

**FLOOD REPORT FOR MANITOBA**

*April 14, 2020*

**Flood Warning\*:**

- **Red River, from Emerson to the Red River Floodway Inlet Control Structure**
- **Red River, from PTH 4 to Netley Creek**

**Flood Watch\*:**

- **Red River, from Lockport to PTH 4**
- **Roseau River, between Gardenton and PR 218**

**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](https://gov.mb.ca/mit/floodinfo/#forecasts_reports).
- A flood warning is in place for the Red River from Emerson to the Red River Floodway inlet, just south of the City of Winnipeg and from PTH 4 to Netley Creek as the Red River is spilling its banks in most of these areas.
- The flood warning on the Roseau River, between Gardenton and PR 218, has been downgraded to a flood watch as water levels are beginning to slowly decline.
- Ice on the lower Red River has moved further downstream but a flood watch remains in place for the Red River from Lockport to PTH 4 as water levels remain high.
- Water levels on most of the main stem of the Red River will begin to rise more quickly over the coming days. The peak on the Red River at Emerson is anticipated between April 18 and 21 and is expected to reach the Red River Floodway inlet control structure between April 24 and 26. 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 17 and April 20.
- Between Emerson and St. Jean, the upper range of the forecast is just above 2006 spring levels, whereas areas north of St. Jean are below 2006 spring levels. 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](https://gov.mb.ca/mit/floodinfo/#forecasts_reports).
- Some roads are beginning to be impacted by high water levels. For detours and a complete list of road closures please call 511 or visit [www.manitoba511.ca](http://www.manitoba511.ca).
  - The northernmost extent of PR 320, 6km north of PTH 4 is closed.
  - PR 212, for one kilometre north of PR 204 in East Selkirk, is currently closed but will re-open later this afternoon.
  - PR 204 will remain closed, from the Selkirk Bridge to the PR 212 Junction. The section 500 metres east of PR 212 will also re-open this afternoon.

- 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](mailto:floodinfo@gov.mb.ca).

### Weather

- Temperatures in most of southern Manitoba are expected to remain cooler until later in the week. There are no significant storms forecasted for southern Manitoba for the rest of the week.

### Red River Basin

- Water levels on most of the main stem of the Red River continue to rise. This morning's current water levels and the latest forecast information are summarized below. Between Emerson and St. Jean, the upper range of the forecast is just above 2006 spring levels, whereas areas north of St. Jean are below 2006 spring levels. 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](https://gov.mb.ca/mit/floodinfo/#forecasts_reports).

	Today's level	Forecasted peak	
		Level	Date
Emerson	786.9 feet (239.85 m)	789.53 - 789.83 feet (240.6 - 240.8 m)	April 18-21
Letellier	782.4 feet (238.48 m)	784.28 - 784.58 feet (239.0 - 239.2 m)	April 20-23
St. Jean Baptiste	776.1 feet (236.56 m)	780.15 - 780.84 feet (237.8 - 238.0 m)	April 21-24
Morris – PTH 23	772.0 feet (235.31 m)	776.90 - 777.89 feet (236.8 - 237.1 m)	April 22-25
Ste. Agathe	764.0 feet (232.87 m)	768.37 - 769.69 feet (234.2 - 234.6 m)	April 23-25
St. Adolphe	758.7 feet (231.25 m)	763.12 - 764.76 feet (232.6 - 233.1 m)	April 24-26
Above Floodway Inlet	757.2 feet (230.79 m)	761.16 - 762.47 feet (232.0 - 232.4 m)	April 24-26

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.

- Manitoba Infrastructure continues construction of a ramped closure on PTH 75 on the north side of Morris as part of efforts to keep the highway open for as long as possible. The peak water level on the Red River at Morris will determine the need for a closure over the next few days.
- Provincial crews are deployed in a number of communities in the Red River Valley preparing for and implementing ring dike closures. Pumping operations are underway at most ring dike communities. Flood response teams are observing recommended public health mitigation measures for COVID-19.
  - Partial dike closures are in place at Emerson on both the Noyes and West Lynne dikes, both diked areas remain accessible by road.

- A ramped closure on the north side of St. Adolphe at PR 200 is in place. The highway ditches on the south end have been filled in to prevent water from backing up into town.
  - A partial dike closure is in place on the east end of St. Jean Baptiste, the community remains accessible by PTH 75.
  - A partial closure at Letellier may be required if water levels continue rising toward the upper range of the forecast.
- The Red River Floodway continues to be operated under Rule 1, reducing water levels in Winnipeg while maintaining water levels upstream of the inlet control structure at or just below natural. Flow in the Floodway channel was 13,750 cfs (390 cms) this morning.
  - The current water level at James Ave is 18.0 feet (5.49 m). 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 17 and April 20.
  - Ice continues to move further downstream on the lower Red River, causing pile-ups and water level fluctuations along the river. Open water conditions have been reported from Winnipeg to Selkirk.

### **Assiniboine River Basin**

- The water level on the Shellmouth Dam Reservoir is 1,395.7 feet (425.41 m). Inflow decreased to 610 cfs (17 cms) and the outflow is 25 cfs (0.7 cms). The Shellmouth Reservoir Regulation Liaison Committee will meet on Wednesday to review basin conditions and dam operations.
- The Assiniboine River from the Shellmouth Dam to Brandon has peaked or is nearing peak, and areas between Brandon and Portage la Prairie will be nearing peak over the next couple of days. Flows are expected to largely stay within banks at most locations.
- Some water monitoring stations on the Assiniboine River appear to be ice affected as ice moves and sections of the river open up.
- The Portage Diversion is being operated to limit flows on the lower Assiniboine River to less than 5,000 cfs (142 cms) to minimize the risk of ice jamming. Flow down the diversion channel is currently at 2,690 cfs (76 cms) and flow on the lower Assiniboine River is 4,660 cfs (132 cms).

### **Northern Manitoba**

- Temperature forecasts indicate that snow melt could start in late April in northern Manitoba regions, including the Saskatchewan and Carrot Rivers.
- Due to the near normal to slightly lower than normal snow content in many northern Manitoba basins, the rivers are expected to remain within the banks at most locations. The flood risk is generally low for northern Manitoba basins.
- As in previous years, there is a risk of ice pile up and ice jamming that could create a sudden rise of levels on these basins in a short period of time.

## **Manitoba Lakes**

- Manitoba's major lakes remain largely ice covered. The largest lakes are reported at 80% or greater ice coverage, with some smaller lakes in southern Manitoba showing as low as 60% ice coverage. 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](https://gov.mb.ca/mit/floodinfo/#forecasts_reports).

## **\*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.