



Deep Roots
Greater Heights

District of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 24, 2012 #12-21

For further information, contact:
Fred Armstrong
Manager Corporate Communications
farmstrong@mapleridge.ca

Update: Maple Ridge Freshet Activities for Sunday, June 24, 2012

The BC River Forecast Centre is maintaining a High Streamflow Advisory for the Lower Fraser River.

Here are the key points of the advisory released at 4:00 pm on Sunday, June 24, 2012:

- The main pulse of water from last week's rainfall over the interior has now worked its way down through the lower Fraser River (through Mission and downstream). River levels around Mission and downstream are expected to hold steady through the early part of the week as local inflows (i.e. from the Harrison River) offset declining flows from upstream on the mainstem Fraser. There is the potential for small rises or drops through Tuesday, June 26, 2012, and Wednesday, June 27, 2012. The Fraser River at Mission is currently at 6.36 metres and the most recent modeling completed today is forecasting rises to 6.50 metres through Wednesday, June 27, 2012.
- For daily updates of five-day forecasts of water levels and timing of daily peak levels for various locations down the lower Fraser River, see the River Forecast Centre website, http://bcrcfc.env.gov.bc.ca/bulletins/Freshet2012/WL_Prediction.pdf
- Heavy rainfall and rapid snowmelt occurred over the weekend, particularly in the Thompson River Basin (a major tributary to the lower Fraser River) and to a lesser extent the Upper Fraser River. Typically, it takes six days for water from rain and snowmelt in these headwaters to travel down to the lower Fraser Valley. This weekend's rain in the Thompson and Fraser headwaters will result in another pulse of water travelling downstream through this week. While there may be slight drops in river levels along the Lower Fraser River mid-week, significant additional rise is expected over the Friday to Monday (June 29, 2012, to July 2, 2012) period next week. Current forecasts are estimating the flows to be in the range of 12,500 to 13,500 cubic metres per second (m³/s) at Hope, and a height of 6.70 to 7.30

metres at the Mission gauge.

These forecasts consider the water that is currently in the tributaries. Any significant additional rainfall over the week may cause the forecast to increase. These estimates will be refined as the week goes by.

The River Forecast Centre will continue to monitor conditions and will provide updates as conditions warrant.

MAPLE RIDGE OVERALL

The District of Maple Ridge remains activated at Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) Level 1 and is closely monitoring conditions along the river, localized weather impacts and conducting daily dyke inspections. The EOC will remain active and staff will be meeting daily until the river levels have receded to safe levels.

The latest information from the BC River Forecast centre and Environment Canada can be found on our website, mapleridge.ca, through the 'Flood Watch on the Fraser' link. We will post updates on the District Facebook page @yourmapleridge and you can also follow us on Twitter @yourmapleridge. We will be using the hashtag #FraserMR for local updates.

The Operations Centre telephone lines will be open, as usual, from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday to Friday. Calls received after hours will be routed to appropriate staff members who are on-call. **The Operations Centre telephone number is 604-463-9581.**

WHARF STREET

There is no change in the situation for this part of the community. As noted in previous updates, on the evening of Friday, June 22, 2012, as a precautionary measure, 43 homes on the unprotected section of Wharf Street in the Hammond neighbourhood were given an 'Evacuation Alert' in accordance with the District's Flood Management Plan.

District staff continue to monitor the water levels and respond to enquiries from the residents in this area. We ask that people who do not live in this area avoid the area and respect the privacy of the residents.

To assist area residents in interpreting the forecast river levels, the projected peak on Monday, June 25, 2012, at 6:00 am is forecast to be 15 to 25 centimeters higher than the levels observed along Wharf Street at 10:00 am, Sunday, June 24, 2012.

KANAKA STREET (just north of the Lougheed Highway)

The intense thunderstorm on Saturday evening added some outflow to the Kanaka Creek Estuary as the water flowed through area creeks towards the Fraser River.

To assist area residents in interpreting the forecast river levels, the projected peak on Monday, June 25, 2012, at 6:00 am is forecast to be 15 to 25 centimeters higher than the levels observed along Kanaka Way at 10:00 am, Sunday, June 24, 2102.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Daily Dyke patrols and water measurements continue.

The public space at the Haney Wharf remains open, however, the boat mooring ramp remains closed due to the high river levels and fast flowing water. Inspections are being conducted daily.

The sandbagging depot remains open at Albion Flats Landscaping Supply, and will remain open 24 hours a day until further notice. The depot is located at Albion Flats Landscape Supply, 23549 Lougheed Highway, Maple Ridge, telephone: 604-477-1971. The District thanks the owners and staff of Albion Landscaping who volunteered their time to manage the sandbag depot to free up District Operations staff for other duties. These folks are great corporate citizens.

We also thank our Emergency Social Services volunteers who have been on standby since Friday night as part of our Emergency Planning. Again, these folks are an important part of our Emergency Program service delivery and we are grateful for their dedication to service to our community.

A photo gallery of the conditions around the community has been posted on the District's Facebook page at facebook.com/yourmapleridge.

Water levels on the Fraser River and tributaries remain very high and water flows are fast. Exercise extreme caution if you are near the river. We also recommend that people stay off the Fraser River for recreation purposes. If you need to be on the river for work, please ensure that you are wearing appropriate safety equipment and use extreme caution.