



May 14, 2014

### **Flood Recovery Update – May 14**

Dear Canmore community,

The spring season has arrived in Canmore and I know that while on the one hand it's a welcome arrival, there is also a growing sense of concern about the possibility of flooding again this year. Unfortunately, there is no crystal ball to tell us what will and will not occur this year. I can tell you that Town staff are monitoring the creeks and the river and working with river and weather forecasters to monitor snow pack, rainstorms, and water levels. Any updates we have will be provided to the public through all our available communication channels. For now, here's an update on flood recovery and mitigation efforts and the work we've done to help us prepare as much as possible for this year.

**Creek Construction Updates** – We have accomplished a great deal of mitigation work in the past year, in advance of spring run-off this year. It should be noted that though this work will return capacity to our creek channels and protect against a similar event to that experienced in 2013, a larger event that could overwhelm the mitigation may occur. The Town is taking steps to prepare for emergencies of all types. It is important that residents be informed and prepare individually as well. I'll write a bit about Emergency Preparedness later. For now, a brief update on each creek:

**Cougar Creek** – Construction in Cougar Creek should finish around May 23. Over 3,000 articulated concrete mats were locally produced for this project. The placement of those mats will be completed by the end of this week. Channel excavation is also largely complete. Some final grading of the banks and resident back yards will occur through May 23. The debris net will be installed by May 15 and the ramp that will be used for access, cleaning, and maintenance should be complete by May 23.

The original pedestrian bridge will be installed at the lower end of the creek in late May –June. Later this year we will be installing a new bridge in the middle of the creek, in the original location. Proposals for that project are currently being received.

You may have heard in the news that rock quarries have been having trouble with keeping up with the demand throughout the Province for large rock. We are expecting our final shipments soon and will be stockpiling large rock for emergency response and the creation of grade control structures at a later date.

**Pigeon Creek** –We are working with MD of Bighorn to complete short term mitigation on this creek. Construction within in the Town of Canmore boundary will commence this week. This work will protect George Blggy Senior road, the highway onramp, and the ATCO gas pipeline. We will coordinate with Thunderstone Quarry to make sure that their product is safely stored.

**Stone Creek** – Stone Creek has been armoured on one side to allow any debris and sediment to flow into undeveloped areas and to stay away from development. An emergency access road has been kept open to allow for emergency response if needed. Residents in this area should know that overland flooding is possible with heavy rainfall. We will monitor the area and respond as needed.

**Stoneworks Creek** – There were no short term mitigation options for this creek that were feasible until a longer term hazard and risk assessment is completed.

**Three Sisters Creek** – Over 20,000m<sup>3</sup> of sediment material that was deposited during the flood last June has been cleaned out of the golf course pond. This was the developer's contribution to the project. The channel has been cleaned and excavated. Articulated concrete mat have been placed at the pinch point in channel near the bridge. This should protect infrastructure and bridge. We have also cleaned out the creek channel past the parkway and heavily armoured the area to protect the road which is a vital link in the community.

**Bow River Update** – The Bow River dykes were inspected by the Province last fall and again this spring. Town staff worked with representatives from the Province to identify areas where residents and staff have concerns about the dykes and areas to keep an eye on. In addition, the Town has hired consultants to survey the river. We are working with the Province to model high water flows and to compare the current capacity of the river channel with what the river was like when the dykes were originally created. We have resurveyed the cross sections of the river originally used and measured when the dykes were created. Along with in-stream surveys, drones were used to model the river under water, on the surface, and the surrounding topography. (You may have noticed orange paint markings on the river bank as part of this project.) All this information will be used to create a simulation that models flow of water including banking and possible velocity changes.

For this year, the work will help us with emergency preparedness and response by identifying river capacity and potential trouble spots. We will use this information in conjunction with river flow predictions and in our communication with Trans Alta before they discharge.

**Future Creek Work** - In the coming months, hazard assessments for each creek will be completed. We will work with the community to review the hazards and risk reduction options for our mountain creeks. We will start with Cougar Creek and systematically work through all the creeks in Canmore that have adjacent development. Feedback will be compiled for Council, who will make a decision on the long-term mitigation strategy for each creek. Dates for this process have not yet been set. Once they are, we will invite the community to provide their input.

During the June floods our community came together to support and care for one another. This strengthened the fabric of our community and was a source of great pride and strength. As we work

toward understanding and addressing all the risks our community faces, we need to continue to work together in partnership toward the shared goal of a safe and caring community for all.

**Mountain Creek Mitigation Newsletter** - The Town is producing a newsletter to keep residents informed on the Mountain Creek Hazard Mitigation work. The most recent (issue 3) is available here: <http://www.canmore.ca/About-Canmore/Flood/Mountain-Creek-Hazard-Mitigation.html> by clicking on the link for Issue 3.

**Emergency Preparedness** – I am very proud of the mitigation work we have completed in a short time frame. And, as I mentioned earlier, mitigation is only one piece of the puzzle. Emergency response and preparedness are also important. Over the past year, Town staff have undergone additional emergency management training, supplies and materials have been ordered, and we have done as much as we can to improve our preparedness and response as an organization.

It is essential that residents also be prepared. This includes being ready to respond to direction from the Town during an emergency. Please make sure you and your family are prepared in the event of an emergency. This means knowing the risks to our community, having a family plan, and being able to support yourselves for up to 72 hours if need be. You should know what it means to shelter in place. And, if an evacuation order is issued, it is for both your safety and the safety of our first responders that you follow the order. For more information on what you can do to be prepared, please visit <http://www.canmore.ca/Emergency/>

In a disaster, the Town's priorities are to ensure the safety of all responders, the safety of the public, and to protect essential infrastructure. As we move in to long term mitigation, projects will need to be prioritized based on available resources and reasonable time frames. We can maintain the strength of our community by continuing to show compassion and care for others and to work together for the good of all.

That's the latest summary. As always, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions and be sure to check the town's website ([www.canmore.ca](http://www.canmore.ca) and scroll to the Flood Information section) for additional information.

On behalf of Town Council and Administration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Borrowman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "B".

John Borrowman  
Mayor