

New flood maps for Pine Creek

Foothills: Document to help guide development

By Don Patterson

Interim Editor

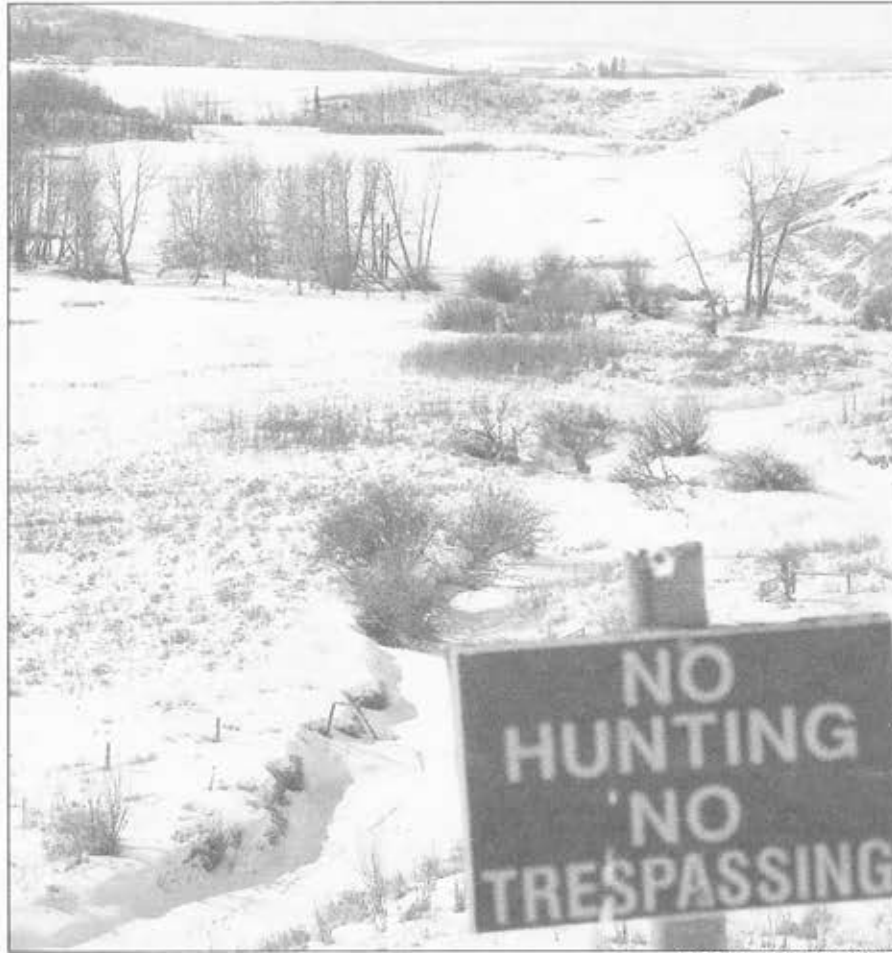
Residents living near Pine Creek will get their first glance at new flood maps for the creek next week.

The provincial government will unveil draft maps of floodway and flood fringe areas at a March 3 open house at the DeWinton Community Hall.

The provincial government and the City of Calgary began work on the project to complete flood maps along Pine Creek in 2012, before last year's floods ravaged much of the foothills.

Carrie Sancier, Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resources spokesperson, said the Province expects to see land along portions of the creek developed in the future. She said the government wanted to identify the areas likely to flood in order to guide the future development.

"Pine Creek was a priority pre-flood and so the purpose of the study was we wanted to define the flood hazard area so that information could be used to allow responsible development to occur," she said.



JORDAN VERLAGE/OWW

A draft of new flood maps for Pine Creek will be unveiled at an open house at the DeWinton Community Hall on March 3.

The open house is open to all residents from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. The province will present draft maps at the event outlining flood way and flood fringe areas

along the creek.

She said the Province brought in a consultant to lead the study and a draft report has been completed.

Once the flood maps

are finalized, they could impact what kind of development could occur along the creek.

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Under new legislation that came into force after last year's flood, no new developments will be allowed in floodway areas and development in flood fringe areas must meet certain criteria to limit the potential for damage from floods.

The headwaters of the Pine Creek are in the Cross Conservation area. The creek flows east through largely rural areas in the northern parts of the MD in the Red Deer Lake and DeWinton areas before entering the city of Calgary and eventually pouring in the Bow River just east of

Heritage Pointe.

There are 27.9 square kilometers of drainage area for the Pine Creek within the City of Calgary's boundaries and 183.1 square kilometers of drainage area within the MD.

Coun. Susan Oel said the area did see a lot of water after the rainstorms that caused last year's flood, but there wasn't the level of damage seen in other areas.

"What I heard, from the headwaters and that area, everyone had a significant amount of water but not anywhere near what the city experienced," she said.

She said the provincial study is important for the MD because they want to know how water drainage from existing and new

communities will affect the creek.

"There's a number of communities and we just want to make sure everybody's aware of how we're affecting each other," she said.

Julie MacLean, a planner with the MD, said one of the MD's main concerns is how water draining from developed areas in the city would affect portions of the creek in the MD.

She said she asked the provincial government to host the open house to update residents about the process to date.

"The purpose is to allow the public to provide any comments or concerns before the report is finalized," she said.