

## A Partnership of Prevention

Reducing the risk of flooding requires a joint effort between homeowners and the City of Edmonton. To help homeowners do their part, Drainage Services has introduced new programs, sponsored workshops, developed cooperative relationships with affected communities, consulted with more than 1,000 private landowners and developed a do-it-yourself reference guide.

We've also produced a number of materials to educate citizens and encourage them to take action on drainage. These include:

- Three different television ads that ran throughout the summer in partnership with Global Television.
- Newspaper ads in the Edmonton Journal, Edmonton Sun, Edmonton Examiner and several other community newspapers.
- Media articles and stories on flood prevention.
- Postcard drops in high priority neighbourhoods.
- Four Information Bulletins within the past 10 months, sent to a growing list of subscribers now totalling more than 2,500 people.
- Flood prevention tip sheets.
- A revamped website with easier to find and understand information, applications and contacts.



**This bulletin provides an update of flood prevention activities that have occurred this summer. Call the Customer Service Centre at 496-5541 or go on-line to [www.edmonton.ca/floodprevention](http://www.edmonton.ca/floodprevention) for more information.**

## Priority Neighbourhoods

After the July 2004 rainstorms, more than 50 Edmonton neighbourhoods were looked at to determine the degree of flood risk. From this, 15 neighbourhoods were considered priorities for flood relief:

- **In Mill Woods** – North Millbourne, Lakewood and Knottwood (includes the neighbourhoods of Satoo, Menisa and Ekota).
- **In Southwest Edmonton** – Lendrum, McKernan, Parkallen, Malmo and Pleasantview.
- **In West Edmonton** – Elmwood, Lynnwood, Rio Terrace, Quesnell Heights and Laurier Heights.

About 480 residents attended community meetings in March and April to review engineering findings, discuss various flood relief options and offer their input, comments and opinions. The presentations and a summary of the meetings are available at [www.edmonton.ca/floodprevention](http://www.edmonton.ca/floodprevention).

Drainage Services and our consultants have spent the summer refining the options based on more engineering data and the input of residents and other stakeholders. A budget plan is being finalized as well as a timetable for the construction of pipes, water storage facilities and other drainage improvements.

Another round of community consultations will be held in November to discuss final recommendations and an implementation schedule. Dates, times and locations of the meetings will be announced at a later date.

At present, it is estimated that reducing the risk of flooding in all priority neighbourhoods will cost \$110 million. And, it may take up to 10 years to complete all of the work. This estimate does not include the homeowners' investment of time and money on their own drainage systems. Good home drainage is a critical success factor in keeping basements and lots free from flood damage.



## Other At Risk Neighbourhoods

There are another 28 neighbourhoods considered to be at risk of flooding when the next major rainstorm hits Edmonton. Engineering studies are currently underway in these neighbourhoods to analyze 2004 flood data, look at underground and surface issues, identify system weaknesses and develop options for improvements.

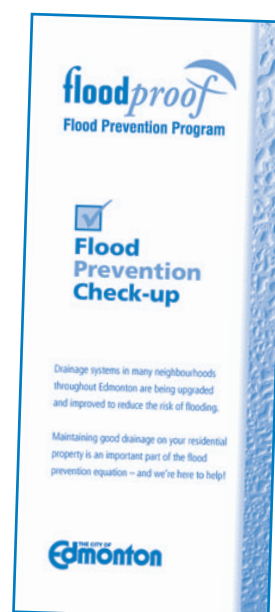
The 28 neighbourhoods have been broken down into study zones:

- **Zone 1:**  
Aldergrove, Belmead, La Perle, Summerlea and Thorncliffe.
- **Zone 2:**  
Jasper Park, Meadowlark Park, Parkview with some parts of Sherwood and West Meadowlark Park.
- **Zone 3:**  
Greenfield, Royal Gardens, Sweet Grass with some parts of Aspen Gardens and Westbrook Estates.
- **Zone 4:**  
Westridge, Callingwood North and South, Lymburn, Oleskiw and Patricia Heights.
- **Zone 5:**  
Bears paw, Duggan, Empire Park, Ermineskin, Keheewin, Rideau Park and Steinhauer.

Study results will be ready by early 2006. Soon after, community consultations will be held with neighbourhood residents to share the results and discuss flood relief options. As studies are completed, the timing of flood relief projects will be revisited. This is to ensure all neighbourhoods are considered in the setting of priorities.

## Home Flood Prevention Check-up

The Home Flood Prevention Check-up has been in high demand since its launch this spring. More than 2,000 people have scheduled an appointment for the seasonal service which runs from May to October. Our three drainage specialists are currently booked into October.



The free service involves a drainage system assessment inside and outside the home. Each homeowner also receives on-the-spot advice, written recommendations and reference material.

Homeowners who have experienced a check-up are strong supporters of the service. Returned evaluations show 98 per cent think it is a valuable public service and 97 per cent would recommend it to others. Ninety-four per cent said the service should continue to be offered in the future.

The Home Flood Prevention Check-up was started to help residential homeowners better understand what they could do on their properties to reduce the risk of flooding. The popularity of the complimentary service means Drainage Services will continue it again next year. The service will also be available for the first time to property owners who live in multifamily residential buildings like townhouses and condominiums.

For more information call 944-7777. Limited bookings are still available for this year.

## Backwater Valve Workshops

Approximately 420 people attended six educational workshops on backwater valves held in July and September. The free, interactive sessions were hosted by Drainage Services and presented by NAIT plumbing instructor Kevin Gillespie.

The workshops are one of a series of educational supports developed this spring and summer to help homeowners become knowledgeable and make informed choices about flood prevention on their property. A copy of the workshop's Powerpoint presentation and handouts are available on-line at [www.edmonton.ca/floodprevention](http://www.edmonton.ca/floodprevention).

Of those who filled out an evaluation, 96 per cent said the workshop met their expectations. The same percentage said they would recommend it to others. The popularity of the sessions will likely lead to more workshops being offered. Topics under consideration, in addition to repeating the backwater valve presentation, are sessions on lot grading and sump pumps.

## Backwater Valve Subsidy Program

The Drainage Services' subsidy program was expanded on September 1, 2005, to encourage more people to install backwater valves in their homes.

The backwater valve subsidy program will now accept applications from homeowners who have not been flooded, but who are in an at risk neighbourhood. At risk neighbourhoods are those that have undergone studies this year. Homes outside of at risk neighbourhoods are still eligible for a subsidy but they must have experienced sanitary flooding in the past.

The subsidy has also been raised from \$825 to \$975 per home. This reflects the higher installation costs now experienced by most homeowners in Edmonton. The increase is not retroactive. Homeowners who applied for the subsidy before September 1, but have not had the work done yet will still receive the \$825 subsidy.

All other aspects of the program remain the same. For more information, go on-line to [www.edmonton.ca/floodprevention](http://www.edmonton.ca/floodprevention) or call 496-5662.



## Homeowner's Guide to Flood Prevention



It's here! The booklet that tells you everything you need to know about keeping your home safe from flooding. It's 28 pages crammed full of information, photos and diagrams about upgrading, repairing and maintaining your home's drainage system.

The booklet has practical drainage tips and projects you can do yourself. If you didn't get one in the mail, just call **944-7777** for your free copy.