

FLOOD REPORT FOR MANITOBA

April 8, 2020

- High Water Warning*:** - **The Red River, from Emerson to the Red River Floodway Inlet Control Structure**
- High Water Watch*:** - **The Red River, from Lockport to Netley Creek due to ice movement**

Summary

- 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, and flood sheets with updated forecast information will be posted at https://gov.mb.ca/mit/floodinfo/#forecasts_reports.
- Daytime temperatures in southern Manitoba are beginning to decline but are expected to remain above zero throughout the week, while dropping just below freezing overnight. It is expected that most of the snow in southern Manitoba, and the USA portion of the Red and Souris River basins will melt by tomorrow. Temperatures in central and northern Manitoba, including the Assiniboine River basin, are also beginning to decline and are expected to remain near or below freezing all the way until mid-April. These cooler temperatures will slow melting and delay runoff in these areas.
- A high water warning has been issued for the Red River from Emerson to the Red River Floodway Inlet Control Structure, just south of the City of Winnipeg as the Red River is close to spilling its banks in most of these areas. The river is expected to spill over the banks in most areas between Emerson and Floodway inlet either today (April 8) or tomorrow (April 9).
- A high water watch has been issued for the Red River from Lockport to Netley Creek due to the potential of some overland flooding in low lying areas due to ice jamming.
- Flows and levels on the Red River north of Emerson are predicted to be at the upper range of the forecasted flows and levels. Between Emerson and Letellier, the upper range of the forecast is close to 2006 spring levels, whereas areas north of Letellier are between 2006 and 2019 spring levels. Flood sheets with forecasted flows and water levels are available online at https://gov.mb.ca/mit/floodinfo/#forecasts_reports.
- The peak date at Emerson is anticipated between April 15 and 20 and is expected to reach the Red River Floodway between April 19 and 24. With the operation of the Floodway, the Red River level in Winnipeg at James Avenue is expected to peak between 19.0 feet and 19.5 feet between April 13 and April 17.
- 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.

Weather

- Daytime temperatures in southern Manitoba are beginning to decline but are expected to remain above zero throughout the week, while dropping just below freezing overnight. It is expected that most of the snow in southern Manitoba, and the USA portion of the Red and Souris River basins will melt by tomorrow. Temperatures in central and northern Manitoba, including the Assiniboine River basin, are also beginning to decline and are expected to remain near or below freezing all the way until mid-April. These cooler temperatures will slow melting and delay runoff in these areas.
- There are no significant storms in the short-term forecast.

Red River Basin

- Due to the warming temperatures, water levels on most of the main stem of the Red River are beginning to rise at a quicker rate. Readings at individual stations may be affected by ice on the river as some sections of the river begin to open up. Over the last 24 hours the water level rose by 2.1 feet (0.64 m) at Emerson, 2.4 feet (0.73 m) at Letellier, 1.9 feet (0.58 m) at St. Jean, 1.7 feet (0.52 m) at Morris, 1.7 feet (0.52 m) at Ste. Agathe, and 1.6 feet (0.49 m) at St. Adolphe..
- Flows and levels on the Red River north of Emerson are predicted to be at the upper range of the forecasted flows and levels. Between Emerson and Letellier, the upper range of the forecast is close to 2006 spring levels, whereas areas north of Letellier are between 2006 and 2019 spring levels. Manual flow measurements to verify current flow estimates will be conducted over the coming days along the Red River in Manitoba as the ice begins to clear out. Conditions will continue to be monitored and the latest forecast information for the Red River is available online at https://gov.mb.ca/mit/floodinfo/#forecasts_reports.
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- A high water watch has been issued for the Red River from Lockport to Netley Creek due to the potential of some overland flooding in low lying areas due to ice jamming.
- The peak date at Emerson is anticipated between April 15 and 20 and is expected to reach the Red River Floodway between April 19 and 24. With the operation of the Floodway, the Red River level in Winnipeg at James Avenue is expected to peak between 19.0 feet and 19.5 feet between April 13 and April 17.
- Manitoba Infrastructure will endeavour to keep PTH 75 open for as long as possible but portions of the highway may need to be closed as water levels rise on the Red River.
- Partial dike closures at Emerson on both the Noyes and West Lynne dikes will be implemented over the weekend. Both diked areas will remain accessible by road after

the partial closures. Additional closures may be required in communities along the Red River as water levels begin rising towards the upper range of the forecast.

- Manitoba Infrastructure has prepared and positioned flood fighting equipment such as pumps and water-filled barriers into areas of potential concern. Pumping operations are underway at some ring dike communities. Flood response teams are observing recommended public health mitigation measures for COVID-19.
- Water from the Red River started to flow naturally into the Floodway channel yesterday. The gates at the Red River Floodway inlet control structure are expected to be operated tomorrow evening, as river flows increase and once ice conditions permit. The current water level at James Ave is 16.5 feet (5.03 m). An ice jam downstream of James Avenue caused the water levels to rise rapidly yesterday but the ice jam released yesterday afternoon.
- Ice is beginning to pile-up downstream of Lockport causing river levels to rise upstream. Sections of PR 320 are closed or limited to local traffic because of these high water levels. Water levels are also beginning to rise near PR 204 which may require a road closure, conditions will continue to be monitored throughout the day. Road closures and current conditions are available online at www.manitoba511.ca
- Red River tributaries are continuing to respond to the warmer temperatures and snowmelt. Over the last 24 hours the water level rose by 3.7 feet (1.13 m) on Main Drain near Dominion, 3.3 feet (1.01 m) on Deadhorse Creek near Rosenfeld, 2.6 feet (0.79 m) on the Rat River at PR 305, and 2.9 feet (0.88 m) on the La Salle River near La Salle.

Assiniboine River Basin

- Some water monitoring stations on the upper Assiniboine River appear to be ice affected as sections of the river begin to open up.
- Temperatures in the Assiniboine River basin are expected to remain cool until mid-April. These cooler temperatures will slow melting and delay runoff. The Assiniboine River is expected to largely stay within banks at most locations, with a risk of overland flooding on low lying agricultural land. The latest forecast information for the Assiniboine River is available online at https://gov.mb.ca/mit/floodinfo/#forecasts_reports.
- The water level on the Shellmouth Dam Reservoir decreased slightly to 1,395.4 feet (425.32 m); outflows remain at 800 cfs (23 cms) and inflow is near 280 cfs (8 cms). The Shellmouth Reservoir Regulation Liaison Committee will meet Thursday to discuss operating scenarios.
- The Portage Diversion is being operated to limit flows on the lower Assiniboine River to minimize ice jamming. Flow down the channel is currently 215 cfs (6 cms). The current operation is being done in anticipation of later operation to manage ice and limit flow on the Lower Assiniboine to less than 5,000 cfs (142 cms).

Souris River

- Water levels on most sections of the Souris River are relatively stable with some sections seeing minor increases and other sections seeing minor decreases. The river

remains well within bankfull capacity.

Eastern Region

- Water levels on rivers and creeks in the eastern region are relatively stable, with some areas seeing minor increases. All rivers and creeks are reported within bankfull capacity.
- Over the last 24 hours the water level rose by 0.9 feet (0.27 m) on the Brokenhead River at Beausejour and decreased by 0.7 feet (0.21 m) on Devils Creek near Libau.

Interlake Region

- Water levels on some rivers and creeks in the Interlake are beginning to rise but remain within bankfull capacity. Over the last 24 hours the water level rose by 4.5 feet (1.37 m) on the Icelandic River near Riverton and by 2.6 feet (0.79 m) on the Fisher River at Hodgson.
- Ice cover is beginning to break up along upstream areas of the Fisher and Icelandic Rivers, but remains intact on downstream sections.

Parkland Region

- Due to colder temperatures in the region, water levels on some rivers and creeks in the Parkland Region are seeing minor increases while others are seeing decreases, all remain within bankfull capacity.

Manitoba Lakes

- Generally, significant or full ice cover is reported on all major Manitoba lakes and there are no concerns with ice movement at this time.
- The water levels on Manitoba's major lakes are relatively stable and within normal or desirable ranges. Lake levels will be posted later today at https://gov.mb.ca/mit/floodinfo/#forecasts_reports.

***Definitions**

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

High Water Watch: A 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 watch or warning.