



The Red River Basin Commission South Chapter

Presents an Evening of Discussion

Treading Water. A Rural Perspective on the 1997 Red River Flood

Wednesday, July 12, 2017

Morris Multiplex

Morris Manitoba

Networking and Refreshments 6:00 pm

Presentations Begin at 7:00 pm

The event is **FREE** of charge!

Due to limited capacity, advance registration is required:

Register by email: info@redriverbasincommission.org

The Topic

The 1997 Red River flood will forever be part of Manitoba's history. Known as "The Flood of the Century", the province saw devastating losses as entire communities were under water, creating unprecedented property losses. Citizens lost homes, farmland, and livelihoods as the Red River swelled beyond its bank. The threat was felt from city centres such as Fargo, Grand Forks, and Winnipeg, as well as all the small communities in between.

Southern Manitoba was one of the hardest hit areas. Towns were faced with tough decisions, uncertain predictions, and concerned citizens. Emergency planners from communities throughout the Red River Valley were on high alert, sometimes resorting to innovative thinking that helped save homes. The Canadian Armed Forces assisted the rescues of homeowners and the defence of their properties.

However, from that devastating time, we saw communities band together for their neighbors. Strangers helping strangers. Extensive flood protection infrastructure was built to protect communities and properties across the Red River Basin in the following years. In the 20 years since the 1997 flood, the Province of Manitoba has created safer communities and safer waterways, reducing flood risks for the future.

But is this all enough? Are we prepared enough for the next flood? With changing climates ahead, and renewed risk of severe weather, are we ready?

Join us on July 12th as we look back on the 1997 Red River Flood in rural Manitoba with presentations and a facilitated discussion with some of the officials and experts that were on the ground, dealing with the impacts and implications dealing with a disaster of this magnitude.



Invitees include the Manitoba Premier, key Ministers, Members of the Legislative Assembly, Manitoba Members of Parliament, Governors and Commissioners from North Dakota and Minnesota, the U.S. Consul, community leaders, scientists, environmental non-government organizations, media, and citizens.

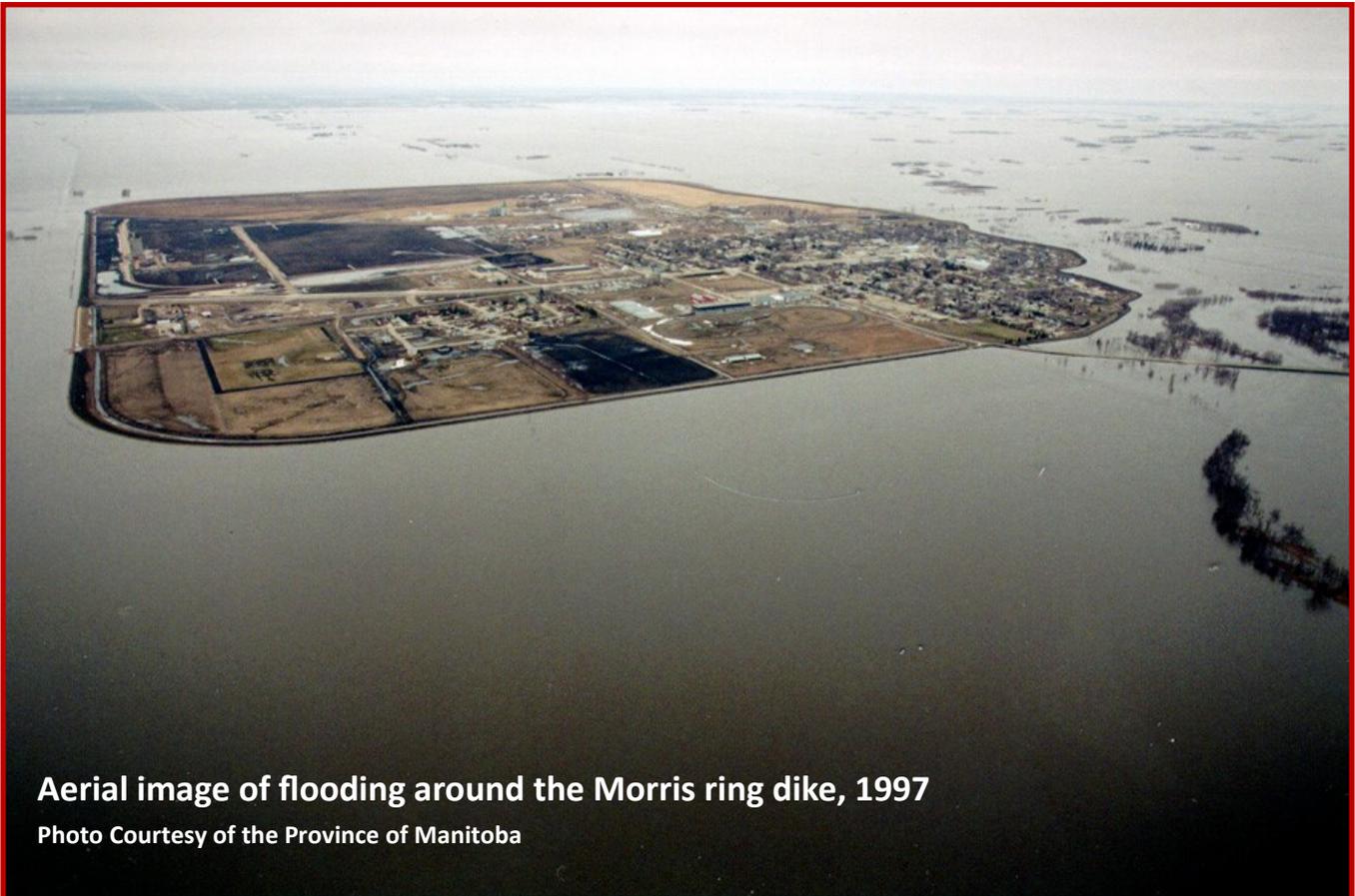
The Event

Presenters Include

- **Wayne Arseny** — past Mayor, RM of Emerson, 1993-2001
- **Herm Martens** — past Mayor, RM of Morris, 1996-2010
- **Steve Topping** - Executive Director, Manitoba Infrastructure
- **Panel discussion** - Are we prepared for the next flood? Steve Topping, Hank Venema, and Lance Yohe

The event will be held on **Wednesday, July 12, 2017 at the Morris Multiplex in Morris, MB. Networking will begin at 6:00 pm with presentations commencing at 7:00 pm.** Wine and appetizers will be served. **This event is free of charge; however, advanced registration is required as seating is limited.**

Register by emailing info@redriverbasincommission.org



Aerial image of flooding around the Morris ring dike, 1997

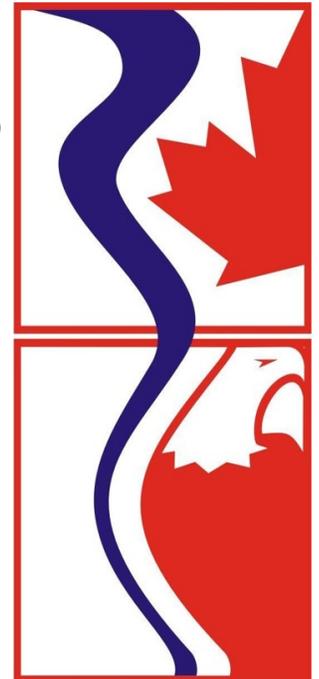
Photo Courtesy of the Province of Manitoba

The Host

The Red River Basin Commission (RRBC) was created over 30 years ago as a grass-roots organization formed to address water management and to bring conservation stewardship to citizens throughout the Red River Basin on both sides of the U.S.-Canada border. The RRBC is a non-profit, international organization that facilitates collaboration and cooperation of organizations, residents, and governments on both sides of the border on a basin-wide scale to provide comprehensive watershed protection and management.



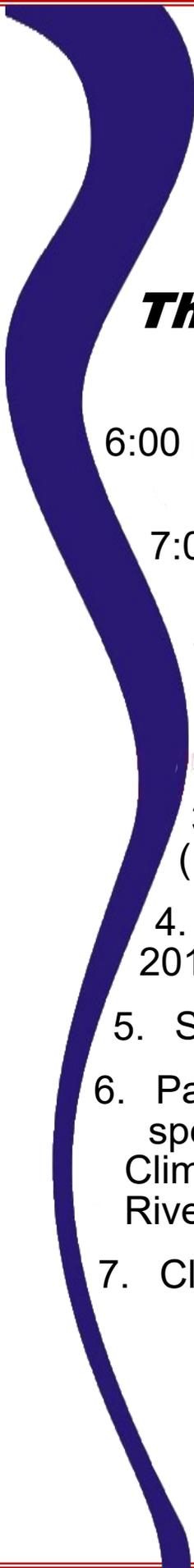
The RRBC in Manitoba facilitates the RRBC South Chapter which is an independent group made up of representatives from all the Manitoba municipalities in the Red River Basin south of the TransCanada Highway to the U.S. border. The mission of the chapter is to provide their citizens and the public with education on water issues in the Red River Basin through presentations, workshops, and educational events. Each year, the RRBC South Chapter holds four meetings, a fundraising event, and sponsors informational evenings.



RED RIVER BASIN
COMMISSION

South Chapter

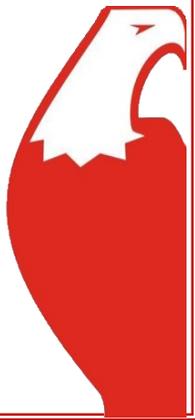




The Agenda

6:00 pm: Doors open, registration, networking reception
(hors d'oeuvres and beverages)

7:00 pm: Program starts

1. Welcome Remarks
 2. Words from Event Hosts: RRBC South Chapter executive committee
 3. Wayne Arseny, Past Mayor of the RM of Emerson (1993-2001)
 4. Herm Martens, Past Mayor of the RM of Morris (1996-2010)
 5. Steve Topping, Director, Manitoba Infrastructure
 6. Panel Discussion and Question Period (including speakers Hank Venema, Director of Planning, Prairie Climate Centre and Lance Yohe, Executive Director, Red River Basin Commission)
 7. Closing Remarks and Wrap Up
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The Presenters

Wayne Arseny

Past Mayor, RM of Emerson 1993-2001

Wayne was born and raised on a farm in Tolsoi, Manitoba. He moved to Emerson when he began work as a Canada Customs border inspector where he worked for 35 years before retiring as a Superintendent. Wayne served as the mayor of the RM of Emerson for 23 years, including 1997 during the Flood of the Century. Wayne is an active member in his community and he currently sits on a dozen boards from the MB Historical Society, to the Southern Health Input Advisory Committee, to the MB Trails board, to local church and tourism boards. Currently, Wayne takes part in step-on guiding tours for Fehrway Bus tours, and is the trail maintenance boss for the Trans Canada Trail section from Emerson to the Floodway in Winnipeg. As the Tourism Coordinator for the RM of Emerson-Franklin, Wayne is currently mapping and signing 30 km on the Roseau River for canoeing and kayaking.



Herm Martens

Past Mayor, RM of Morris 1996-2010

Herm was raised on a small mixed farm in Rosenort, Manitoba. After receiving his Diploma in Agriculture from the University of Manitoba, and graduating from Western Canada School of Auctioneering, Herm returned to the family farm until his retirement in 2013. Herm served as the Reeve/Mayor of the RM of Morris for 15 years. He was instrumental in the construction of a sewer and water system for the community of Sperling and providing a system of potable water for all residents in the R.M. of Morris. He served as Emergency Measures Coordinator for the last seven Red River floods. He supervised the rebuilding of the infrastructure after both the 1996 and 1997 floods and conducted an evaluation and refurbishing of the municipal drainage system. Herm initiated the building of dykes around four rural communities, one being the Rosenort Dyke and Floodway—the second largest flood protection project in Manitoba. He has served as a Member of the Floodway Advisory Board and the Floodway Liaison Committee.



Herm has served on countless boards and committees including Manitoba Egg Producers, Keystone Agricultural Producers, the Manitoba Veterinarian Medical Board, Pembina Valley Water Co-op. Herm is the Past Chair for the Red River Basin Commission.

In 2011, Herm was presented a Certificate of Merit from the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences at the University of Manitoba, and the “Outstanding Community Leadership Award” from the Province of Manitoba.

Steve Topping

Executive Director, Manitoba Infrastructure

Steve Topping has been employed with the Province of Manitoba since 1996 and is presently Executive Director of the Hydrologic Forecasting and Water Management within the Water Management and Structures Division for the department of Manitoba Infrastructure. In his employment history with the Province he has been responsible for Provincial Flood Forecasting and Flood Coordination, flood mitigation programs, implementation of the capital and maintenance of the Provincial water control infrastructure, Office of Drinking Water, Drainage and Water Use Licensing, Water Power Regulation, Engineering support to Conservation Districts, watershed and aquifer planning, and groundwater and surface water management. He is also

responsible for the provincial transboundary water boards, being Manitoba's representative on the Prairie Province Water Board, Red River Basin Commission, Lake of the Woods Control Board. Partners for the Saskatchewan River Board and two International Joint Commission Boards. Prior to moving to Manitoba, Steve was employed in the irrigation industry in southern Alberta for 16 years. Steve is a graduate of the University of Guelph with an Engineering degree specializing in Water Resources and Environment Management.



The Panel

- **Steve Topping**, Executive Director, Manitoba Infrastructure
- **Hank Venema**, Director of Planning, Prairie Climate Centre
- **Lance Yohe**, Executive Director, Red River Basin Commission





South Chapter

“Working together to achieve common goals for water protection and management within the Red River Basin”