

Flood of '97 Prompts a Flurry of Campus Preparations

At this writing, neither flood waters nor evacuees have descended on The University of Winnipeg, but University employees have been working feverishly to prepare for both these possibilities.

According to Steve Coppinger, associate vice-president (finance and administration), the threat of flooding at the University is extremely remote. However, sewer backup in 13 vulnerable areas is a possibility, especially if there is a heavy rainfall during peak river levels. To minimize potential damage, non-replaceable or expensive items have been relocated.

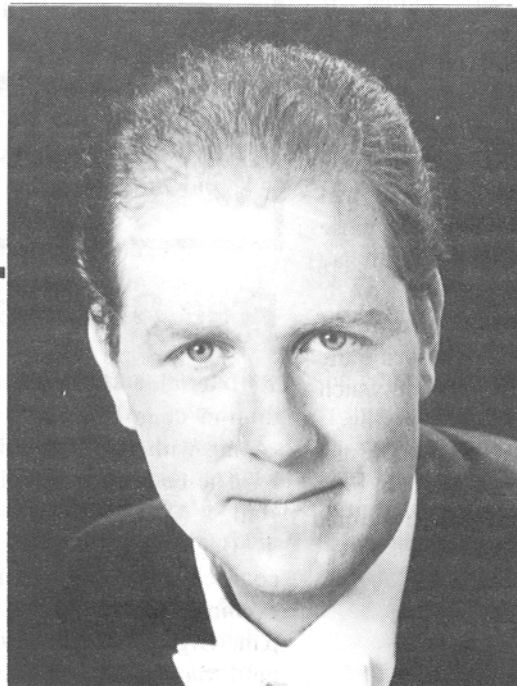
"Potential problem areas were inventoried, and relocation of items and functions was done on a priority basis," Coppinger explains.

Technical Support Service operations located in the basement of Lockhart Hall were moved to the Chemistry area in Manitoba Hall. Coppinger says this was a precaution to ensure that there would be no interruption to these services on campus. "This is particularly valuable and hard-to-replace equipment, and it's very sensitive to moisture and humidity," Coppinger explains. "Rather than take any chances, we moved it because if it was damaged, the entire campus information system could be impaired for an indefinite period."

Chemicals contained on lower levels were also moved to

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*On May 10, Virtuosi Concerts closes its season with a performance by the English cellist Alexander Baillie, internationally recognized as one of the finest cellists of his generation. Baillie will perform with Winnipeg pianist David Moroz, one of Canada's finest collaborative artists. See **Coming Events** for concert details.*



Theatre Instructor Turns Stunt Driver in New Commercial

University of Winnipeg theatre instructor Rick Skene (BA '81) lent his skill as a stunt coordinator and driver to Manitoba Public Insurance's latest series of RoadWise commercials.

The 60-second spot—featuring a two-vehicle collision staged at a major Winnipeg intersection—was unveiled at a media conference held at The University of Winnipeg on April 17. Entitled "no one walks away from speed," the commercial series illustrates the devastating long-term impact of speeding on a young driver and his teenage passengers.

Skene, a professionally-trained stunt performer and fight director, says staging the collision for this particular commercial required an extra degree of timing and precision.

"They were pretty specific about the story and what they needed to happen, so this had to be exact. It had to be real," he explains.

Since the commercial called for a "dead hit full speed," one car had to be radio-controlled because the driver would not survive the collision. This added to the degree of difficulty, observes Skene. "That other car can't adjust for you."

Skene describes good stunt people as technicians. "You have to have a brain for absolute details and creative planning, and an eye for what the camera sees," he notes. "You make sure you have every contingency planned for."

Skene frequently serves as stunt coordinator for locally-filmed productions, including "The Adventures of Shirley Holmes," "Nights Under Station Street," and "For Those Who Hunt The Wounded Down."

Flood '97

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higher ground, and library personnel lifted stored materials up off the basement floor in 491 Portage Ave. In many cases, wooden exam tables were deployed to lower level areas so that affected departments, with the help of both Physical Plant staff and students, could get everything off the floor.

Norm Loat, director of physical plant, says his department has taken considerable measures to ensure they're ready for anything the flood situation delivers. The first order of business was to ensure that preventative equipment like back-check valves were in good working order. "The first thing we asked was 'what have we got in place, and the next step was to ask 'What do we do if something doesn't work?'"

Although Loat concurs that the University is in a low-risk area, he says preparations have been made for the worst-case scenario. "We had to rely on the expertise of many, many people. The staff knowledge is just phenomenal," he says. He displays detailed maps, developed in his department, documenting things like the elevations of all campus buildings, the exit paths of campus sewage and the location of all utility shut-off valves.

Loat and the Physical Plant team have also outfitted two emergency equipment response units, consisting of everything from gas and electric pumps, hoses, portable gas generators, drying fans and disinfectants to protective clothing and flashlights with plenty of spare batteries. Finally, the on-call services of various contractors have been secured in the event of a campus crisis.

"We have developed very comprehensive packages to handle a multitude of problems," Loat asserts, adding, "If we don't use it, it's not lost. We now have these units in place for any emergencies that arise, and this has proven to be an incredibly intense learning opportunity."

Throughout the preparations, Coppinger and Loat met with departments in affected areas to advise them of the situation and the required precautions. Coppinger notes that the "terrific response and cooperation" of everyone in those departments made it possible to easily meet the Thursday afternoon readiness deadline.

As an added precaution, Coppinger indicates extra staff have been assigned to evening and night shifts during the potential flood stage, and that the intensity of flood-watch activities will be increased during and after heavy rains.

Finally, Coppinger has reviewed the University's insurance policy, and confirms the University is covered for both overland flooding and sewer back-up and for the resulting interruption to our operations.

Where to Find University Information

Even though the waters aren't likely to reach The University of Winnipeg, the great flood of '97 may affect University operations in many ways. The following avenues will help you stay informed about flood activities on our campus:

- the University's website has a special flood section: <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca>
- the Pegasus Mail campus and faculty Notification Boards will carry bulletins
- important information will be disseminated through voice mail messages on the Meridian Mail system
- override messages on Meridian Mail will relate information on closure or partial closure of the University
- local radio and television stations will be contacted in the event of a shutdown

Who to Call

- **Emergency Response: If you spot an urgent problem on campus, call 786-9271 (Physical Plant engineer) or 786-9235 (security).**
- Questions about physical plant and services should be directed to Steve Coppinger at 786-9217.
- Questions about employee matters should be directed to Terry Voss at 786-9215.
- Media enquiries should be directed to 786-9711.

Free Counselling Offered

Interfaith Marriage and Family Institute has set up a drop-in counselling centre to help anyone having difficulty coping with flood-related issues.

The centre is located on the second floor of Sparling Hall.

Beginning Fri., May 2, trained staff will provide free counselling (no appointment necessary) every weekday evening from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Organizers say they will offer the drop-in counselling until May 10, at which time they will reassess the need.

Campus Prepares for Evacuees

During the 1950 flood, Wesley Hall became a temporary home for evacuees. Forty-seven years later, the campus community was told to be ready should history repeat itself.

The University learned at noon on Tues., April 29 that evacuees could begin arriving at the University as early as 6 p.m. that evening. With no residence rooms to offer, a decision was made to place evacuees in Duckworth Centre, where they would have access to shower facilities. Riddell Hall would serve as the dining area.

As everyone working on coordinating the details for this possibility will tell you, transforming a campus athletic facility into a makeshift home for up to 200 residents is a complex undertaking.

"There are a million issues surrounding this that had to be thought out," says Joan Anderson, executive director of University Relations. Those include everything from food service requirements, security and parking needs to activity planning, media access issues, and the requirement that there be 24-hour staffing at an evacuation site.

"Many evacuees arrive at a centre with vehicles loaded with the possessions they want to save. We had to think about whether we could secure those vehicles in a downtown location," Anderson explains. "We also had to decide if we would open up access to certain campus amenities like the library [yes], how we would handle medical concerns and security issues, and what we could do to make these people more comfortable."

Security Director Jim Bromley took the lead role in coordinating the establishment of an evacuation centre on campus. He says the biggest challenge is simply having sufficient time to prepare. "As long as you can call a group together, as we did, and divide up different tasks and

everyone has time to go and get their job done, then we can be prepared." A lot of issues are just "call it as you go," he admits, adding, "The greatest difficulties develop as the first people start to arrive, and organizational problems crop up."

Initial preparations involved laying carpeting in the gym. Recreation and Athletics staff were charged with creating a practical registration system, developing shelter management strategies and coordinating round-the-clock staffing. Lists of nearby amenities, from daycare facilities, medical clinics and drug stores to restaurants, attractions and toy stores were compiled by University Relations. The Faculty of Theology prepared a list of nearby places of worship.

In addition, plans were also made to offer activities and entertainment for evacuees.

Lynn Jones took the lead on two issues: parking and telephones. She was able to secure QuickChange Cards from Manitoba Telecom Services that would enable evacuees to use the payphones without paying a quarter. The prospect of putting 75 vehicles somewhere was less easily resolved, although Jones is confident the City of Winnipeg could be persuaded not to enforce parking limits on nearby streets, and that vehicle patrol teams would provide effective security measures.

While with each passing day it looks less likely that evacuees will arrive on campus, the uncertainty of the situation means all events scheduled for May in the affected facilities have been cancelled or postponed. See *Coming Events* for details.

Temporary Policies Implemented During Crisis

In late April, administrators developed and implemented temporary measures to help the campus community deal with the flood crisis. Here is a brief outline of those measures:

University operations are expected to continue during the flood. However, emergency leave will be granted to salaried employees notified by authorities that measures must be taken to protect their homes or those of immediate family members. Compensation and seniority are not affected by emergency leave. Employees are to inform their department head/chair should this apply.

Employees are encouraged to volunteer in the flood control efforts where a manager deems it operationally feasible. These employees will continue to be paid.

Should conditions on campus warrant, employees may be reassigned to other University duties.

If classes are cancelled due to the flood or resulting complications, adjustments will be made to accommodate the emergency and all reasonable efforts will be made to ensure that students' academic programs do not suffer.

Faculty are asked to give reasonable consideration to students personally affected by the flood with respect to turning in late assignments or writing deferred exams, and to advise students on the feasibility of continuing within a course where appropriate.

COMING EVENTS

"Coming Events" is compiled by University Relations. Planning a campus event? Please let us know and we'll help you publicize it. Send **written** information to Lois Cherney, University Relations, 10 working days in advance of the event. Basic details are required: what, when, where, sponsor, price of admission (if any) and the name of a contact person.

Events denoted by an asterisk have been re-scheduled due to the flood crisis in Manitoba.

SAT., MAY 10

• **Virtuosi Concerts presents Alexander Baillie, cello, and David Moroz, piano** at 8 p.m. in the Winnipeg Art Gallery. Co-presented by the University and CBC Stereo. Tickets are \$19, \$17 for seniors/students and \$12 for children. Call the Virtuosi Hotline at 786-9000.

*WED., MAY 14

• **The installation of plaques honouring Distinguished Alumni** in the Alumni Reading Room, Bulman Student Centre has been cancelled.

MON., MAY 19

• **Victoria Day**—University closed.

MON., MAY 26

• **Board of Regents** meets in Riddell Hall at 5:30 p.m.

SUN., JUNE 1

• **Spring Convocation** for the conferring of degrees will begin at 2 p.m. in Duckworth Centre.

WED., JUNE 11

• **The Alumni Association's Annual General Meeting** will be held in Riddell Hall, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

* TUES., JUNE 17

• **A reception to honour retirees and long-service employees** will be held at 3 p.m. in Riddell Hall.

MON., JUNE 23

• **Board of Regents** meets in Riddell Hall at 5:30 p.m. The Board's Annual General Meeting will follow the regular Board Meeting. For details, contact University Secretary Roger Kingsley at 786-9115.

*THURS., JUNE 26

• **Collegiate graduation** will be held at 8 p.m. in Duckworth Centre.

TUES., JULY 1

• **Canada Day**—University closed.

1997-98 Budget Approved

The University's 1997-98 Budget was approved by the Board of Regents on Mon., Apr. 28. Here are some highlights:

- the budget is based on a total revenue of \$47.8 million, of which \$23.4 million is the government's baseline operating grant;
- the current year's budget is balanced (the University is carrying an accumulated deficit of \$1.2 million from prior years);
- scholarship and bursary funding will increase by \$75,000 over last year;
- a five per cent tuition increase will be implemented;
- tuition remains all-inclusive (no extra fees are imposed by the University) and includes Internet access;
- an enrolment decline of six per cent has been projected;
- the library acquisition budget has been protected.

University Featured at New Media Forum

The University of Winnipeg strutted its computer stuff at the New Media Forum held at the National Research Council Building on April 24.

Intended to create an awareness of Manitoba's new media industry and its capabilities, the forum brought together companies that provide new media/multi-media services and products with forward-looking companies and organizations.

The University of Winnipeg was one of the first universities in the country to develop a CD-ROM for recruitment, thanks to a grant from the Sill Foundation. Director of Enrollment Management Monica Wood and Graphic Designer Ian Lark gave the audience a short tour of "Window on The University of Winnipeg," which includes over 75 pages of information and 50 sound bites.

"It was a wonderful opportunity to showcase our multi-media program and to interact with the business community as we each were able to explain how and what can be done with the new computer technology," reports Wood.