

Media Release

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON 3400 – 30 Street Vernon, BC V1T 5E6

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE DATE: May 20, 2020 MEDIA CONTACT: Christy Poirier, Manager, Communications & Grants TELEPHONE: 250-550-3539

Residents reminded to be cautious around creeks as spring freshet continues

Residents are reminded to be cautious around creeks and creek embankments – particularly with children and pets – as local creek levels continue to fluctuate with spring freshet.

During this time of year, City crews conduct checks of more than 55 creek sites each day to confirm water levels and monitor water flow. The latest report indicates water is flowing fast in all local creeks. Water levels have dropped on both Upper and Lower BX Creek in the last few days; however, Vernon Creek from Kalamalka Lake continues to rise.

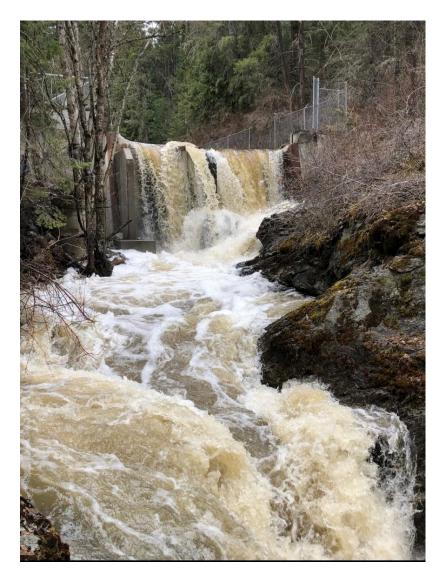
On May 19, the BC River Forecast Centre confirmed a High Streamflow Advisory is still in effect for the North Okanagan, including tributaries around Vernon, Lumby and Winfield.

If residents require sandbags, two locations are open for public use. Please bring your own shovel and gloves to fill sandbags. Sand and empty sandbags are available at:

- The rear side of City Yards off Pleasant Valley Road (1900 48th Avenue)
- The Kin Racetrack parking lot (3445 43rd Avenue)

A sandbag filling machine is also available at the Kin Racetrack site so individuals can fill bags alone, allowing them to practice proper physical distancing.

For more information on spring freshet, and guidelines for safe sandbagging practices during the public health emergency, visit <u>www.vernon.ca/flooding</u>.



Upper BX Creek sediment basin - May 14, 2020.

-30-