

FLOOD REPORT FOR MANITOBA

April 17, 2019

- Flood Warning*:** - **Red River, from Emerson to the Red River Floodway Channel Inlet**
- Flood Watch*:** - **Roseau River**
- High Water Advisory*:** - **Saskatchewan and Carrot Rivers, in the vicinity of the town of The Pas, due to potential for ice jamming during the melt and ice break-up period.**

Summary

- The Portage Diversion gates were closed yesterday afternoon, completing its operation for the spring of 2019. Reservoir inflow is expected to remain around 5,000 cfs (140 cms) over the next few days, but will slowly decline after that.
- The morning condition reports, flood sheets, and flood hydrographs for the Assiniboine and Souris Rivers will be discontinued after today and will not resume unless conditions worsen. Water levels and flows at various locations are available on the Manitoba Infrastructure website (<https://www.gov.mb.ca/mit/floodinfo/index.html>) as well as on the Environment Canada website (<https://wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/>).
- Based on the most recent forecast, PTH 75 North at Morris is expected to remain open; the highway will be ramped and additional traffic control measures may be required. Staff are closely watching water levels and forecasts and will advise if any changes result in a closure being activated.
- The Red River Floodway is operating under Rule 1 to lower water levels in Winnipeg while keeping water levels at or slightly below natural upstream of the inlet control structure.

Weather

- Yesterday afternoon's thunderstorms brought 4-7 mm of rain to the Red River Valley.
- The low pressure system expected for today will remain in the southern portion of the Red River basin. Forecasted precipitation generally increases southwards in the Red River basin, with minimal precipitation forecasted in the Grand Forks area and around 15 mm expected at Fargo (Figure 1). This system is being monitored closely but it is expected to have minimal effect on forecasted peak flows and levels in Manitoba.

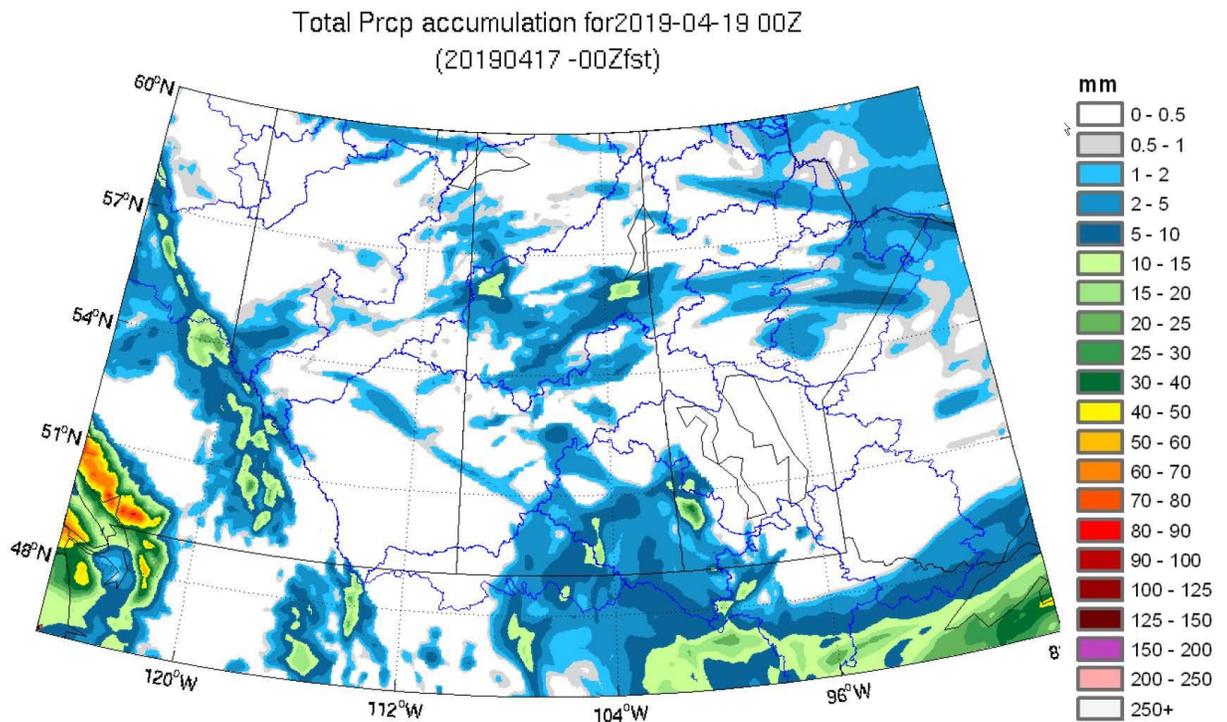


Figure 1: Total Precipitation Accumulation Forecasted for April 17 - 19, 2019

Red River Basin

- Some water levels on portions of the Red River in the US, such as Wahpeton, Grand Forks and Drayton, are beginning to see minor increases. These rises were anticipated as the second crest arrives. The effects of this second crest are not expected to affect the forecasted peak water levels in Manitoba.
- Water levels on the Red River in Manitoba upstream of Winnipeg continue to rise. The recorded water level rise in the last 24 hours was 0.8 feet at Emerson, 0.6 feet at Morris, and 0.5 feet at Ste. Agathe. The river is above banks at some locations, such as St. Jean and Emerson.
- Due to the continued slow melt, the peak time at most locations on the Red River has now moved later by a day or two. The latest forecast information is summarized below.

	Today's level (ft)	Forecasted peak	
		Level (Ft)	Date
Emerson	784.2	788.8-789.0	Apr 22-24
Letellier	779.8	783.6-783.8	Apr 23-25
St. Jean	773.4	779.1-779.3	Apr 25-27
Morris (@ PTH 23)	768.2	775.6-775.8	Apr 25-27
Ste. Agathe	760.4	768.0-768.3	Apr 25-27
St. Adolphe	756.5	762.3-762.8	Apr 25-27
Above floodway inlet	753.7	759.5-760.1	Apr 26-28
James Avenue	16.8	18.4-18.7	Apr 26-28

Note: water levels at Emerson and Ste Agathe will differ from those posted on the Water Survey of Canada website because different vertical datums are in use. For conversion information please see the most recent flood sheet.

- Provincial crews are deployed in a number of communities in the Red River Valley preparing for and implementing ring dike closures. Partial ring dike closures are currently in place at Emerson and at St. Jean Baptiste, and the communities will remain accessible by road. Partial ring dike closures are expected at Ste. Agathe, and St. Adolphe and are possible at Letellier and Morris as river levels rise. Over 300 super sandbags have been installed to provide necessary freeboard on the dike at Ste Agathe.
- Crews are also running pumping operations to facilitate internal drainage inside ring dike communities. Pumping operations are underway at Emerson, Dominion City, St. Jean, Morris, St. Adolphe, and Rosenort. As the water rises pumping operations are expected to be required at Letellier, and Riverside, depending on water levels pumping operations may be required at Brunkild and Aubigny. If pumping is required at Ste. Agathe, the RM of Ritchot will be undertaking these operations.
- Based on the most recent forecast, PTH 75 North at Morris is expected to remain open; the highway will be ramped and additional traffic control measures may be required. Staff are closely watching water levels and forecasts and will advise if any changes result in a closure being activated.
- The Red River Floodway is operating under Rule 1 to lower water levels in Winnipeg while keeping water levels at or slightly below natural upstream of the inlet control structure. Flow in the Floodway channel was 6,180 cfs (175 cms) this morning. Flows upstream of the Floodway Inlet this morning are approximately 46,600 cfs (1,320 cms). The forecasted water level upstream of the Floodway Inlet will be similar to levels experienced in 2017.
- Sections of PR 320 remain closed or limited to local traffic because of high water levels.

Roseau River

- Water levels on the Manitoba portion of the Roseau River continue to rise. The forecast for the Roseau River has been lowered and a peak flow of approximately 3,100 cfs (88 cms) at Gardenton is now expected between April 25 and 28. There is a possibility of a minor secondary peak due to the additional precipitation and continued snowmelt.
- Modelling efforts have confirmed that the forecasted flow will remain within the capacity of the dikes of the Gardenton Floodway. Provincial crews will continue to monitor provincial infrastructure along the Roseau River, including bridges and the Gardenton Floodway. Manitoba Infrastructure is also supporting the local government with their emergency response plans in case they are required.

Assiniboine River Basin

- The Shellmouth Dam reservoir water level is at 1396.2 feet and the reservoir is rising towards the post spring runoff target water level range of 1402 to 1404 feet. Inflows to the reservoir are approximately 1,925 cfs (55 cms) and outflows are 27 cfs (0.8 cms).
- The Portage Diversion gates were closed yesterday afternoon, completing its operation for the spring of 2019. Reservoir inflow is expected to remain around 5,000 cfs (140 cms) over the next few days, but will slowly decline after that. Outflows from the reservoir to the lower Assiniboine River will be less than reservoir inflow in the near term

as the reservoir level is raised to the summer target elevation.

Northern Manitoba

- Water levels and flows on the Saskatchewan and Carrot Rivers are beginning to increase. Winter ice is mostly intact on these rivers, but some amount of melting and pulling away from the banks is occurring. Some sections on the Saskatchewan River have begun to open up.
- A high water advisory remains in place for the Saskatchewan and Carrot rivers in the vicinity of The Pas due to potential ice jamming later this week or next week. With high temperatures and increasing flows on the Saskatchewan and Carrot Rivers, ice is beginning to deteriorate and in conjunction with rising levels may cause ice blockages that result in sudden rises of water elevations. People are reminded to be watchful of local waterways as ice jams and flood conditions can develop quickly.

Manitoba Lakes

- Manitoba's major lakes remain largely ice covered. The largest lakes are reported at 90% or greater ice coverage, with some smaller lakes in southern Manitoba showing 80% or lower ice coverage. Some of the shallower lakes are less than 50% ice covered.
- Outflow from Lake Manitoba is approximately 3,325 cfs (95 cms) through the Fairford River Water Control Structure.
- The water levels on Manitoba's major lakes are relatively stable and within normal or desirable ranges. Today's water levels are provided below:

Major Manitoba Lakes – April 17, 2019		
Location	Water Level**	
	Metres (m)	Feet (ft)
Dauphin Lake	260.48 m	854.6 ft
Lake Manitoba – Steep Rock	247.38 m	811.6 ft
Lake Manitoba - Westbourne	247.38 m	811.6 ft
Lake St. Martin at Hilbre	243.60 m	799.2 ft
Lake Winnipeg at Gimli	217.41 m	713.3 ft
Lake Winnipeg at Victoria Beach	217.38 m	713.2 ft
Lake Winnipegosis at South	253.53 m	831.8 ft

**water level readings taken today

Notes

- All flow and water level information is based on data available at 7:00 am. Morning Conditions reports, with current water level data, are available on the department's website this morning and flood sheets with updated forecast information will be posted later today at https://gov.mb.ca/mit/floodinfo/#forecasts_reports.
- Any questions or concerns about flood mitigation should be directed first to the municipal authority. Questions about forecasts, water levels, provincial waterways, or provincial water control infrastructure can be directed to 204-945-1165 or by email to floodinfo@gov.mb.ca.
- For detours and road closures please call 511 or visit www.manitoba511.ca.

***Definitions**

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

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

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