

Be mindful of high water levels and flow rates along local creeks

Some residents should consider sandbagging

(Penticton BC – May 10, 2018) – Penticton residents and visitors are being reminded that creeks in the City and surrounding area are experiencing high water levels and high flow rates which makes them dangerous. Please keep a safe distance from all creek waterways during this period. Slopes adjacent to or above some creeks may have become unstable by water flow, causing their banks to collapse.

“Public safety and protection of infrastructure and property is critical as water from snow melt continues to pass through Penticton”, said General Manager of Infrastructure, Mitch Moroziuk. “Please be mindful of your safety, along with the safety of others.”

What the City is currently doing:

The City of Penticton has been undertaking the following actions:

- Monitoring creeks for high flows, low free board, undermining, downed trees and blockages.
- Tracking lake levels and flows in Penticton and Ellis Creeks.
- Excavating material out of Ellis Creek at bridges and culverts to maintain creek capacity.
- Constructing berms and widening Ellis Creek to increase capacity.
- Removing trees that are at risk of falling into the creek.

What the Province is saying:

The Province of British Columbia’s River forecast Center has upgraded the Okanagan, including Mission Creek and surrounding tributaries, to a Flood Warning defined as, “River levels have exceeded bankfull or will exceed bankfull imminently, and that flooding of areas adjacent to the rivers affected will result.”

The Public Safety and Protection Section of the Ministry of Forestry Lands and Natural Resources has advised the City that lake levels in Skaha lake are rising and that properties adjacent to Skaha Lake should consider taking precautionary measures to protect their assets.

What you can do:

In the event of flood risk, Penticton residents have a responsibility to protect their private property. The City of Penticton has Sand Bags available at Fire Hall Number 2 for the public to access.

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