

**FLOOD REPORT FOR MANITOBA**

*April 14, 2019*

**Flood Warning\*:**

- **Red River, from Emerson to the Red River Floodway Channel Inlet**
- **Lower Red River in the Netley Creek area and lower Netley Creek, due to effects of ice jamming.**

**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.**

**Summary**

- The Red River Floodway gates were operated around noon today. This initial operation was preparatory and will not affect the water level of the Red River upstream of the Floodway Inlet. Later today, in accordance with the operating guidelines, the gates will be raised in small steps to gradually raise the upstream water levels closer to the natural level, which will divert more flow into the floodway channel. The bridge on Courchaine Road over the floodway inlet control structure will remain closed to traffic while the floodway gates are in operation.
- Forecast information for the Red River was updated yesterday and is summarized in the main report for major sites on the river. Based on the most recent forecast, closure of PTH 75 North at Morris is no longer a certainty, staff are closely watching water levels and forecasts and will work towards keeping the highway open as long as it remains safe.
- Significant ice jamming occurred yesterday on the lower Red River downstream from Netley Creek, causing rapid and significant increases in water levels on portions of the lower Red River and on Netley Creek. It is reported that a home and a cottage in the Petersfield area were damaged by the high water levels. Residents in the lower Red River area are advised to remain alert as ice jams may worsen or continue until the lower Red River is free of ice.
- As temperatures in the North continue to rise over the next few days, ice could start moving along the Saskatchewan and Carrot Rivers. People are reminded to be watchful as ice jams and flood conditions can develop quickly.
- PR 204 west of PR 212 was reopened today, including the bridge connecting Selkirk and East Selkirk, as water levels dropped. For detours and road closures please call 511 or visit [www.manitoba511.ca](http://www.manitoba511.ca).

## Weather

- Over the next few days little to no precipitation is forecasted for southern Manitoba and the USA portion of the Red River basin. Temperatures are expected to increase this week, with daily highs in the mid teens and overnight lows at or above zero. Winds are expected to be light this week.

## Red River Basin

- The crest on the Red River is moving downstream from Grand Forks, North Dakota. In general, water levels on the Red River are dropping from Grand Forks southwards, and increasing from Drayton, North Dakota northwards. Runoff from last week's snowfall is expected to produce a second, smaller crest on the southern USA portion of the Red River.
- 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 0.7 feet at Emerson, 1.4 feet at Morris, and 0.9 feet at Ste. Agathe. The river is above banks at some locations, such as St. Jean, and is expected to rise above bankfull capacity at Emerson in the next 48 hours.
- Forecast information was updated yesterday evening and is summarized below.

	Today's level (ft)	Forecasted peak	
		Level (Ft)	Date
Emerson	781.9	789.1-789.7	Apr 20-22
Letellier	777.8	783.7-784.3	Apr 23-25
St. Jean	771.6	779.2-780.0	Apr 24-26
Morris (@ PTH 23)	766.4	775.7-776.8	Apr 24-27
Ste. Agathe	758.5	768.1-769.1	Apr 25-27
St. Adolphe	754.5	762.5-763.5	Apr 26-28
Above floodway inlet	751.3	759.7-760.9	Apr 26-28
James Avenue	17.4	18.7-18.8	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 implementing ring dike closures and pumping operations to facilitate internal drainage. 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 also expected at Letellier, Ste. Agathe, and St. Adolphe as river levels rise. Based on the most recent forecast, closure of PTH 75 North at Morris is no longer a certainty, staff are closely watching water levels and forecasts and will work towards keeping the highway open as long as it remains safe. More precise estimates will be available as we move closer to the peak. Over 300 super sandbags have been installed to provide necessary freeboard on the dike at Ste Agathe.
- Rising water levels on the Red River at the Floodway Inlet have resulted in water spilling naturally into the Floodway Channel; flow in the channel is currently 1,690 cfs (48 cms).
- The Red River Floodway gates were operated around noon today. This initial operation was preparatory and will not affect the water level of the Red River upstream of the Floodway Inlet. Later today, in accordance with the operating guidelines, the gates will be raised in small steps to gradually raise the upstream water levels closer to the natural

level, which will divert more flow into the floodway channel. The bridge on Courchaine Road over the floodway inlet control structure will remain closed to traffic while the floodway gates are in operation.

- Significant ice jamming occurred yesterday on the lower Red River downstream from Netley Creek, causing rapid and significant increases in water levels on portions of the lower Red River and on Netley Creek. It is reported that one home and one cottage in the Petersfield area were damaged by high water levels. Residents in the lower Red River area are advised to remain alert as ice jams may worsen or continue until the lower Red River is free of ice.
- PR 204 west of PR 212 was reopened today, including the bridge connecting Selkirk and East Selkirk, as water levels dropped. 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 was updated yesterday and a peak flow of approximately 3,750 cfs (106 cms) at Gardenton is expected between April 19 and 21.
- Three temporary water level gauges are being installed on the Gardenton Floodway and modelling work is being undertaken to confirm the flow capacity of the floodway.

### **Assiniboine River Basin**

- The Shellmouth Dam reservoir water level is at 1395.2 feet and the reservoir is rising towards the target water level range of 1402 to 1404 feet. Inflows to the reservoir are approximately 1,870 cfs (53 cms) and outflows are 26 cfs (0.7 cms).
- The current flow down the Portage Diversion is 788 cfs (22 cms). The Portage Diversion continues to be operated to limit flows on the Lower Assiniboine to less than 5,000 cfs (140 cms) to manage ice while it is still in place downstream. A number of ice jams have been reported on the lower Assiniboine River. It is reported that the ice moved out from Baie St. Paul but ice jams are occurring near Lido Plage, and Beaudry Park. Conditions are being monitored but no impacts are expected.
- Generally, flows and water levels upstream of Portage la Prairie have peaked and are beginning to decline. However, fluctuations to Portage Reservoir inflows and Portage Diversion flows will likely occur over the next several days as some of the remaining ice upstream of Portage La Prairie continues to break up.

### **Northern Manitoba**

- Runoff is beginning in some areas in the north. Water levels and flows on the Saskatchewan, Carrot, and Red Deer Rivers are beginning to increase.
- As temperatures continue to rise over the next few days, ice could start moving along the Saskatchewan and Carrot Rivers. People are reminded to be watchful of local waterways as ice jams and flood conditions can develop quickly.

### **Manitoba Lakes**

- Generally, greater than 90% ice coverage is reported on most Manitoba lakes.

- Outflow from Lake Manitoba is approximately 3,230 cfs (92 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:

<b>Major Manitoba Lakes – April 14, 2019</b>		
Location	Water Level**	
	Metres (m)	Feet (ft)
Dauphin Lake	260.48 m	854.6 ft
Lake Manitoba - Steep Rock	247.35 m	811.5 ft
Lake Manitoba - Westbourne	247.41 m	811.7 ft
Lake St. Martin at Hilbre	243.63 m	799.3 ft
Lake Winnipeg at Gimli	217.35 m	713.1 ft
Lake Winnipeg at Victoria Beach	217.35 m	713.1 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](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](mailto:floodinfo@gov.mb.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.