

Public advised to avoid fast flowing water near creeks

(Penticton BC – April 5, 2018) – With melting snow run off occurring, the City of Penticton is reminding the public to be careful when in close proximity to creeks that may be experiencing higher than normal water flows. Owners of structures, equipment or land located adjacent to creeks should also take steps to prevent loss or damage.

“In an abundance of caution we are advising property owners alongside creeks located in the City of Penticton that the 2018 freshet may bring higher than average creek flows”, said General Manager of Infrastructure, Mitch Moroziuk. “High, fast running water is dangerous and may cause erosion. During high creek flows you should stay well away from the creek banks and you should move any assets or items that are close to the bank or that may be hazardous to the water course to prevent damage or loss should bank erosion occur.”

The City will be monitoring creek flows and undertaking creek inspections to note and address areas of concern. Should members of the public notice any issues or have questions, please call 250-490-2500.

Sandbags are currently available at Fire Station 202, 285 Dawson Avenue, free of charge for anyone needing to take preventative measures on their property.

Quick Facts:

- The March 1, 2018 Snow Survey and Water Supply Bulletin from the Province of BC River Forecast Center indicates that the snow pack in the Okanagan Region is 141% of normal with the outlook of additional snow accumulation over the coming months. The snow pack is higher than the range from the period 2011 to 2017 which was 85% to 123% of normal.
- Snow pack is one element of seasonal flood risk during the freshet season. Weather patterns during the snow melt season play a critical role in whether or not flooding occurs. Intense or prolonged rainfall and extreme temperatures are important factors that can lead to flooding, even for areas with a near normal snow pack.
- The runoff forecast for the Okanagan is also well above normal at 142% of normal for the period March to June.

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