

FLOOD REPORT FOR MANITOBA

April 11, 2017 – 9:00 am

Overland flooding and tributary flows are subsiding across much of southern Manitoba. Flows on northern rivers are ice covered and are responding to runoff.

The risk of shoreline ice pileup on Manitoba's major lakes is low for the next 48 hours. Strong winds are forecasted for April 14.

Partial ring dike closures are in place at St. Adolphe and Gretna. The partial ring dike and rail line closures at Brunkild were removed yesterday.

For current highway conditions, call 511 or visit www.manitoba511.ca.

High Water Advisory*: - Carrot River

Flood Watch*: - Lower Assiniboine River, from Portage la Prairie to Headingley due to a planned increase in flows

Flood Warning*: - Upper Assiniboine River, between the Shellmouth Dam and Holland
- Pelican Lake

Summary

- The Assiniboine River forecast was revised as there is a coincidence of peaks of the Assiniboine and Souris Rivers at the Portage Reservoir. There is also greater confidence in upstream gauge flows as they are no longer ice affected. At Holland, with a weather forecast indicating no future precipitation, it is expected that flows will peak at approximately 40,000 cfs (1,133 cms) on April 12. At Portage la Prairie, it is expected that flows will reach the same peak by April 13.
- As of this morning, flow on the Portage Diversion channel is 20,059 cfs (568 cms) and flow on the Assiniboine River downstream of the diversion is 13,066 cfs (370 cms). Flows will be increased to 14,000 cfs (396 cms) this morning and will be considered for increase to 15,000 cfs (425 cms) tomorrow. Preparations for temporary flood protection measures are near complete on the lower Assiniboine River for flows of 15,000 cfs (425 cms). Crews at the Portage Diversion are still preparing the diversion for emergency flows above 25,000 cfs (708 cms).
- A High Water Advisory remains issued for the Carrot River. The Carrot River upstream in Saskatchewan at Smoky Burn peaked on April 6th at a near record high flows. Flows on the Carrot River at Turnberry, Saskatchewan are expected to reach 6,000 cfs (170

cms) by April 13. Flows will continue to increase to 7,500 cfs (212 cms) by April 15 – 16 and then are expected to rise slowly to the peak at 8,000 cfs (227 cms) by April 22.

- All flow and water level information is based on data available at 7:00 am. Flood sheets with updated information will be posted later today at https://www.gov.mb.ca/mit/floodinfo/floodoutlook/forecasts_reports.html.
- Any questions or concerns about flood mitigation should be directed first to the municipal authority. Questions about water levels, provincial waterways, or provincial water control infrastructure can be directed to 204-945-3819, from 8:00 to 16:00 daily.

Weather

- Today's daily and nightly temperatures across Manitoba will remain relatively cool. Daily temperatures will begin to increase tomorrow while overnight temperatures are expected to remain near freezing. The potential precipitation on April 14 and 15 forecasts 15 – 20 mm of rain in the Manitoba portion of the Assiniboine River Basin.
- The Assiniboine River forecast is currently based on no future precipitation to the crest. Should the future weather that is forecasted become a concern, the Assiniboine River forecast will have to be updated.

Red River Basin

- The Red River and most of its tributaries continue to decline.
- The Red River upstream of the Floodway Inlet crested on April 4 at 760.35 feet and is currently at 758.4 feet.
- The Red River Floodway continues 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 is 16,510 cfs (468 cms). Flow upstream of the Floodway Inlet on Tuesday morning is approximately 51,220 cfs (1,541 cms).
- The water level at James Avenue on Tuesday morning is 17.4 feet. With the Floodway in operation, water levels at James Avenue are expected to remain within the range of 17 – 17.5 feet for the next week as flows on the Red River recede and flows on the Assiniboine River increase. Flow at James Avenue on Tuesday morning is 49,335 cfs (1,397 cms).

Pembina River Basin

- A Flood Warning remains in effect for Pelican Lake. Water levels on Pelican Lake are at 1,353.94 feet, above the desired operating range of 1,350.2 – 1351.7 feet. The lake is forecasted to crest between the dates of April 13 – 15 at a level 1354.04 feet, which will be a new record high level. The level is forecasted to remain above 1353 feet until April 15 and is expected to reach the summer target level of 1351.7 feet by mid-May based on dry weather conditions.
- A partial closure at the Gretna dike remains in place. Water reached the centre line on Saturday. Water from the Pembina River began to overtop the international border road yesterday.

Assiniboine River Basin

- A Flood Warning remains issued for the Upper Assiniboine River, between the Shellmouth Dam and Holland due to increasing flows and water levels
- A Flood Watch remains in effect for the area between Portage la Prairie and Headingley. Flows will be increased to 14,000 cfs (396 cms) this morning and will be considered for increase to 15,000 cfs (425 cms) tomorrow.
- Most major tributaries of the Assiniboine River are beginning to decrease with the exception of minor increases on the Little Saskatchewan River. Flows are expected to decrease as the Little Saskatchewan River has crested.
- The Shellmouth Reservoir was drawn down over winter in preparation for spring runoff, and water levels have been increasing since the end of March. The current water level is at 1394 feet. Inflows to the reservoir peaked yesterday and are continuing to decline. Current inflows are approximately 6,179 cfs (175 cms). Outflows from the dam are 3,624 cfs (103 cms).
- Water levels on the upper Assiniboine River in Saskatchewan continue to decline at Sturgis and the Whitesand River. Water levels in Manitoba continue to decline at Russell, St. Lazare, Griswold and Brandon.
- Water levels and flows at Brandon peaked on April 9 at a level of 1,182.1 feet and at a flow of 23,500 cfs (665 cms). Today's water level at 18th Street Bridge in Brandon is 1,181.6 feet and the current flow is 21,458 cfs (608 cms).
- Flows overnight increased at Holland by 4,369 cfs (124 cms) and are currently at 37,353 cfs (1,058 cms). It is expected that flows will peak at approximately 40,000 cfs (1,133 cms) on April 12.
- The Assiniboine River forecast was revised as there is a coincidence of peaks of the Assiniboine and Souris Rivers at the Portage Reservoir. There is also greater confidence in upstream gauge flows as they are no longer ice affected. At Portage la Prairie, it is expected that flows will reach approximately 40,000 cfs (1,133 cms) on April 13.
- As of this morning, flow on the Portage Diversion channel is 20,059 cfs (568 cms) and flow on the Assiniboine River downstream of the diversion is 13,066 cfs (370 cms). Flows will be increased to 14,000 cfs (396 cms) this morning and will be considered for increase to 15,000 cfs (425 cms) tomorrow. Preparations for temporary flood protection measures are near complete on the lower Assiniboine River for flows of 15,000 cfs (425 cms). Crews at the Portage Diversion are still preparing the diversion for emergency flows above 25,000 cfs (708 cms).

Souris River Basin

- The Souris River at Westhope, Melita, Souris and Wawanesa has peaked. Flows at Westhope and Melita are staying relatively stable at 8,020 cfs (227 cms) and 8,310 cfs (235 cms), respectively. Flows at Souris and Wawanesa continue to decline.

Parkland Region

- Most major tributary flows in the southern Parkland are declining. However, some tributaries are fluctuating due to runoff from the mountains snowpack and have minor increases, including Mossy River, Woody River and McKinnon Creek.

The Pas and Northern Manitoba

- Flows on the Red Deer River in Manitoba continue to increase; however, water levels on Red Deer Lake are within the normal operating range. Daily measurements are being taken at Red Deer Lake.
- A High Water Advisory remains issued for the Carrot River. The Carrot River upstream in Saskatchewan at Smoky Burn peaked on April 6th at a near record high flows. Flows on the Carrot River at Turnberry, Saskatchewan are expected to reach 6,000 cfs (170 cms) by April 13. Flows will continue to increase to 7,500 cfs (212 cms) by April 15 – 16 and then are expected to rise slowly to the peak at 8,000 cfs (227 cms) by April 22.
- Water levels on the downstream part of the Carrot River within Manitoba are influenced by Carrot River flows and water levels on the Saskatchewan River where the two rivers meet. Conditions will be monitored as ice jamming on both rivers is a likelihood because ice remains intact in Manitoba, because the ice is still quite strong, and because river flows are increasing to the values at which ice jamming has occurred in the past. It is anticipated that ice will be in place on the Saskatchewan River when ice begins moving on the Carrot River
- The backwater effect of ice jamming will influence water levels on the Carrot River. It is difficult to estimate the timing and effects of future ice jamming on the two rivers. As flows are forecasted to be higher than 2011 on the Carrot River, and ice strength is greater, it is estimated ice jamming on the Carrot River could occur as soon as the weekend; this is several days prior to the arrival of the highest flows on the river. There is a high risk that the peak water levels caused by the ice jamming will be higher than the peak water levels in 2011.

Manitoba Lakes

- Generally, significant or full ice cover is reported on all major Manitoba lakes. The water levels on Manitoba's major lakes are relatively stable.
- As of Tuesday, the flow on the Waterhen River is 10,587 cfs (300 cms).
- The Fairford River Water Control Structure is being operated for maximum possible discharge; outflow from Lake Manitoba is approximately 10,326 cfs (292 cms).
- The Lake Manitoba water level this morning was at approximately 812.8 feet at the Steeprock gauge. The median forecast is 813.9 feet for the end of May.
- The estimated natural outflow from Lake Manitoba at the current lake level, if the Fairford River Water Control Structure and associated channel improvements hadn't been constructed, is approximately 2,800 cfs (71 cms).
- The Lake Winnipegosis water level this morning was at approximately 833.9 feet. The median forecast is 834.1 feet for mid-May.

- The Lake St. Martin water level this morning was at approximately 802.6 feet. The median forecast is 803.4 feet for the end of June.
- The median forecast represents average weather to predicted lake peaks.
- The Lake Winnipeg water level this morning was at approximately 715.5 feet.
- The Nutimik Lake water level this morning was at approximately 903.3 feet.

***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.