



# 18 months in Manitoba emergency management

.....  
A review of events from March  
2005 to November 2006

Chuck Sanderson, Executive Director  
Manitoba Emergency Measures  
Organization





## **A busy year and a half**

### ***Across the country ...***

- Policy and consensus building
- Security and counterterrorism activities
- Development of a national system

### ***Around the world ...***

- Major natural disasters
- Continuing security threats
- The need to develop coordinated systems

## Federal/Provincial/territorial Action Plan on Emergency Management – March 2005

- Joint plan agreed to at Ministers meeting in January 2005
- Addresses priorities established by the Council of the Federation
- Working Groups formed in March, significant progress on DFA, public alerting, national coordination



## Spring Flooding – April 2005

- Started with flooding on Gopher Creek in Virden – sandbagging, flooding of farm lands, no evacuations.
- More serious flooding developed due to run-off on south side of Riding Mountain.
- Major emergency operations in Strathclair, Park, Minto, Rossburn



# Spring Flooding – April 2005

- Initial flooding was far less severe than expected – only significant evacuations in Western Manitoba were at Dakota Tipi First Nation
- Major flooding along Red River and in Eastern Manitoba did not develop as expected thanks to favourable weather and good planning

## Flood fears on the rise

Another major blizzard could cause disaster similar to 1997

By Mia Rabson

THE risk of flooding from the Red River this spring is already high, and one more major blizzard could cause a flood of close to 1997 proportions, Manitoba's water experts warned yesterday.

All Warkentin, the senior river forecaster for Manitoba, said if Mother Nature is kind to us in the next several weeks, "we could still get away with out any serious flooding." But if we get another big dump of snow, everything would have to be re-evaluated.

"If we have a blizzard 10 days from now, then all bets are off," said Warkentin. "That's the kind of thing that would upset the apple cart."

Warkentin said right now, the risk of having a repeat of the 1997 flood which caused more than \$450 million in damage is about three per cent. But higher than normal snowfall between now and spring melt could generate a flood just two or three feet shy of 1997, when the river topped out at 752.1 feet above sea level in downtown Winnipeg. A flood of that level would cause extensive agricultural flooding between Emerson and Winnipeg. The water levels hit 792.5 feet in Emerson in 1997.

If the weather is favourable, meaning barely any more snowfall, the Red River could escape flooding almost completely. Levels on the river will be lower than last year if we don't get much more snow.

With average weather conditions, though, the rest of the winter flood risk is likely to be a little higher than last year in 2001. That year, there was no major agricultural flooding between south of Winnipeg near the U.S. border and the Goodway inlet. The Red River topped out at 746.1 feet in downtown Winnipeg, and 742.8 feet in Letellier.

Warkentin said spring melt rates, river ice breaking, and spring rainfalls will be watched carefully because they are all contributing factors.

The flood risk this year is higher because the ground was saturated when it froze. As a result, when the snow melts, very little of the water will be absorbed into the ground.

The spring runoff potential in southeastern Manitoba, including Winnipeg

and most of the Red River Valley, is currently estimated to be 200 to 300 per cent above normal. If south-central Manitoba and the U.S. border, reports are estimated to be between 150 and 200 per cent of normal.

Warkentin said the one piece of good news at the moment is that both have less snow on the ground than 75 per cent of normal. In 1997, snow fell through out the entire Red River basin, with more than 200 per cent of normal.

Steve Joppert, executive director of the provincial Water Storage and Ship Branch, said Manitoba has spent more than \$150 million since 1997 raising river dikes and building new ones, and raising the west dike, also known as the Z dike or the Brinkhoff dike.

There are now 20 communities along the Red River with ring dikes, compared to eight in 1997, and 43 of them are now capable of withstanding a 1997 flood plus two more feet.

Communities such as Grande Prairie, which had extensive flood damage in 1997, are now protected.

If we had a 1997 flood again, it would not have nearly the same impact," Joppert said.

Joppert said if flooding is extensive, evacuations will likely be necessary in most of those towns with ring dikes. Evacuation orders will be cut off, but infrastructure and property damage will be minimal.

The province has also improved its emergency preparedness for major floods, with better technical and assessment capabilities. A much improved flood forecast model has been created that can now predict water levels between Lake Traverse in south Dakota and Lake Winnipeg.

Improvements have also been made within Winnipeg to the Red River floodways, and there is improved protection for homes along King Street in east and Kingston town.

Dan Morcsko, spokesman for Environment Canada, said the biggest snowfalls typically come in late November, early December and March. But he noted that so far in January there has been twice the normal amount of snow. Since Jan. 1, 10 centimetres has fallen, compared to a normal of 10 to 20 cm.

[mia.rabson@freepress.mb.ca](mailto:mia.rabson@freepress.mb.ca)

*"If we have a blizzard 10 days from now, then all bets are off"*

— Steve Joppert, Executive Director of the provincial Water Storage and Ship Branch

## 911 Legislation - May 2005

- *The Emergency 911 Public Safety Answering Point Act* and regulation proclaimed
- Governs conditions and requirements for 911 call answering services
- Introduces new penalties for deliberate misuse of 911



# Flooding continues - May 2005

- Wet ground conditions leads to slow drying, agricultural lands inaccessible in many areas
- Flash flood warning issued for Interlake due to threat created by high soil moisture
- Evacuation of approximately 13 homes in RM of Rockwood due to flooding

## Slightly soggy, but happy, campers

Storms can't dampen long weekend spirits

By David Kushnau

YESTERDAY'S nasty weather didn't discourage Sherril Webster and her family who, like thousands of other hardy Manitobans, were determined to make the best of the May long weekend.

Webster, along with her husband, two young sons and three dogs, set up camp at Birds Hill Park on Friday. And even though the rain came down in buckets yesterday, going home was never an option, she said.

"It never crossed our minds." That's not to say it wasn't a trying day. After spending a glorious Friday night by the fire, the Websters and other

campers were hit with about 30 millilitres of rain yesterday. "It's a test and a learning experience," said Webster whose family was able to string up a couple of tarps and get a fire going.

Some sunshine did peek through the clouds late yesterday, but the weather is expected to turn ugly again today. Last night, a large area of rain at the Manitoba-Saskatchewan border was working its way eastward, said Jaeson Underwood, a meteorologist with Environment Canada.

It was expected to bring about 10 millimetres of rain, along with high winds, to Winnipeg and surrounding areas.

The precipitation is expected to tail off later in the day, but it's not going to be shorts-wearing weather.

Continued  
Please see RAIN A2



Trevor Webster points out leak to (from left) Sherril, Nicholas and Keaton.

## Rain

Continued from page A1

Temperatures are expected to hover around 15 C, about five degrees below normal for this time of year.

But that forecast didn't bother Jaeson Sarasin Penner, who was also camping at Birds Hill Park with her husband and two young children. Camping at this time of year is a tradition for her family, rain or no rain.

"It's the May long weekend — you have to do it," she said. "We won't pack it in. We are suckers for Guinness!"

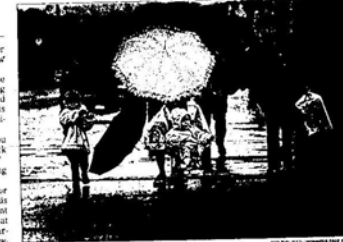
The family spent yesterday playing board games and cards in a camper.

Jim Giesbrecht, a spokesman for Manitoba Conservation, said the Birds Hill campground was about 90 per cent full, and almost every spot was taken at Stephenfield Provincial Park, near Karman, Grand Beach Provincial Park, however was only about half full. Giesbrecht said that site's popularity tends to be more weather-dependent.

As of early yesterday evening there was little rowdiness to report, said Giesbrecht.

He said the cool, wet weather and a ban on hiking at provincial campgrounds, which is in effect for the entire May long weekend, helped keep things in check.

Environment Canada says northern and central Manitoba will get more rainfall than southern parts of the province. For example, up to 30 mm could fall



Dennis and Christine Arnold with kids, Brook and Maddison, brave rain.

around Grand Rapids. About 20 mm are forecast for the Fisher Branch area in the southern Interlake, where a flood watch remains in effect.

Alf Warwentin, chief flood forecaster for Manitoba Water Stewardship, said the rains could cause some flooding of agricultural land but shouldn't affect any communities.

Warwentin said the area is still saturated from heavy rains that fell two weeks ago.

"The Icelandic River is still running very high," said Warwentin.

River levels within Winnipeg are about a foot above normal for this time of year but not high enough to cause any real problems, he said.

However, he added, they could cause some difficulties for water taxis or boats like the Paddleshed.

Sunny skies are expected for tomorrow, with temperatures reaching around 20 C.

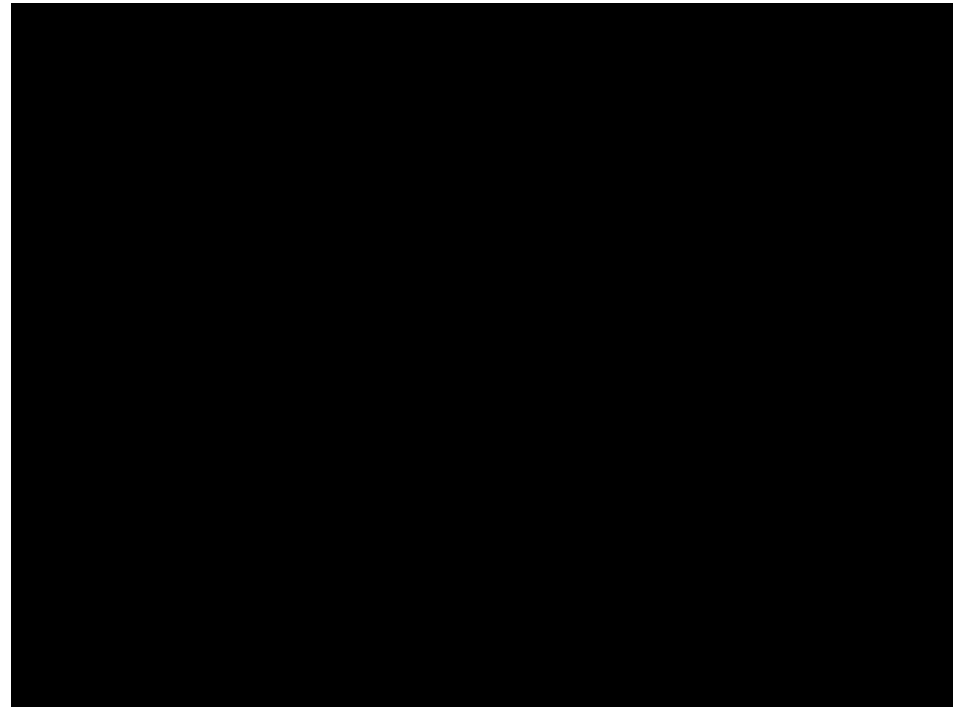


## Flooding continues - May 2005



## Amphibex icebreaker - May 2005

- Province rents Amphibex icebreakers to alleviate ice jam flooding on Red River in Winnipeg and Sugar Island area near Selkirk
- Leads to joint investment with municipalities to purchase to Amphibex icebreakers



Provided by: Normrock Industries

## Tornado touchdown, severe storm and more flooding in Western Manitoba - June 2005

- Tornado touchdown in Glenwood, additional rain causes further flooding due to high soil moisture and subsequent run-off
- Agricultural land further inundated with water, additional damage to roads from run-off



# Flooding in Western Manitoba - June 2005



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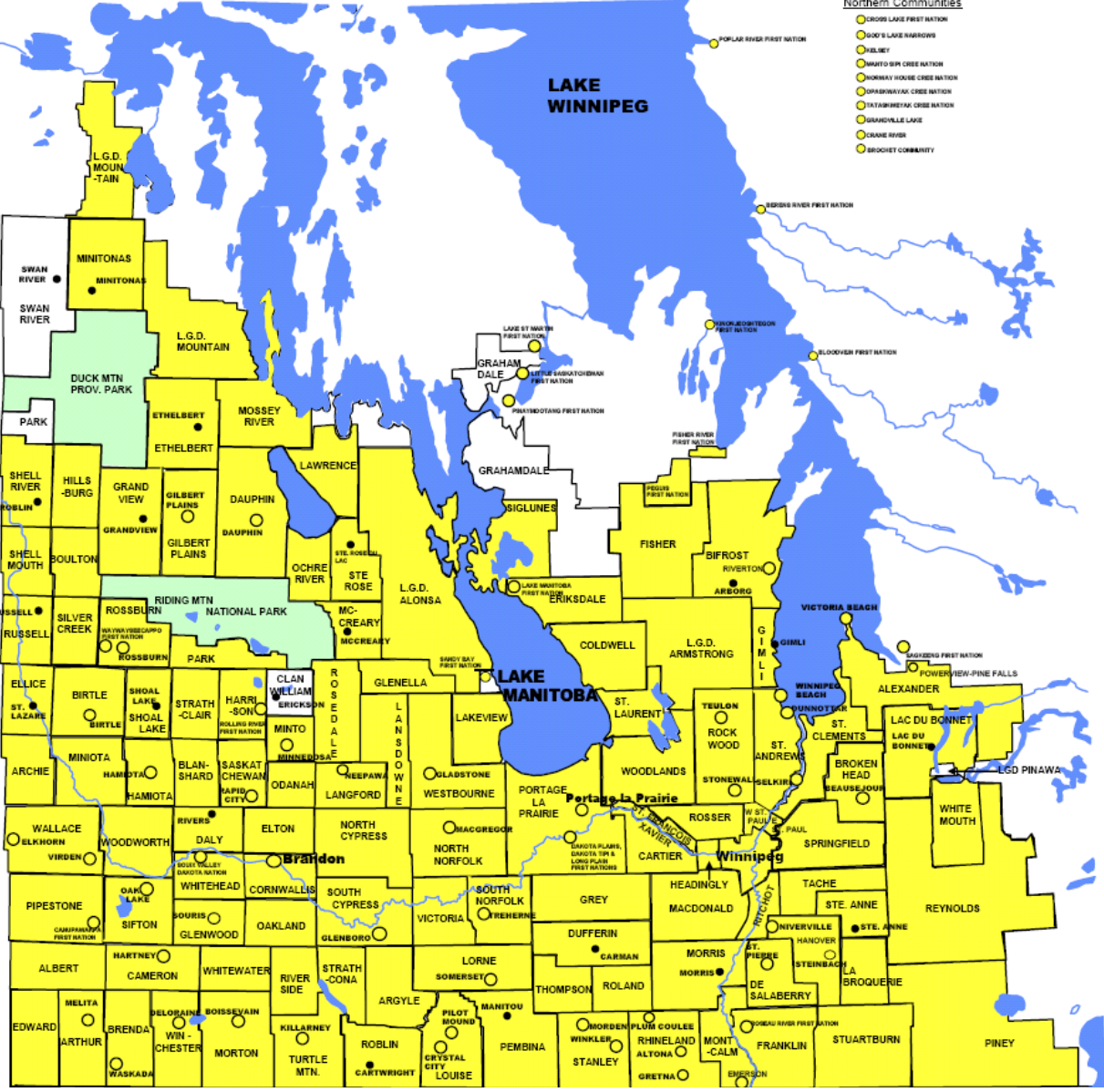




### Northern Communities

- CROSS LAKE FIRST NATION
- DOCK LAKE BANDS
- HELMET
- MANITO SIBI CREE NATION
- NORWAY HOUSE CREE NATION
- OPAWIKAWAK CREE NATION
- TATAPUYAK CREE NATION
- GRANDVILLE LAKE
- CRANE RIVER
- BROCKET COMMUNITY

2005 Flood -  
Municipalities  
requesting DFA



## Flooding in Manitoba - 2005

- Received more than four times the normal amount of rainfall between 1 June and mid July.
- Most widespread event
- Volume of claims was second largest
- Third largest for Disaster Financial Assistance payments.

# Southern Manitoba windstorms – June 2005

- Large areas of bush land flattened by derecho (straight-line) windstorm.
- Windstorm damage reported in Piney, Gretna, Winnipeg, and Rhineland.



## Split Lake high water levels - June 2005

- High water levels on Nelson River threaten ferry landing
- Emergency diking and ferry access constructed by Transportation and Government Services to maintain community access





## Flood threat at The Pas - June 2005



## Flood threat at The Pas - June 2005



# Dike-builders in a race against river

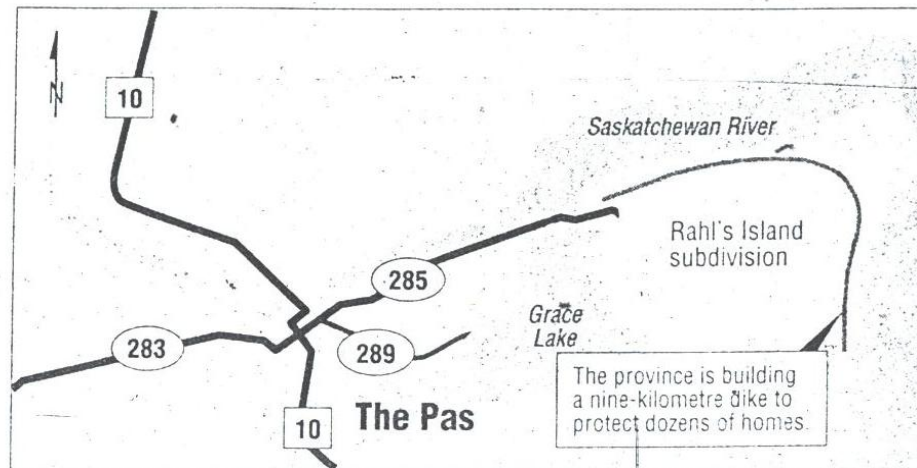
By Helen Fallding

THE province is scrambling to build a nine-kilometre earth dike between about 60 homes in a subdivision east of The Pas and the rising Saskatchewan River.

According to yesterday's predictions from Manitoba Water Stewardship, the river could crest July 3 and create the biggest flood the region has faced in more than 40 years.

Kelsey Reeve Sandy Thwaites said local contractors, with extra equipment from Swan River and beyond, plan to have the dike finished by June 30.

"There was a little bit of panic at the start, but people are starting to realize we think we're getting ahead of it."





## Flooding in Deloraine - June 2005

- High soil moisture leads to heavy run-off flooding in Deloraine
- Up to 80 homes affected
- EMO establishes Recovery Centre in community for 3 weeks



# Times & Star

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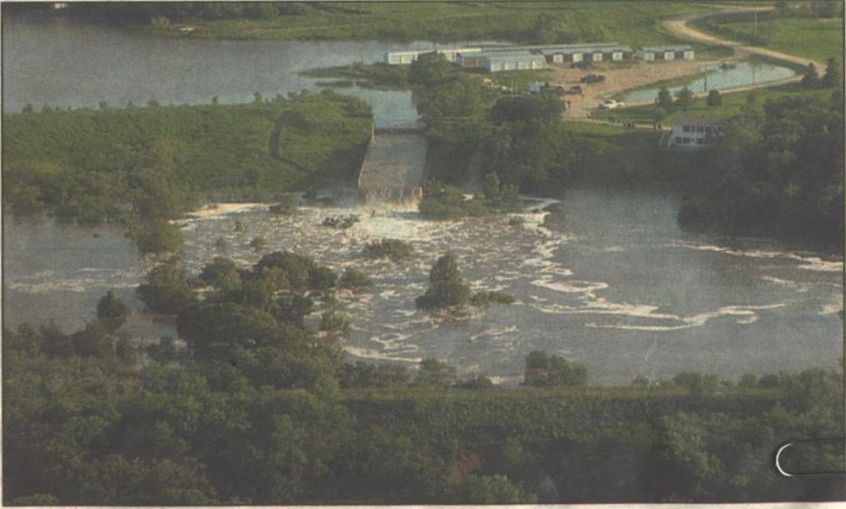
Volume 118 - No. 33 \$1/Copy (Inc. Taxes) Saturday, July 9, 2005 VCP - 1317

1997 Ford F150,  
4WD, extended cab  
\$8,495.00

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## Premier Gary Doer and Federal Treasury Board President Reg Alcock view flood devastation in and around Deloraine on Monday, July 4th



The photos to the right are courtesy of photographer Ken McGregor and pilot Ben Arde. Thanks gents. Pictured right is an aerial view of the southwest portion of the Town of Deloraine with water overtaking yards, basements and streets.

Pictured above (from left) are Reg Alcock, Federal Treasury Board President, Premier Gary Doer, Mayor Brian Franklin,



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**Deloraine's second flood within a week**



It was hard to believe but just one week after facing a devastating flood, the Town of Deloraine received a second flood on Friday.

**EMO holds info meeting**

by Judy Wells  
 A public information meeting was held Thursday, July 7 at the Elks Hall.  
 The Emergency Measures Organization (EMO) headed up the meeting and were supported by personnel from other government departments.  
 The panel included Brian Franklin, mayor of Deloraine; Paul Anderson, Deputy Executive Director - Manitoba Emergency Measures Organization; Perry Stonehouse, Regional Water Manager - Manitoba Water Stewardship; Arvyn Gray, Regional Supervisor - Manitoba Conservation; Dr. Elise Weiss, MD, CCFP, MSc, Medical Officer of Health, Assiniboine and

## Northern Forest Fires - June 2005

- Leads to evacuation of residents from Bird, on the Bay Line north of Gillam
- Concerns about fires near Thompson Airport do not lead to damage of facilities or evacuations



## London bombings – July 2005

- 52 killed, over 700 hurt in coordinated attacks on London transit system
- Leads to heightened vigilance and security on Canadian commuter systems, evaluation of threats and vulnerabilities on Manitoba transportation system



## Flooding near Morris - July 2005



Provided by: CTV

# Heavy rain and flooding in Western Manitoba - July 2005

- High soil moisture leaves little capacity for earth to accept heavy rain, results in overland and sewer back-up flooding.
- Extensive flooding, especially in Brandon and area. Tornado touchdown south of Brandon



# Brandon Flooding - July 2005



Provided by: CTV



# Northern Manitoba flooding - August 2005

- Flooding crests on Churchill and Nelson River
- Emergency sandbagging required at Leaf Rapids
- Damage to commercial fisheries being evaluated



## Flood warning for Churchill River

**T**HE province has issued a flood warning for the communities along the Churchill River that are suffering through water levels higher than the 1997 autumn floods.

Manitoba Water Stewardship confirmed yesterday that record water levels are now expected from the Sandy Bay region of Saskatchewan through to Leaf Rapids.

Several communities along the Churchill River have been told to prepare for water levels two feet higher than crests in 1997, which may require emergency diking in some areas. Fishers have also been warned to take steps to protect their nets, boats and docks from the swollen rivers and strong currents.

Rivers in this area have been high all summer but rainfall last week produced additional runoff

that prompted the Saskatchewan Water Authority to increase outflow from Reindeer Lake, which eventually drains into the Churchill River.

More rain is expected today and tomorrow, which could bring up to another 30 millimetres of rain into the Churchill watershed.

The Churchill River has already risen 0.87 feet at Pukatawagan and 0.5 feet at Granville Falls in the past five days. River levels rose nearly 2.5 feet at Sandy Bay in Saskatchewan, indicating that more water is coming down-river.

To date, there have been no evacuations in any of the communities along the Churchill system. The province is working closely with the Manitoba Association of Native Firefighters, which is the organization of first response in any disaster involving First Nations communities.

# Hurricane Katrina - August 2005

- Extensive damage to New Orleans and southern states, criticism of emergency coordination and response efforts





# Emergency Responders Week – September 2005

- Proclamation signed by Premier Doer
- Parade of Honour held in Steinbach
- Memorial ceremony held at International Peace Gardens



## Lake Winnipeg diking - September 2005

- Water Stewardship identified flood risk due to prolonged high levels on south basin of Lake Winnipeg
- States of emergency in Gimli, Winnipeg Beach, Dunnottar, Bifrost, Riverton
- Provincial assistance provided by EMO, Water Stewardship, Transportation to build sandbag and earthen dikes

# Lake Winnipeg diking - September 2005



Provided by: CTV

## Second crest at The Pas - September 2005

- Additional water from west raises levels on Saskatchewan River at The Pas
- Diking in RM of Kelsey and Opaskwayak Cree Nation protects communities a second time





# Lake Winnipeg storm - October 2005

- Severe storm pushes high lake levels inland, results in threat to developed areas
- Dike construction protects properties, no residential flooding or evacuations



## Lake Winnipeg storm - October 2005



## Lake Winnipeg storm - October 2005



## Effects of Legislative Changes to Emergency Measures Act

- Emergency Coordination Teams
- Emergency Coordinators
- Regionalization / efficiencies
- Increased investment in local EOC / responder capacity

## Pandemic planning - November 2005

- Growing concerns from WHO and public health agencies about preparedness for pandemic influenza
- Integrated approach launched to develop municipal, provincial and federal preparedness and coordination





Free Press newsboys don protective masks during the 1918 influenza epidemic, which killed 824 people in Winnipeg.

# Pandemic!

*Are we better prepared today than in 1918?*

by  
Angour, Allison Land,  
n and Joyce Slater

In 1918, 18-year-old  
I returned home to  
come in Stonewall.  
of duty his plane  
upon eight times, he  
genemy planes and

In 2006, there is concern that a pandemic, possibly caused by bird flu, could be eerily similar to the pandemic of 1918, one of the deadliest events in human history. Pandemic flu is a major health concern because it will cause more severe disease and a greater number of deaths than seasonal flu. Additionally, it is more likely to affect young, healthy people, like Alan McLeod, and could spread globally in as little as three months.

The feared impact of a pandemic in 2006 is that globalization will not only increase the

like those used during the SARS epidemic, have improved dramatically since 1918. Understandings of how diseases are transmitted and how the chain of infection can be interrupted have also improved. As well, early warning systems for pandemic influenza are in place in most countries, and many governments have begun to develop pandemic flu plans that can be activated in the event of a threat. Thus, from a medical and scientific perspective, we are much better equipped to handle a pandemic than

world seem like our own backyard by providing instant information from around the globe. In 1918 most people only had access to local news. The Manitoba Free Press published almost daily reports on infections and deaths in the province, with little mention of the global impact.

Today the media reaches more people faster than ever before. During a pandemic this could provide essential information, such as closures of public places to

# Blizzard in Southern Manitoba – November 2005

- Major snow storm leads to much of Winnipeg slowing down or shutting down, extensive highway closures in southern Manitoba
- Could have been a major emergency, was avoided by good planning and effective response.



## Further flooding concerns at The Pas - November 2005

- Water Stewardship raises concerns over high water levels and weather conditions that could contribute to frazil ice
- Diking protects flooding of developed areas





## Lakes and river frozen, flood risk ends - December 2005

- Finally, the threat of high water levels ends when major lakes and rivers develop a layer of ice
- Concerns remain about the possibility of spring flooding once water is released by warm weather



# Dauphin River flooding - December 2005

- Dauphin River First Nation evacuated when flooding removes road access
- Evacuation of approximately 60 people managed by MANFF
- Transportation and Government Services assists with road work

## DAUPHIN RIVER

# Flooding cuts off access to outside

*60 evacuated before road closed*

By Matthew Coult

**F**LOODING from the Dauphin River has stranded about 40 residents in the community of Dauphin River First Nation, 240 kilometres northwest of Winnipeg.

High waters flooded Provincial Road 513, the First Nation's only road access, Tuesday evening, cutting off the community lifeline.

About 60 residents were evacuated just before the road went out of service on Tuesday, band administrator Loraine Stagg said in a telephone interview yesterday.

"The water was moving rapidly because of the mild temperatures. The ice was turning to slush, we knew it was coming," said Stagg.

Children, elders and those with medical conditions were sent to stay with nearby family, or to area communities, such as Ashern.

Stagg said the community doesn't seem to be in any direct danger; the flooding is about 27 kilometres from town, and not coming closer.

But it has cut the community off from necessary goods brought in from outside. Stagg said getting food and gas into

the community is a top priority. "The men are making a bush trail for the Ski-Dos to bring in essentials," she said.

The Manitoba Association of Native Firefighters was among the first groups to assist the community, said representative Curtis Smith.

"We're working with the chief and council, and monitoring the situation," he said.

Smith said the association was ready to airlift food into the community before residents cut the snowmobile trail, allowing access to nearby Gypsumville.

Smith said the group will keep an eye on the situation. "We've got resources in place."

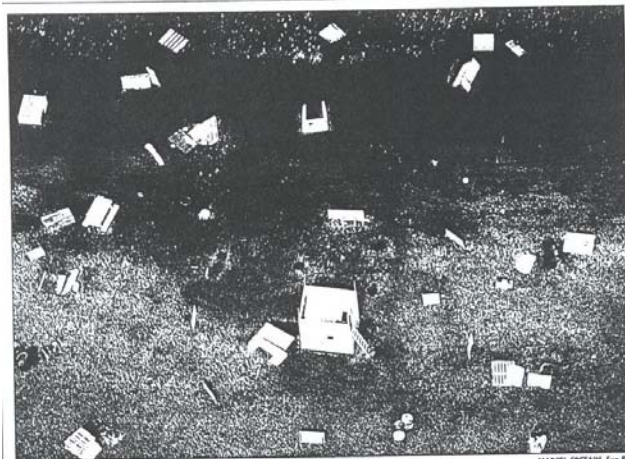
Aaron Anderson was evacuated with his three children Tuesday night. He was given a room at the Ashern Motor Hotel. His family is fine, but he said they are worried about their home.

"The kids are kind of restless. Everyone's wondering what's going to happen," he said. "Everyone hopes they can get home for Christmas."

Stagg said she's thankful for the help neighbouring towns and communities have offered the Dauphin River First Nation.

The flooding will remain for several weeks, the province said.





A flooded yard near St. Agathe is seen from the air in July. Flooding was more widespread this year than in 1997. MARCEL CRÉTAIGN See file

# Mother Nature just didn't relent in '05

**TAMARA KING**  
Staff Reporter  
tking@wpgsun.com

Rather than a bang, 2005 came in with a blizzard, the night before New Year's Eve. And Mother Nature didn't relent for the rest of the year.

## Winter

Winnipeg was swamped in snow New Year's Eve, with 26 cm of snow dropping on the city. Sick surfaces and blowing snow prompted the closures of many main Manitoba highways, but even caused provincial officials to push snowplows off the roads.

Less than 24 hours after Winnipeg dug out from the first mess, Old Man Winter paid another nasty visit on Jan. 2. This time, only 10 cm of snow dumped on Winnipeg but made for tough sledding, so to speak, on the cleanup front.

The city affectionately known as "Winterpeg" cracked another weather record — this time for the most snowfall since autumn. By Jan. 22, the city had already seen 75 cm of snow. The average between November and January is 64 cm.

## Spring/Summer

The year went down in the books as the year of the spring

flood in Manitoba. We were so waterlogged, flooding was more widespread in 2005 than "the Flood of the Century" in 1997, according to provincial government statistics.

And the water kept coming. Parts of Winnipeg looked like a tornado had blown through after the city was walloped by a massive rainstorm in July.

First, the city's south end received up to 100 mm of rain in less than an hour late July 16, which was closely followed by a series of violent thunderstorms with winds up to 120 km/h early the next morning.

Broken trees, bits of branches, downed power lines and flooded basements were left behind in a path of destruction that took the city weeks to clean up.

Then, on the day where workers are supposed to be given a day of rest, many Manitobans spent part of Labour Day cleaning up from a vicious storm that toppled airplanes and sheds, uprooted trees and left many without electricity for hours.

The Selkirk area was the hardest hit by the fierce storm that saw raging wind, rain and hail up to one inch in diameter.

Winds up to 113 km/hour caused five airplanes to flip over at a maintenance yard north of Selkirk, including one tied down

to a 3/4-ton block of concrete. "I live right next door and when I saw the wind coming up that much I knew they'd be in trouble, even tied down," said Bob Polinuk, owner of Riverside Aircraft and Selkirk Air, adding the five planes sustained "substantial damage."

## Fall

Winter weather snuck up on southern Manitoba with a storm Nov. 14 that caught many by surprise, including the City of Winnipeg.

Because of a warmer-than-usual fall, many Manitobans were lulled into a false sense of security about the weather — and many front-end loaders that would be used to clear roads were tied up on construction sites.

With a shortage of machinery, the city's clean-up was slower than usual.

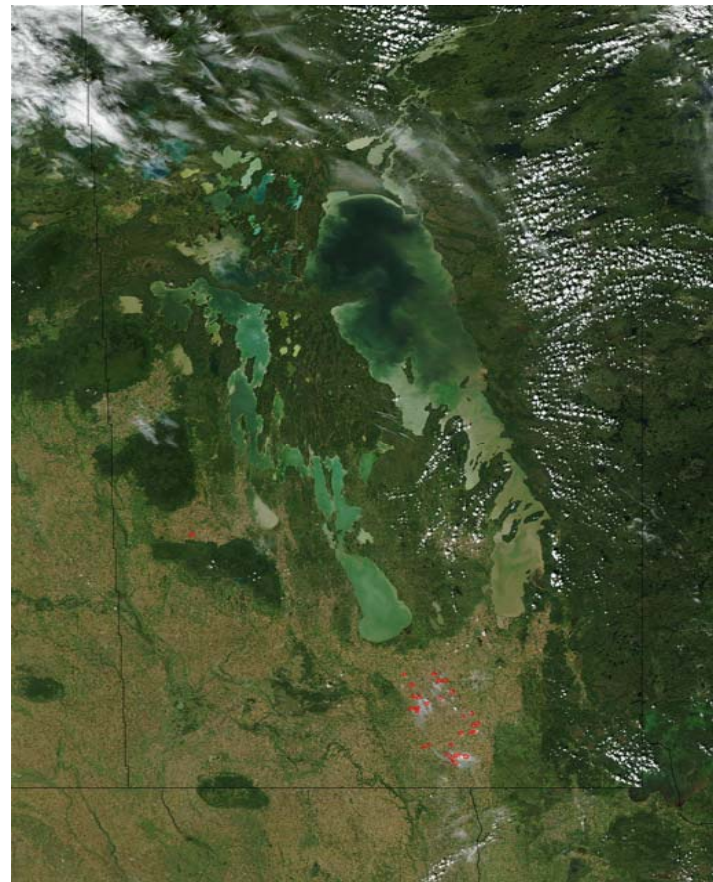
Mayor Sam Katz promised a better response the next time Winnipeg is pounded with snow, but whether that means buying more equipment (the city contracts 80% of its snow clearing machinery) or shelling out extra cash to have contractors on standby as of Nov. 1, hasn't been resolved.

Something to ponder after the next major snowfall, as you push your car out of a back lane for the third time in a single week.

Emergencies and Emergency Management were top news stories in 2005

# Municipal emergency plans - January 2006

- 197 of 199 municipalities have completed emergency plans approved by Manitoba EMO as per *The Emergency Measures Act*
- Discussions on-going with AMM to incorporate lessons learned and best practices into evolving requirements



# Government Business Continuity Planning – January 2006

- Major initiative to develop BCP for all functional areas in all government departments
- Supported by Deputy Ministers Committee on Emergency Management and Public Safety
- Re-enforced through recent legislative amendments



## Spring flood planning - January 2006

- Provincial government departments begin meeting to evaluate risk, begin identifying resource needs
- Communication with municipalities was made as information was provided by Water Stewardship



## Public alerting applications - March 2006

- CRTC holds hearings to consider proposals for emergency public alerting
- Applications submitted by Bell ExpressVu, CBC, and Pelmorex
- Manitoba was supportive, made submissions calling for coordinated system to allow for a single point of entry when issuing messages



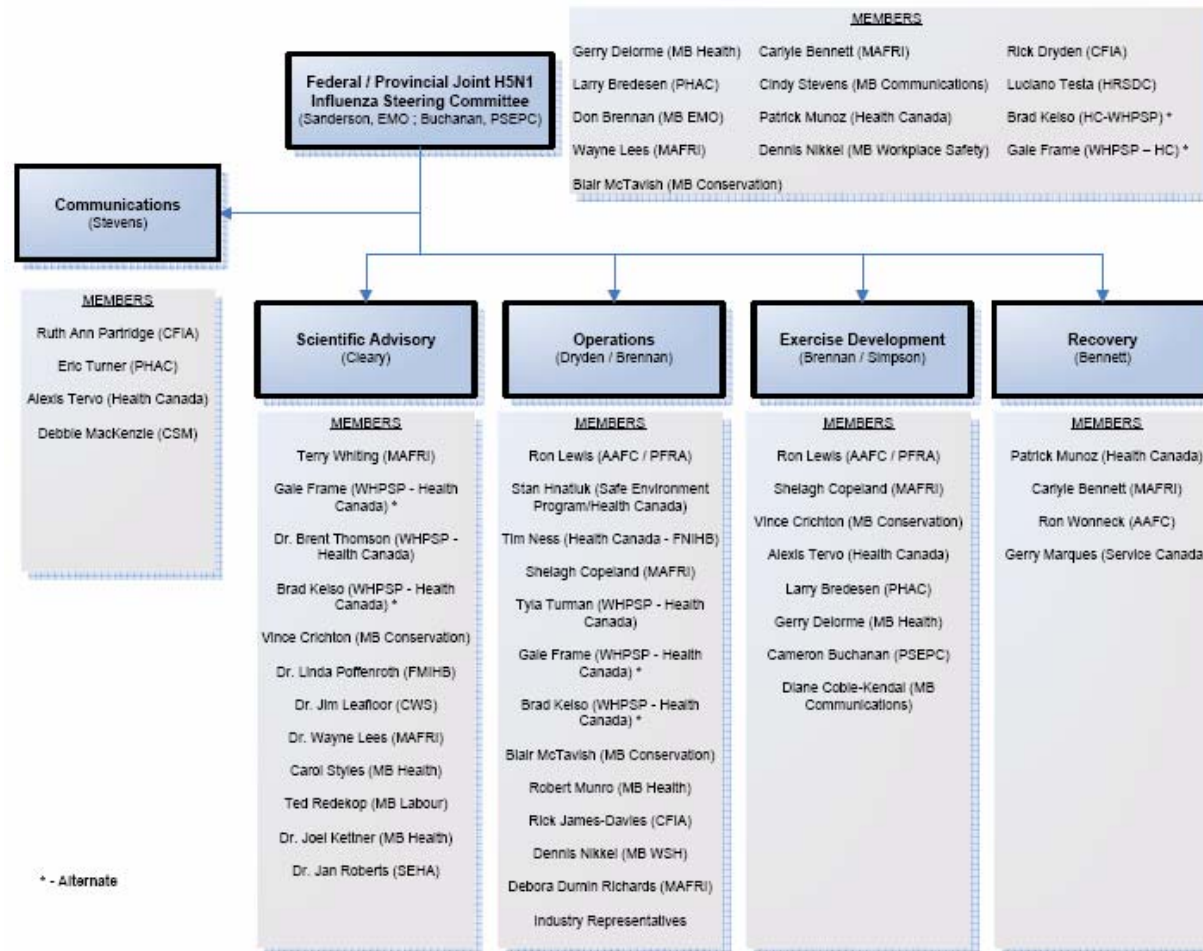


## JEPP funding – April 2006

- Federal and provincial funding through the JEPP program approved for 11 communities/organizations worth \$150,000



# Asian H<sub>5</sub>N<sub>1</sub> Avian Influenza Planning – May 2006



\* - Alternate

• Operation Broken Wing

# Spring Flood in Red River Valley - May 2006

- Flooding was comparable to 1996, similar damages avoided by planning and flood mitigation
- Major road closure, including PTH 75. Only one evacuation
- Provinces announces \$12 million in Disaster Financial Assistance, EMO makes applications available on-line
- Visit from Prime Minister



# Spring Flood in Red River Valley - May 2006

Prime Minister visit



## Assiniboine River flooding - May 2006

- Extensive flooding of agricultural lands, some sandbagging in Morton, Whitewater, Carmen, Westbourne
- Most areas included within scope of DFA programs





## Red Deer Lake Flooding – May 2006



Provided by: CTV







## Interlake Flooding - May 2006

- Heavy rain event leads to flooding on Fisher River
- Sewer back-up flooding reported at Peguis First Nation, response led by MANFF
- RM of Fisher reports flooding in about 14 homes and agricultural lands, no evacuations



## Northern Manitoba flooding - May 2006

- Initial concerns about flooding potential from Carrot River and Saskatchewan River did not materialise
- Amphibex icebreaker was deployed to alleviate ice jamming at Rall's Island
- Many dikes at Opaskwayak Cree Nation were still in place from 2005, provided adequate flood protection



## Bomb suspects arrested in Ontario – May 2006

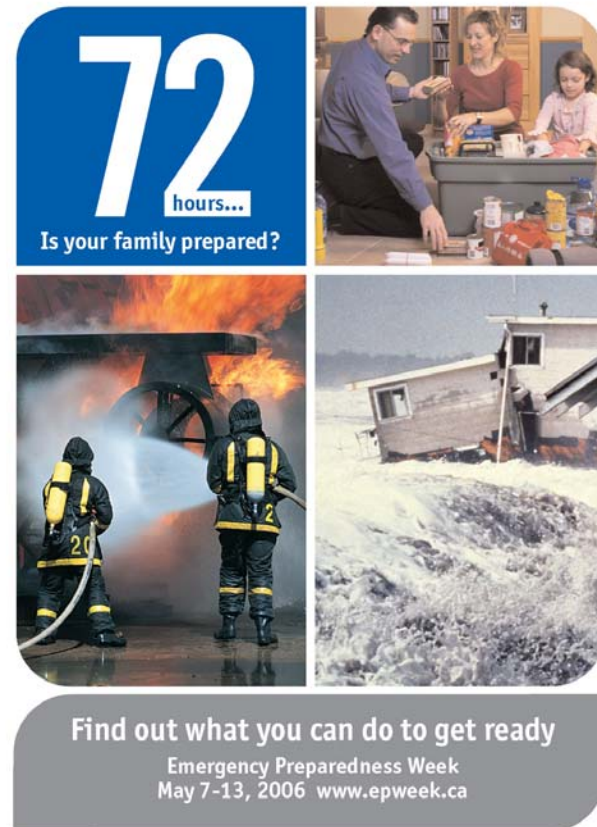
- Security concerns were evaluated on an integrated basis for Manitoba
- Sale of ammonium nitrate fertilizer in Manitoba was restricted by *The Security Management Act* in 2001, no reports of sales in Manitoba



# National Emergency Preparedness Week – May 2006

- Annual event organized between federal and provincial/territorial governments
- Draws attention to emergency preparedness issues at the individual level by focusing on responsibilities and current issues

 Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada    Sécurité publique et Protection civile Canada



The poster features a blue box with the number '72' in large white font, with 'hours...' in smaller white font below it. Below the box is the text 'Is your family prepared?'. To the right of the box is a photograph of a family (a man, a woman, and a child) sitting at a table, possibly preparing for an emergency. Below the blue box are two more photographs: one showing firefighters in full gear working at a scene with a large fire, and another showing a house partially buried under a large pile of snow or debris.

Find out what you can do to get ready  
Emergency Preparedness Week  
May 7-13, 2006 [www.epweek.ca](http://www.epweek.ca)

## Legislative amendments - June 2006

- Amendments to *The Emergency Measures Act* clarify responsibilities, requirements for provincial departments to have BCPs, increases penalty for refusing an evacuation order
- Emergency Prevention Orders created, first jurisdiction in North America with powers specifically for mitigation



## Forest Fires - July 2006

- Initial concerns about northern areas subsided, extremely dry conditions led to movement of fire resources to southern Manitoba
- Dry conditions led to restrictions on outdoor fires and hiking in mid July



## Mumbai bombings - July 2006

- Coordinated attacks on Mumbai transit system; 200 killed and at least 700 injured
- Responsibility has not been taken for the attacks. Has heightened national tensions in the Indian sub-continent





## West Nile virus - August 2006

- Five cases reported in Manitoba, located in Central and Interlake regions
- Chief Medical Officer of Health leading provincial effort to monitor, mitigate and respond to public health emergencies



## Interlake & Eastman Tornadoes and Storm - August 2006

- Tornado touchdowns near Gull Lake, Lac du Bonnet and Kendall Point
- One fatality, approximately 20 injuries ranging from serious to minor
- Extensive property damage
- Response from St. Clements, Alexander, EMO, OFC, Conservation, NEHA





# Interlake & Eastman Tornados and Storm - August 2006

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Interlake & Eastman  
Tornados and Storm -  
August 2006



# Interlake & Eastman Tornadoes and Storm - August 2006





## Averted Terrorist Plot - August 2006

- Terrorist plot to simultaneously down aircraft heading to the U.S. using explosives smuggled in hand luggage was uncovered
- Authorities immediately banned all passengers from carrying any liquid in their carry-ons



# Emergency Responders Week – September 2006

- Emergency Responders Week events held in conjunction with the annual September 11, 2001 ceremonies at the International Peace Gardens





## Moving forward ...

- Will require coordination, cooperation, and a recognition of our dependence on our peers at all levels and by all individuals. Need to provide leadership by cooperating.
- Isolated planning and poor communication is as serious a vulnerability as any natural conditions.
- The public doesn't make a distinction between the levels of government and different agencies involved with emergency management. Neither do disasters.



**Manitoba** 

