additional sandbags into the province.
- Total number of residents in communities that are in the process of evacuating today: 3,200.

-30-

Media contact: 945-0730



#9

10:00 p.m. Monday, April 21, 1997

**MEDIA UPDATE
FLOOD OF '97**

- The floodway began operating this evening shortly before 10:00 p.m. due to rising levels on the Red River within the City of Winnipeg.
- A voluntary evacuation has been called by the R.M. of Morris (this only includes outlying areas of the municipality and not the Town of Morris) beginning Tuesday, April 22. No receiving community has been established because this is a voluntary evacuation. Anyone leaving home to stay with family or friends is asked to call 746-6437 for information or to leave a telephone number where they can be reached.
- To assist with flood-fighting efforts, Highway 75 has been closed to all vehicles except local traffic from south of St. Norbert to the U.S. border. There is also a detour north of Morris on Highway 75. To enter Morris from the north, drivers must detour east on Highway 205, south on Highway 200 and turn west onto Highway 23.
- Total number of residents in communities evacuating to date is 1,150.

-30-

Media contact: 945-0730

- The media office will close at 11:00 p.m. and will re-open Tuesday at 8:00 a.m.



#8

4:00 p.m., Monday, April 21/97

**MEDIA UPDATE
FLOOD OF '97**

- Manitoba Emergency Management Organization (EMO) reports that States of Emergency have been declared in the R.M.s of Franklin, Morris, Tache and Montcalm, as well as the communities of Dominion City, Ste. Anne and Emerson.
- St. Pierre-Jolys has evacuated 83 people due to overflows from the Joubert Creek. Thirty-three patients were evacuated from the hospital to St. Malo and Steinbach. Fifty residents have moved to other areas within the community.
- Dominion City will begin a voluntary evacuation of 400 people on Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. due to the potential isolation of the community. Most have found accommodations with family and friends. Approximately 20-30 people will be brought to Winnipeg to stay in hotels.
- Emerson is in the process of evacuating the community due to isolation from flood waters. The residents are being registered at the Altona Civic Centre. Many are expected to find alternate accommodations with family and friends.
- EMO advises residents who are leaving their homes due to flood evacuations to take the following precautions:
 - Turn basement furnaces off and shut off outside gas valves.
 - If your municipal administration advises, shut off the electrical power. If the area surrounding the switch is wet, contact Manitoba Hydro.
 - Store drinking water in case tap water supply becomes contaminated.
 - Use a clean container that has been rinsed with a small amount of bleach.
 - Disconnect eavestroughs that drain into the sewer.
 - Remove all chemicals from the basement and move personal belongings to upper floors.

(more)

- If you are evacuated, remember to take a flashlight, battery-powered radio, waterproof outerwear and footwear, extra clothing, essential medicines and toiletries, emergency supplies, personal documents and family identification.
- Levels of the Red River have risen two to three and one half feet during the 24 hour period ending this morning. The rapid rises are partly due to heavy runoff from Manitoba tributaries, many of which are now flooding over their banks.
- The Red River is cresting in Grand Forks today at a stage of 54 feet. Forecast crest stages for the Red River in Manitoba are unchanged from yesterday's update.
- The crest is expected at Emerson late this week and in the Winnipeg area May 2.
- It is anticipated that the Red River Floodway will be operated later today or tomorrow when river ice between St. Adolphe and the Floodway structure should start moving.
- Flooding has developed on many tributaries of the Red River during the past few days. The most serious flooding so far is on the Seine and Rat Rivers and Joubert and Tourond Creek. Levels on these streams are expected to crest from now through Wednesday. Levels at St. Pierre have been affected by ice jams and could rise slightly higher if the ice does not move soon.
- On the Seine River, levels are above flood stage from Ste. Anne to PTH #59. Further rises of about a foot are likely in this area. In the Grande Point area levels will continue to rise to about two feet higher than last year's crests and will remain high until the crest on the Red River passes in early May.
- Flooding has also developed on the Roseau River from Stuartburn to near Green Ridge.
- The Plum River is near its crest, but the Morris River and the La Salle River will likely crest last this week with peak levels similar to those of last year when some flooding occurred.

(more)

- The crest on the Pembina River is presently at Rock Lake and is expected to reach La Riviere about April 28. Levels in this area will be similar to those of 1995. At Neche, an early crest is occurring today due to heavy runoff in the North Dakota portion of the Pembina River. Overflows are occurring across the International Boundary into the Aux Marais River system, where some flooding may develop.
- On the lower Assiniboine River, bankful flows are expected from Baie St. Paul to Headingley in the next few days, but the Portage Diversion continues to greatly reduce river crests in this area.
- A number of highways are closing because of flood waters. Anyone travelling on highways in southern Manitoba should check with Manitoba Highways and Transportation public information line at 945-3704. Motorists should note that conditions can change quickly. Sightseers are discouraged from travelling as traffic jams are hampering the efforts to sandbag and prepare for flood waters.

Media Contact: 945-0730 (This line is for media only. Please do not refer the public to this number.)



Update #7

Noon, Monday, April 21/97

**MEDIA UPDATE
FLOOD OF '97**

- **Dominion City has begun a voluntary evacuation of approximately 400 people due to potential isolation of the community from flood waters. Residents are registering in the community. Most people have arranged alternate accommodations with family and friends. Approximately 20-30 people will be brought to Winnipeg to stay in hotel accommodations.**
- **St. Pierre-Jolys is in the process of sand bagging to handle the water from overflowing ditches. There is no evacuation or state of emergency. There is some water on community streets. Thirty-three patients were evacuated from the hospital in St. Pierre- Jolys and moved to St. Malo and Steinbach. The community has received the assistance of numerous volunteers who have been pitching in with the sand bagging efforts.**
- **A number of highways are closing because of flood waters. Anyone travelling on highways in southern Manitoba should check with Manitoba Highways and Transportation public information line at 945-3704. Motorists should note that conditions can change quickly. Sightseers are discouraged from travelling as traffic jams are hampering the efforts to sandbag and prepare for flood waters.**

-30-

Media Contact: 945-0730 (this line is for media only, please do not refer the public to this number)



**Manitoba
Natural Resources
Water Resources Branch**



#6

9:00 p.m. Sunday, April 20, 1997

**MEDIA UPDATE
FLOOD OF '97**

- Approximately 50 people were evacuated in St. Pierre Jolys earlier today when water overflowed drainage ditches. The evacuees have been safely relocated within the community and the problem is now being rectified. The hospital and other critical services are not affected.
- A State of Emergency has been declared by the Town of Emerson. Residents will be given their notice to evacuate Monday morning and the evacuation will be completed by Wednesday. Evacuees are to register at a reception centre to be established at the Altona Civic Centre. Emerson is not expected to be flooded but residents are being moved because the community will be isolated when access roads are flooded. A portion of the Emerson ring dike is being raised by two feet.
- The 20 residents of the Emerson personal care home are being moved Monday morning to hospitals in Morden and Winkler.
- A State of Emergency has also been declared by the R.M.s of Morris, Tache and Franklin. While there is no immediate danger, the declarations will give the municipalities the ability to quickly respond to potential flooding emergencies.
- Sandbagging volunteers are urgently required near Dominion City where the Rat River has risen. Hundreds of volunteers have been working in the community for four days and are exhausted. People who can help should call the R.M. of Franklin municipal office at 427-2557.
- One hundred Armed Forces personnel will start sandbagging operations Monday morning in the R.M. of Ritchot. The R.M. of Franklin has also requested military assistance.
- Sightseers must stay away from areas where sandbagging is taking place. They are creating traffic problems in many areas and are hampering the work of emergency responders.
- The media office will close at 11:00 p.m. and will re-open Monday at 8:00 a.m.

-30-

Media contact: 945-0730



#5

4:00 p.m., Sunday, April 20, 1997

**MEDIA UPDATE
FLOOD OF '97**

- Manitoba Natural Resources Water Resources Branch has updated their flood forecast for the Red and Pembina Rivers and the lower Assiniboine River, based on observed river conditions and revised forecasts from the United States' National Weather Service.
- The branch reports that information received this morning indicates the peak discharge at Pembina and Drayton, North Dakota will be significantly higher than earlier predicted. The new forecast for Pembina is based on observations at Grand Forks and updated predictions for tributaries entering the Red River between Grand Forks and Pembina.
- As a result of this information, the branch has updated the forecast for the Red River in Manitoba to crests from one-half to one and one-half feet higher than levels predicted on Friday, April 18. Crest elevations are expected to be four and one-half to six feet higher at most locations than 1996 levels even with favourable weather conditions. At St. Adolphe and the Floodway Inlet, crests are expected to be five and one-half to six feet higher than 1996.
- If significant rain develops the forecast will be updated as required.
- Natural Resources will be raising the dikes in the ring-diked communities to provide protection at these new levels.
- Natural Resources also reports the Floodway will likely go into operation April 21 or 22. An announcement will be made prior to the Floodway operation.
- In the Selkirk-Breezy Point area, predicted crests levels on the Red River are unchanged as the crest are based on ice jams rather than peak river flow.

- On the Assiniboine River, a high crest moved through the Portage la Prairie area last night due to ice jamming. Most of the water was diverted through the Portage Diversion causing a spillover into a low-lying area over the west dike. This low area, known as the failsafe, allows excess water to flow into the Delta Marsh area. It was necessary to pass a relatively high flow down the river, which will result in a rapid rise in levels from Baie St. Paul to Headingley tonight and tomorrow. Crests in this area will be similar to those of 1995, when flooding occurred.
- On the Pembina River, levels are rising rapidly and indications are that crests from Rock Lake to La Riviere and Windygates will be as high as those experienced in 1995, when considerable flooding occurred.
- Emergency Social Services and Emergency Health are working with flood-threatened communities and municipalities to make emergency plans for possible removal of elderly or medically dependent residents.
- Manitoba Highways reports a number of Manitoba highways have been partially or completely closed and where possible, detours are in effect. Motorists should call highway flood information at 945-3704 for 24-hour information on road conditions.
- Canadian Armed Forces have responded to Friday's call for sandbagging assistance and are reporting to the R.M. of Ritchot. The Manitoba Emergency Management Organization will be coordinating the activities of the Armed Forces and will be providing assistance to other municipalities as required.



#4

2:00 p.m., Sunday, April 20, 1997

**MEDIA UPDATE
FLOOD OF '97**

- Volunteer sandbaggers are required today in the R.M. of Springfield. Volunteers should call 444-2241 or meet at the Public Works Building in Oakbank.
- Volunteers are still required in the following areas:

R.M. of Ritchot - 883-2432/2293
R.M. of Morris - 746-2420
R.M. of Montcalm - 758-3824
R.M. of Franklin - 427-2557

-30-

Contact: 945-0730



**Manitoba
Natural Resources
Water Resources Branch**



#3

4:00 p.m., Saturday, April 19, 1997

**MEDIA UPDATE
FLOOD OF '97**

- Volunteer sandbaggers are required in some Manitoba municipalities. For volunteer information, contact the following telephone numbers:

R.M. of Ritchot - 883-2432/2293
R.M. of Morris - 746-2420
R.M. of Montcalm - 758-3824
R.M. of Franklin - 427-2557
- The media office is now closing for the day. It will re-open tomorrow morning at 10:00 a.m.

-30-

Contact: 945-0730 (media only, after 10:00 a.m.)



**Manitoba
Natural Resources
Water Resources Branch**



#3

4:00 p.m., Saturday, April 19, 1997

**MEDIA UPDATE
FLOOD OF '97**

- Volunteer sandbaggers are required in some Manitoba municipalities. For volunteer information, contact the following telephone numbers:

R.M. of Ritchot - 883-2432/2293
R.M. of Morris - 746-2420
R.M. of Montcalm - 758-3824
R.M. of Franklin - 427-2557
- The media office is now closing for the day. It will re-open tomorrow morning at 10:00 a.m.

-30-

Contact: 945-0730 (media only, after 10:00 a.m.)



**Manitoba
Natural Resources
Water Resources Branch**



#2

Noon, Saturday, April 19, 1997

**MEDIA UPDATE
FLOOD OF '97**

- Armed Forces personnel will begin sandbagging operations Monday in the Rural Municipality of Ritchot south of Winnipeg, **not** in Richer, Manitoba.
- The R.M. of Ritchot *urgently* requires volunteers to assist with sandbagging operations. Anyone interested in helping out is asked to report to the St. Adolphe Hotel, where a bus will pick up volunteers and take them to sandbagging areas.

-30-

Contact: 945-0730 (media only)



**Manitoba
Natural Resources
Water Resources Branch**



#1

7:00 p.m., Friday, April 18, 1997

**MEDIA UPDATE
FLOOD OF '97**

- The provincial government has established a media contact phone number for information on spring flooding in Manitoba.
- The number is 945-0730. This number is for media use only. Please do not provide it to the public.
- The line will open Saturday morning at 10:00 a.m. Further information on hours of operation will be provided on Saturday.

-30-



Information Services, Room 29, Legislative Building, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0V8
Internet at: <http://www.gov.mb.ca>

Telephone: (204) 945-3746
Fax: (204) 945-3988

April 18, 1997

RED RIVER FLOOD UPDATE

Manitoba Natural Resources Minister Glen Cummings said the department's Water Resources Branch has reviewed the extreme water levels on the Red River in the Grand Forks area and revised the flood forecast for the Red River Valley in Manitoba.

The branch reports that even with favourable weather conditions, levels on the Red River in Manitoba will be at least one foot higher than recent predictions for normal weather conditions. This will result in crest levels between two and three feet higher than 1979 levels and three to four feet higher than 1996 peaks.

Weather conditions look favourable for the next seven days or so with little precipitation expected. However, if an inch or more of rain falls around April 25, peak levels on the Red River could rise one foot higher again, reaching levels predicted under the 10 per cent adverse weather scenario of three and one-half to five and one-half feet higher than 1979 levels.

Ring-diked communities in the Red River Valley have been active this week raising their dikes up to two feet to prevent against wave action. With this new forecast, homes located outside the ring dike communities should contact their municipality or the Niverville Flood Liaison office at 204-388-6480 to determine the level to which their property dikes will need to be raised.

. . . 2

Government Services Minister Franklin Pitura, minister responsible for the Manitoba Emergency Management Organization (EMO) said EMO has officially requested the Canadian Armed Forces to aid sandbagging efforts in flood prone municipalities similar to the assistance that was provided last year.

Water levels will be carefully monitored in the next few weeks and updates will now be issued on a daily basis.

Media Contact: 945-0730

TABLE ATTACHED.

Red River Forecast Update

Predicted Peak Levels in feet
April 18, 1997

	April 18 level	Normal Weather	Adverse Weather *	1996 Peak Level
Emerson	778.32	793.0	793.5	789.60
Letellier	776.15	787.0	788.0	784.54
St. Jean	769.29	784.0	785.0	781.26
Morris	764.49	783.0	784.0	779.55
St. Agathe	756.58	775.5	776.5	771.92
St. Adolphe	751.72	771.0	772.7	767.35
Above Floodway Inlet	748.19	768.3	769.5	764.59
Below Floodway Inlet		755.9	757.9	753.51
Winnipeg (James Avenue)	13.2	20.4	24.3	19.35
Selkirk PTH #4	718.50	725.0	727.5	727.50
Breezy Point	716.73	724.0	726.5	726.50

* Adverse weather assumes one inch of rain late next week.



**Manitoba
Natural Resources
Water Resources Branch**



April 17, 1997

Editor's Note: Manitoba Environment requests your assistance in providing this information to the public in the Red River Valley.

**DANGEROUS GOODS
FLOOD INFORMATION**

- All small container chemical storage should be moved from flood prone areas. This includes paints, pesticides, gasoline and diesel fuels, solvents, chemical cleaners, explosives, etc.
- Tankers, delivery vehicles, applicator units, anhydrous ammonia nurse tanks, and all other mobile equipment used for chemical or hazardous waste transportation should be removed from flood prone areas.
- Large anhydrous ammonia bulk storage tanks not removed from flood prone areas should be secured against flooding and tethered to a permanent fixed object to prevent them from floating away.
- Large bulk granular fertilizer and large above ground fuel and liquid fertilizer storage facilities should be diked to prevent flooding. If possible, remove granular fertilizer product from flood prone areas.
- Fill pipe caps for underground petroleum storage tanks should be secured to prevent water from entering the tank.

(more)

- For large propane storage tanks involved in a flood situation:
 - a) shut off the propane supply at the tank; and
 - b) tether the propane tank to a permanent fixed object with a ½ inch rope cable or chain.

If you are unable to complete item a) or b), contact your propane supplier immediately.

- After flooding, contact your propane supplier prior to turning on the propane supply and relighting your propane appliances. A qualified gasfitter must check all appliances before relighting.

These measures will help to protect the public, the environment and emergency workers during this year's flood season.

Manitoba Government NEWS RELEASE



Information Services, Room 29, Legislative Building, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0V8
Internet at: <http://www.gov.mb.ca>

Telephone: (204) 945-3746
Fax: (204) 945-3988

April 3, 1997

FLOOD LIAISON OFFICES OPEN IN FOUR LOCATIONS

Manitoba Natural Resources has established four flood liaison offices to provide residents and municipalities throughout the province with information on local spring flood conditions.

"The liaison offices are located in Melita, Niverville, Russell and Selkirk," said Natural Resources Minister Glen Cummings. "The offices are staffed with liaison officers who will be available to answer specific questions from residents regarding flood conditions and how forecasted water levels may affect their properties."

Cummings said the offices will have up-to-date information through daily contact with the department's River Forecast Centre and with flood control engineers in the regions.

"The offices were very effective last spring in passing on timely information to local residents, communities and municipalities," said the minister. "The direct communication at the local level is important in keeping everyone informed about the latest conditions."

Residents who wish to volunteer their services for flood fighting efforts are asked to call their local municipal office.

- 30 -

Contact: Larry Whitney, (204) 945-6395

LIST OF CONTACT NAMES, TELEPHONE NUMBERS AND ADDRESSES ATTACHED.



XIII Pan Am Games
Winnipeg 99

FLOOD LIAISON OFFICES

- **Niverville** (204) 388-6480

166 Main Street
Box 6
Niverville, MB
R0E 1A0

Contacts: Ron Bryer, Dave Walker, Pat Karras-Spadgelo

- **Russell** (204) 773-3830

110 Assiniboine Ave.
Box 160
Russell, MB
R0J 1W0

Contacts: Jim McConkey, Dan Sie

- **Melita** (204) 522-3256

139 Main St.
Box 519
Melita, MB
R0M 1L0

Contact: Dennis Ludwig

- **Selkirk** (204) 785-5015/5016

201-446 Main St.
Selkirk, MB
R1A 1V7

Contacts: Duff Kelly, Patrick Hewitt

Manitoba Government NEWS RELEASE



Information Services, Room 29, Legislative Building, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0V8
Internet at: <http://www.gov.mb.ca>

Telephone: (204) 945-3746
Fax: (204) 945-3988

March 21, 1997

FLOOD POTENTIAL FOR RED RIVER VALLEY AREA REMAINS HIGH

Spring Weather to Play Critical Role Throughout Southern Manitoba: Cummings

The spring flood potential for the Red River Valley still remains very high with flooding expected to be one half to one and one half feet higher than 1996 levels, even with normal spring weather, Manitoba Natural Resources Minister Glen Cummings announced today.

Cummings said updated reports from the department's Water Resources Branch indicate that a rapid melt or heavy spring rain could result in levels three to five feet higher than 1996 between Emerson and the Floodway Inlet at Winnipeg.

"Spring weather conditions will play a critical role in determining the extent and severity of flooding," said Cummings. "Precipitation for the month of March has been below average in Manitoba. However, it has been above average in the United States portion of the Red River watershed."

The minister said ring dikes around towns in the Red River Valley will likely withstand floodwaters, even under an adverse weather scenario. However, for some of the valley towns such as St. Adolphe, St. Jean, Letellier and Emerson the dikes may be raised by as much as two feet to protect against wave action. A decision on whether the dikes will be raised will be made during the first week in April.

"If the decision is to proceed, it's anticipated that the work on the dikes will take seven to 10 days," said Cummings. "We will take all of the necessary steps to protect the communities in the valley from flood waters."



- 2 -

FLOOD POTENTIAL FOR RED RIVER

On the Red River from Selkirk to Lake Winnipeg, peak levels should be three to four feet below those of last year unless serious ice jams develop.

Significant flooding is expected in southeastern Manitoba, including streams such as the Brokenhead River, Whitemouth River and the Whiteshell River. The Winnipeg River in the Nutimik area is likely to rise well above last autumn's level. However, with normal weather, it should remain two feet lower than the 1992 autumn flood level.

Lakes in the Whiteshell will rise to the unusually high levels experienced last spring, even with normal weather. Record high levels could occur on some lakes with adverse spring weather. On controlled lakes, the department has reduced levels this winter as much as possible in anticipation of a heavy run-off. Cottagers in the Whiteshell are asked to take appropriate precautions to prevent or reduce flood damage.

On the Assiniboine River, flooding of valley lands from St. Lazare to Brandon is anticipated to be similar to that of last year. Flooding is not anticipated from Shellmouth to Millwood under normal weather, as outflows from the Shellmouth Reservoir will be kept to a minimum until local run-off has crested.

On the Souris River, flooding of valley lands will likely be similar to that of last year.

Cummings said the department will make parking lots in Birds Hill and St. Malo Provincial Parks available to residents of the Red River Valley for storage of motor vehicles, recreation vehicles and trailers during the flood period.

To make arrangements for parking, Red River Valley residents may call the Natural Resources offices in Birds Hill Park at (204)222-9151; Morris at (204)746-6567 or the Niverville Flood Liaison Office at (204)383-6480. Offices are open Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

- 30 -

Contact: Larry Whitney, (204)945-6395

MANITOBA NATURAL RESOURCES
Water Resources Branch

FLOOD PROSPECTS FOR MANITOBA - SPRING OF 1997
Prepared March 20, 1997

INTRODUCTION

The spring flood potential is primarily a function of the following factors:

1. Soil Moisture Levels and Depth of Frost
2. Snow Accumulations
3. Rapidity of Snowmelt
4. Amount and Timing of Spring Rain

The thickness of river ice is also important for certain stream locations where ice jamming often contributes to spring peak stages. Ice thicknesses are significantly less this year than in 1996. Snow clogged conditions on drains, ditches and small streams may contribute to localized flooding. Many small waterways are heavily snow clogged this year due to heavy blowing snow.

The date of breakup can also be very important. A late melt (mid April or later) allows time for additional snow and increases the likelihood of a rapid melt and heavy spring rain. The widespread heavy snowcover this year favours a late breakup since the snowpack is likely to survive early mild spells. However, runoff could still begin at its usual time in early April if very mild weather develops during the last week of March.

RECENT WEATHER CONDITIONS

Since the previous flood outlook prepared in late February, precipitation has been well below average in most areas of Manitoba and Saskatchewan. However, the United States portion of the Red River Watershed received above average snowfall due to several March storms. Temperatures have remained generally below freezing until recently resulting in minimal losses from the snowpack.

While precipitation has recently been light on the Canadian side this does not necessarily mean that predicted peak stages have decreased on all streams. In some areas, additional information on watershed conditions has resulted in a higher forecast despite little additional snow.

RED RIVER

Snowcover ranges from well above normal in the Manitoba portion to at least three times the normal in the headwaters south of Fargo. The water content of snow ranges from 4 to 5 inches in Manitoba to a record high of 7 to 9 inches south of

Fargo. The snowpack in the Manitoba portion is less than that of some other flood years such as 1979.

Soil moisture is above average throughout the basin. However, subsoil moisture appears to be somewhat lower than that of the past two years. Frost depths generally range from less than a foot to two feet.

The spring flood potential of the Red River continues to be very high. With normal weather conditions from now on, peak levels from Emerson to the Floodway Inlet are likely to be similar to those of 1979. Within the City of Winnipeg levels will be similar to those of last year. From Selkirk to Lake Winnipeg, levels should be three to four feet lower than last year, as the severe ice jams of 1996 are unlikely to be repeated due to thinner ice. However, the severity of ice jamming is difficult to predict and therefore a repeat of last year's extreme levels cannot be ruled out.

Under an adverse weather scenario (one in ten chance), flood levels from Emerson to Selkirk could surpass all previous floods this century. Levels could be two to four feet higher than those of 1979, depending on location along the river. Ring dykes around valley towns from Emerson to St. Adolphe would still be adequate to protect against this adverse weather scenario. In the Breezy Point area, there is a one in ten chance of levels coming within 1.5 feet of last year's record levels, even without ice jamming.

In the City of Winnipeg, there is a one in ten chance that levels, in the downtown area could reach 22.3 feet due to adverse weather. The highest level recorded since the Floodway was first used 28 years ago is 19.4 feet (1974 and 1996). The primary dykes within the City can withstand a water level of 26.5 feet, but significant flooding of unprotected areas begins at about 18.0 feet.

Flood levels on the Red River from Emerson to Winnipeg could still be lower than those of last year if snowmelt is gradual and there is little additional precipitation.

ASSINIBOINE RIVER

Snowcover is generally above average but significantly lower than for some past floods. Snowcover is greatest in the Saskatchewan portions of the Qu'Appelle River and upper Assiniboine River where it is close to twice the normal in some areas.

Soil moisture ranges from near normal to above normal. Frost depths range from one to two feet.

Flooding of the Assiniboine River Valley from St. Lazare to Brandon is expected with normal weather conditions. Peak stages are likely to be similar to those of 1996. Flooding is not anticipated from Shellmouth to Millwood under normal weather,

as outflows from Shellmouth Reservoir will be kept to a minimum until local runoff has crested. The reservoir is being drawn down to a level similar to last year to maximize flood storage. Spillway flows are unlikely unless very unfavourable weather conditions develop. From Spruce Woods through to Winnipeg, peak stages should be somewhat lower than those of last year with minimal flooding.

An adverse weather scenario (one in ten chance) would result in flooding of valley lands from Millwood to Portage la Prairie but peak stages would still be below those of 1995. Bankfull conditions would occur from Portage to Winnipeg, similar to those of 1996.

SOURIS RIVER

Snowcover is above average in Manitoba and North Dakota and up to twice the average in Saskatchewan portions of the watershed.

Soil moisture ranges from near normal to somewhat above average. Frost depths range from one to two feet.

With normal weather conditions, flood crests from Coulter to Wawanesa are likely to be slightly below those of 1996. Extensive flooding of valley lands from the U.S. Boundary to Hartney is expected. Flooding of low-lying lands could occur until early June due to the high runoff potential in Saskatchewan.

An adverse weather scenario (one in ten chance) would produce levels somewhat higher than those of the past few years but still much below those of 1976.

WINNIPEG RIVER

Snowcover and soil moisture are well above average in the Manitoba portion as well as in the western half of the Ontario portion of the watershed. The headwater areas of Ontario appear to have a relatively lower runoff potential, although still above average.

Flows on the Winnipeg River this winter have been among the very highest on record, reflecting abundant rain late last autumn and heavy snow early this winter. The spring flood potential is unusually high. However, past records show that the Winnipeg River seldom floods from snowmelt alone. The amount of spring rain will be a deciding factor as to whether serious flooding develops on the Winnipeg River. Median spring weather would not likely produce serious flooding along the river in Manitoba. Upper decile spring weather (one in ten chance) could produce a 1974 type of spring flood with peak stages just slightly lower than those of the great autumn flood of 1992.

RED RIVER TRIBUTARIES

Snowcover is twice the normal in most areas. On western tributaries snowcover is similar to last year but on eastern tributaries it is greater than last year. Top soil moisture is above average and subsoil moisture is slightly above average. The probability of spring flooding is high. With median weather conditions, peak stages on most western tributaries are likely to be quite similar to those of last year. Some eastern tributaries such as the Rat River, Seine River and Cook's Creek will likely have stages higher than last year.

An adverse weather scenario (one in ten chance) would result in peak stages similar to the record highs of 1974 and 1979 on many tributaries.

Predicted peak flows for Red River tributaries are shown on the attachment "Detailed Spring Flood Outlook for Smaller Watersheds". Predicted peak stages for some of these tributaries are available from the Water Resources Branch and the Natural Resources regional offices.

SOUTHEASTERN MANITOBA

Snowcover and soil moisture are both very high in the Brokenhead River, Whitemouth River, and in the Whiteshell Region. With median weather conditions significant flooding, worse than in recent years, may be expected on some streams. An adverse weather scenario (one in ten chance) would result in peak stages similar to those of 1974 and 1979, when record levels occurred in this region. The attachment on smaller watersheds provides more detail.

INTERLAKE AREA

Snowcover ranges from near normal on Lake Manitoba to above normal near Lake Winnipeg. Soil moisture is near normal in the southern portion and somewhat above normal in northern (Ashern, Fisher Branch, Gypsumville) areas.

With normal weather, flooding is not expected on the Icelandic River or the Fisher River, but minor flooding could occur on Netley Creek.

Much above average flows are likely on the Waterhen River, Fairford River and the Dauphin River this spring. Flooding of low-lying areas along these streams is likely. However, villages and roads along the Dauphin River are unlikely to be flooded unless an adverse weather scenario unfolds. An effort will be made to avoid ice jamming by monitoring ice conditions and avoiding flow increases at Fairford Dam until the ice is weak. An adverse weather scenario (one in ten chance) could result in flows and levels approaching those of 1974 and 1979.

DAUPHIN - WESTLAKE AREA

Snowcover and soil moisture are both close to normal. Flooding is unlikely unless unfavourable weather conditions, such as additional heavy snow, a very rapid melt and/or heavy spring rain develop. Localized flooding may occur due to snow clogged channels.

SWAN RIVER - THE PAS

Soil moisture and snowcover are above average in the Saskatchewan portions of the Swan River and Carrot River watersheds, but are near normal in the Manitoba portions. Below bankfull flows are likely in the Swan River area under normal weather conditions. Flooding would develop under an adverse weather scenario.

Flooding of low-lying areas of the Carrot River and the Pasquia River may again occur as it did last year, unless ice on the Saskatchewan River at The Pas moves early. On the Saskatchewan River, in the vicinity of The Pas, no difficulties are expected, unless ice jams develop.

LAKE LEVELS

Most lakes in southern Manitoba will rise considerably this spring due to above average runoff. The extent of rise will depend on precipitation amounts from April through to May or June.

Lake Winnipeg will likely reach the top of its operating range, 715.0 feet under normal weather conditions. The level could be a half foot or so lower or higher if the weather is favourable or unfavourable. Manitoba Hydro will initiate maximum outflows if necessary to try to keep the lake from exceeding a level of 715.0 feet.

Lake Manitoba is expected to rise to near the top of its desirable range, 812.9 feet, with normal weather. There is a one in ten chance that it could rise to 813.2 feet, as it has the last two years, due to unfavourable weather.

The level of Lake St. Martin is likely to crest at 802.3 feet under normal weather, which is about a foot higher than last year. There is a one in ten chance it could rise to 803.0 feet as it did in 1974.

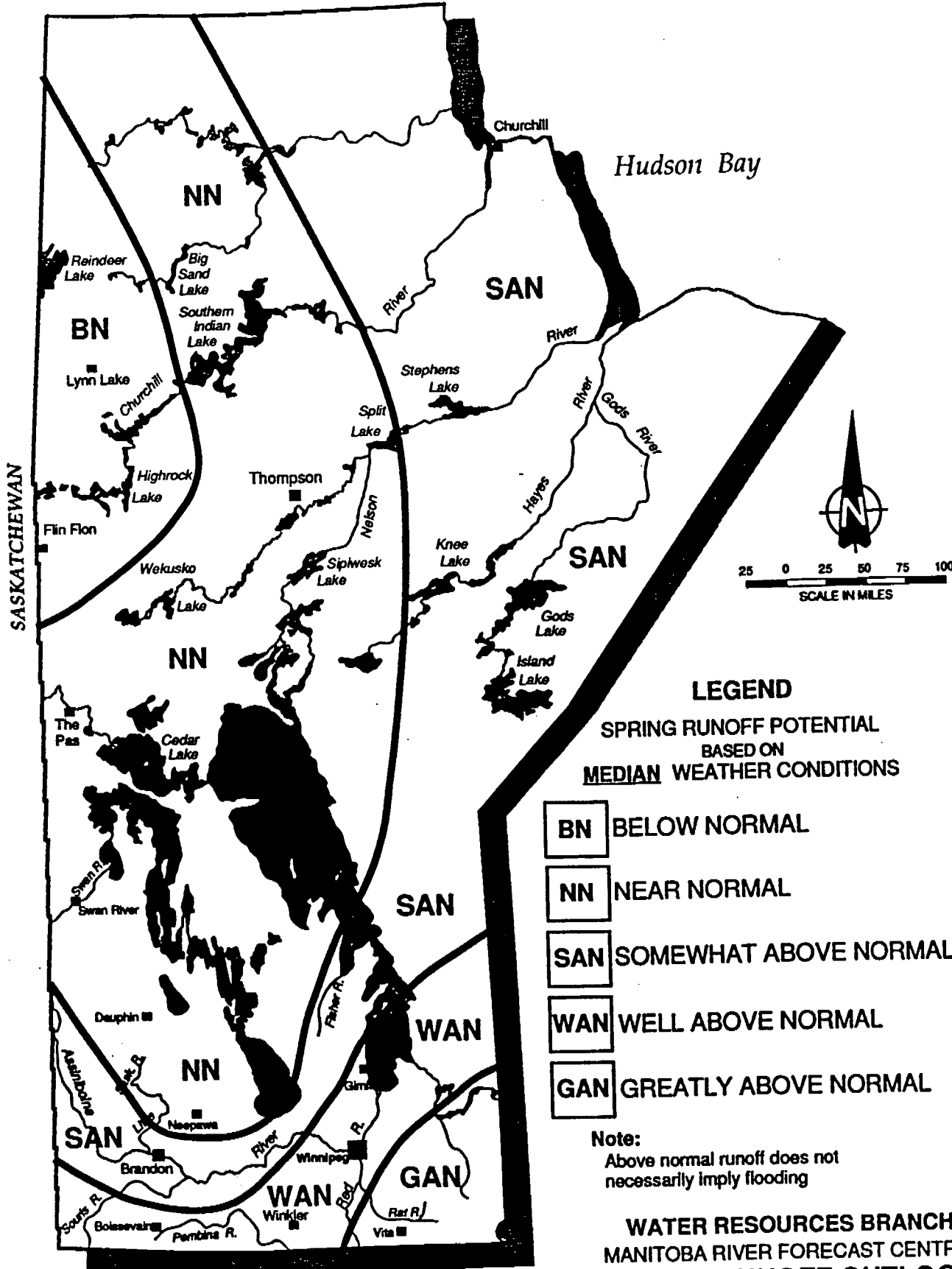
The level of Lake Winnipegosis is likely to reach 832.8 feet, slightly above last year's peak level. Under adverse spring weather, the lake could rise close to 833.2 feet, the highest level since the mid 1950's.

High levels are also likely on Lake of the Woods this spring. A level of 1060.5 feet is likely with normal weather. Adverse weather (one in ten chance) could result in levels similar to those of September, 1992.

Levels on Dauphin Lake this spring should be similar to those of last spring with normal weather and few problems are anticipated.

Levels on Oak Lake and Pelican Lake will be similar to those of last spring, while Rock Lake levels may be slightly lower than in 1996.

Lake levels in Manitoba's Whiteshell area will be unusually high this spring. Even with normal weather conditions, peak levels are likely to be as high as those of last year. Levels of lakes along the Winnipeg River will likely be about a foot higher than last year. An adverse weather scenario (one in ten chance) could result in record high levels on most lakes in the Whiteshell area. Manitoba Natural Resources has been actively drawing down controlled lakes this winter to reduce spring levels.



LEGEND
 SPRING RUNOFF POTENTIAL
 BASED ON
 MEDIAN WEATHER CONDITIONS

- BN** BELOW NORMAL
- NN** NEAR NORMAL
- SAN** SOMEWHAT ABOVE NORMAL
- WAN** WELL ABOVE NORMAL
- GAN** GREATLY ABOVE NORMAL

Note:
 Above normal runoff does not necessarily imply flooding

WATER RESOURCES BRANCH
MANITOBA RIVER FORECAST CENTRE
SPRING RUNOFF OUTLOOK
 FORECAST DATE: MAR 20, 1997
 PREPARED BY A.A.W.