

# Slow recovery for Foothills roads

## Flood 2013: Infrastructure takes pounding in rural area

By Darlene Casten

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The list of road closures in the MD of Foothills is immense and as the water recedes the news only becomes worse for crews trying to repair the rural routes.

Darlene Roblin, MD of Foothills municipal enforcement officer, said public works crews have been working almost around the clock to repair damaged infrastructure, but it will be a lengthy process.

"We have made a little progress, but progress has been slow," said Roblin on Tuesday. "It is going to take many, many months to rebuild especially the bridges and there are six or seven bridges compromised or lost."

Roblin said progress has been slow because as the water recedes it uncovers more damaged roads. Often it only appears as though a road is flooded but when the water decimated the road is completely washed out.

"As the low lying areas drain we are finding more damage," she said. "It is just incredible amount of infrastructure damage that is out there."



TAMMY ROLLIE/OWW

Vehicles pass through a flooded Highway 22 near Millarville north of the Three Point Bridge on Sunday afternoon. Only larger vehicles were allowed through just two days earlier.

However, there is some good news as the Foothills Fire Department has lifted the evacuation notice for a number of areas including areas along Three Point Creek and Priddis Creek.

Residents in the Priddis area had to be evacuated on Thursday night due to surging flood water.

MD Coun. Suzanne Oel said it was a frantic time ensuring the Foothills residents who were at risk due to the flooding were safe.

"It was an emotional time, it was overwhelming especially in the Priddis area where people needed to be rescued," said Oel.

The flood was especially frightening for MD staff who were evacuated from their administration office in downtown High River. Several staff members had to be rescued from their vehicles as flood waters engulfed the parking lot.

Even Roblin said she had to abandon her patrol car

which was one of numerous MD vehicles lost to the flood.

"There was property loss, but this puts thing in perspective," said Oel. "We are thankful everyone is okay."

Now Oel said the focus is to get connectivity back and ensure essential services are up and running.

The MD of Foothills' website is down, but updates are posted on the Foothills Fire Department's Facebook page.

### MD ROAD AND BRIDGE CLOSURES:

(as of Monday, June 24)

- 530 Ave E (River Road) Closed between 56 St E and High River (Road flooded)
- 104 St E (Old 2a) between High River Town limits and 570 Ave (Bridge washout)
- 232 St E between 626 Ave and 658 Ave (Bridge washout)
- 168 St E between 626 Ave and 594 Ave (Bridge washout)
- 658 Ave E East from Hwy 22 (Bridge washout)
- 2338 Dr. W between 288 St W and 304 St W (Bridge washout)
- 2538 Drive E between 40 St E and 56 St E (Road flooded)
- 49 St E North from 2538 Drive E (Road flooded)
- 56 St E between 546 Ave and 530 Ave (Road flooded)
- 58 St E between 532 Ave and 530 Ave (Road flooded)
- 40 St E between 546 Ave and 538 Ave (Road wash out)
- 535 Ave E between 56 St E and 54 St (Road flooded)
- 128 St W between 370 Ave W and 354 Ave W (Road flooded)
- 88 St E from High River town limits to 546 Ave (Road flooded)
- 352 St W South from Hwy 549 (Road washout / Possible bridge compromise)
- 498 Ave E from Hwy 2a to Hwy 2 (Road flooded)
- 144 St W between 370 Ave W and 356 Ave W (Road flooded)
- Nature's Hideaway Road

### Evacuation notice lifted

- Residences along Three Point Creek and Ware Creek
- Residences on the North of the Sheep River, from Okotoks town limits to 144 Street West
- Residences along the Elbow River, Fish Creek and Priddis Creek
- Residences along the Bow River
- Residences along the South side of the Highwood River from the High River town limits to Kananaskis

### Mandatory evacuation

- Residences on north side of the Highwood River along Coal Trail from 64 Street West (Hogg Park Road) to High River town limits.
- Residences along the NORTH side of the Highwood River from Hogg Park to the Town of High River and north of the Town of High River