

FAIRMONT HOT SPRINGS FLOOD & LANDSLIDE



COMMUNITY UPDATE // FEBRUARY 2021

MAY 31, 2020 EVENT RECOVERY WORK

Recovery work from the May 31, 2020 debris flood event continued through the fall as we removed debris from the Lower Cold Spring Creek Debris Trap.

The last piece of work to be completed is to repair some damage that occurred immediately downstream of one of the large weirs on Fairmont Creek. This work will be completed either in early May before spring freshet or later in the summer.

The RDEK is working through the Disaster Financial Assistance claims for the cleanup work that has been completed. So far, the Province has covered a very significant portion of the response and recovery efforts, with the remaining cost being paid for through the Fairmont Flood and Landslide Service Area.

PHASE 1 PROJECT - DESIGN & SCHEDULE

The Cold Spring Creek Debris Flow Mitigation Project Phase 1 has received \$750,000 in funding from the Union of BC Municipalities Structural Flood Mitigation Program, \$475,000 has been contributed from Community Works Gas Tax Funding and \$150,000 is being contributed from the Fairmont Flood and Landslide Service Area for a total project budget of \$1,375,000. This phase will consist of the construction of a debris net that will contain debris flow material upstream of the community. The containment volume will be determined and communicated as the final design is completed. We know that this phase will only provide partial protection for the community which is why the RDEK is continuing to pursue additional funding opportunities for the next phases of work.

PHASE 1 PROJECT TIMELINE:

- **END OF FEBRUARY** - Completion of detailed design
- **MARCH** - Regulatory approval applications and debris net procurement
- **APRIL** - Construction tender posted
- **LATE SUMMER/EARLY FALL** - Project construction



PICTURED: The lower debris trap on Cold Spring Creek as they finished up the clean out.

PHASE 2 FUNDING APPLICATION

In early December 2020, the Adaptation, Resilience and Disaster Mitigation Funding Program was announced. This program is intended to fund flood mitigation projects up to \$10,000,000, with the funding covering up to 100% of the eligible costs (80% federal and 20% provincial).

The timelines for the funding application submission and project construction were both extremely aggressive but recognizing the significance of a 100% funding opportunity for the community, the decision was made to submit an application for the Cold Spring Creek Debris Flow Mitigation Phase 2 Project. The RDEK worked with BGC Engineering to put together a preliminary design for the proposed project and application was submitted for just under \$10,000,000. The preliminary design report will be available on the project page in early March.

The successful funding applicants are expected to be notified in April, construction must be started by September 30, 2021 and completed by December 31, 2022.

For more information about the ARDM funding program, please visit Adaptation, Resilience and Disaster Mitigation Program - Province of British Columbia (gov.bc.ca).

SEE PAGE 2 FOR INFORMATION ON THE EARLY WARNING SYSTEM, DIKE MAINTENANCE, UPCOMING ELECTOR ASSENT AND MORE.



PICTURED: The Canmore debris net. Our Phase 1 net will be very similar to this in length and height.

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ANNUAL DIKE MAINTENANCE ACT REPORTING

The RDEK is required to submit annual inspection and maintenance reports to the Province through the Inspection of Dikes. These reports provide documentation of the inspections, maintenance and construction that occurs throughout the year and are especially important in demonstrating that our infrastructure is properly maintained and

ready for an event. These reports are considered by the Province when determining our eligibility for Emergency Funding and Disaster Financial Assistance. The reports for Cold Spring Creek and Fairmont Creek can be found on the project webpage:

[HTTPS://ENGAGE.RDEK.BC.CA/DEBRIS](https://engage.rdek.bc.ca/debris)

EARLY WARNING SYSTEM

There is some funding set aside from the previous Fairmont Creek Debris Flow Mitigation Project to be used to develop a debris flow warning system for the community. The warning system will provide another important layer of protection for the community to compliment the structural mitigation that we have constructed and that is planned for the future.

The RDEK will be procuring an engineering consultant for the warning system over the next month and the warning system should be operational in the next few months. Please watch for more information about the warning system.

COMMUNICATION & STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO BE INFORMED

This is a complex project to explain and we recognize there are a lot of questions and residents will be looking for a wide range of information. We are committed to providing as much information as possible and are currently working on plans for how to get all the information out to you in the most effective way possible.

SO, there will be a lot of information coming out in the future, especially the next few months. We felt it was important to get this newsletter out to you now so that you were aware of the steps being taken currently (and why) and to explain that there will be more detailed information coming out very soon.

It is very important that the property owners in the Fairmont Hot Springs Community are able to receive the information for the RDEK and be informed about the projects and the elector assent process.

Here are some key ways you can stay informed:

- Please sign up for the RDEK email group if you are not already signed up (https://www.rdek.bc.ca/about/email_group_sign_up)
- Please sign up for the Voyent Alert! Evacuation Notification System. Visit the Emergency Info page on www.rdek.bc.ca for details.
- Bookmark the project page for the latest reports, Q and A and project information, and to submit questions via the Q and A tool:

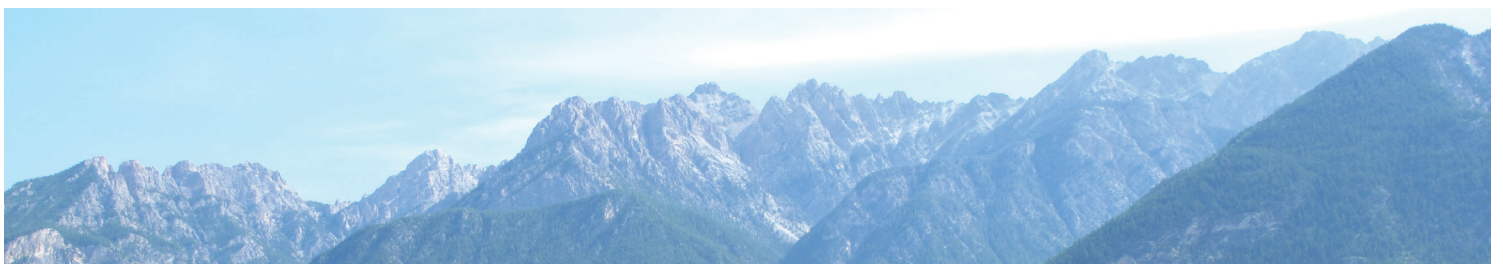
[HTTPS://ENGAGE.RDEK.BC.CA/DEBRIS](https://engage.rdek.bc.ca/debris)

ELECTOR ASSENT

As mentioned in the Fall newsletter and at the public meetings, an increase in the service area taxation will be required to ensure the ongoing maintenance of the debris retention structures, to fund the service area contributions to the projects (for the portions not covered by grants) and to cover some of the costs incurred as a result of the May 31 event. This tax increase must be approved by the service area.

To seek that approval, the RDEK is planning to hold a referendum in mid-late June 2021 and there will be much more detailed information coming out on this in the weeks to come. In order to meet the legislative requirements for a June referendum, we will be initiating the process by bringing the appropriate bylaws to the March Board Meeting.

We know that there are lots of questions that will need to be answered before that time and we will be working very hard to answer them so that you have the information and understanding you need to make an informed decision.



Sign up for Community Email Updates www.rdek.bc.ca



If you have any questions about the Cold Spring Creek Debris Flow Mitigation Project, please contact:
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