

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



It's been six months since the City of Abbotsford experienced one of Canada's most costly flooding disasters in modern history, and it's truly remarkable how much response, repair, recovery and rebuilding has taken place across our City in that time. Our Infrastructure Recovery team hit the ground running, and from day one, has been hard at work assessing the damage left behind by the floodwaters, cleaning up and restoring City sites, and developing plans for the long-term repair work still needing to be done. When I reflect on these last six months, I am filled with overwhelming gratitude- for the countless first responders, farmers, businesses, service groups, churches and individuals who responded to the call, stepped up, and helped in any way they could, in the moments of our City's greatest need. It is a testament to the caring, giving and generous residents we have in Abbotsford. We are a community that genuinely cares about and cares for our neighbours.

Since my last update, infrastructure recovery efforts have been focused on fixing the electrical damage to the irrigation pump stations in both Sumas and Matsqui Prairies, finishing the right-of-way debris cleanup, and crews have begun the slough repairs and cleanup of the ditches across the Prairie. Of the approximately 300 damaged sites around the City, 190 have been fully repaired with many other repair projects currently

underway. Engineering consultants are currently developing repair plans for the City's 13 damaged bridges, and we are hopeful that work can start in the next few weeks.

A large focus for staff over the last month has been engaging with residents, farmers and businesses on Sumas Prairie and hearing their feedback on the four draft Long-term Flood Mitigation Options that were presented to Council last month. Staff also continued intergovernmental conversations with Semá:th, M̓athexwi and Leq'á:mel First Nations leadership. The flood response page on Let's Talk Abbotsford (www.letstalkabbotsford.ca/abbotsfordfloodresponse) detailed each of the four draft options, invited Abbotsford residents and business operators to complete two flood-mitigation surveys and provided residents with the opportunity to submit their feedback on each of the plans to our Engineering team. The City hosted three information sessions for Sumas Prairie residents, farmers and business operators, allowing them the opportunity to learn even more about each of the options, ask questions, share their concerns and let us know what matters most to them as residents in the area most impacted by November's flooding event. Each of the three sessions were very well attended, with hundreds of residents coming out to share their thoughts. I had a few difficult, but important conversations with several farmers at these information sessions, and am grateful for the tough questions they asked and the feedback they provided.

City staff are currently compiling all the feedback received through the last month of engagement and will be using it to support the identification of a preferred flood protection option or even a combination of options. They will be presenting this report to Council in the coming weeks, and those interested in learning the results will be able to watch this presentation in person, or via the livestream feed on our website. I look forward to hearing everything our residents have had to say and which option is recommended to put forward to senior levels of government.

While recovery progress has been made across the City, I know there are a couple hundred Sumas Prairie residents that are still out of their homes as they wait for more relief funding, or for restoration work to be completed on their properties. I also know there are many farmers planting crops, or just starting to reestablish their operations. It's heartbreaking to know what our residents are having to endure. And it's why we are so committed to advocating to senior levels of government for the funding and support required to build and upgrade the infrastructure necessary to assure this kind of devastation doesn't happen again. We won't let Abbotsford, or the November 2021 floods be forgotten. We will keep demanding the help and protection our City needs.

Henry Braun
Mayor

QUICK FACTS: REPAIRS TO DATE



18 of 27 damaged drainage sites completed.



Electrical repairs completed to all 10 damaged irrigation pump stations.



Right-of-way debris cleanup completed.



DITCH SLOUGH REPAIRS ON NO. 3 ROAD AND SOUTH PARALLEL ROAD (NEAR NO. 4 ROAD)

NOTICE: THE RIVERSIDE ROAD FLOOD-WASTE TRANSFER STATION IS MOVING!

The temporary flood-waste disposal transfer station on Riverside Road is relocating to GFL's location at **34613 Vye Road** starting on Sunday, May 29. Flood waste will continue to be accepted for Sumas Prairie residents, free of charge, at the new location.



Thank You Abbotsford

Watch the Mayor's Thank You to the Community.

https://youtu.be/Ykxsgl9P2_w

YouTube /cityofabbotsfordbc

STILL TO COME

- Removal of the temporary sandbags throughout the City.
- Continue to assess damages and develop a flood recovery work plan for Clayburn Creek and Sumas Prairie.
- Continue to develop permanent repair for the main dyke breach.
- Survey work in the Sumas River and the Sumas Lake Bottom Canal to estimate the volume of sediment accumulation for removal.