**FLOODING IN THE BISHOP’S FALLS AREA**

Flood causes damage to personal property, disrupts the lives of individuals and communities, and can be a threat to the itself. Continuing development of floodplain land increases these risks. The governments of Canada and Newfoundland and Labrador are sometimes assisted by comparable property owners for damage caused by floods or are expected to find solutions to these problems.

Included in this map are flood risk areas along the Exploits River near Bishop’s Falls.

Without a doubt the worst flood damage in the recorded history of Newfoundland occurred in Bishop’s Falls in January of 1993. This surprising considering that Bishop’s Falls had no history of major flooding.

The flood was caused by a combination of several hydrological factors, which acted together to produce disaster. An intense low-pressure system passed over the Exploits Plains from the southwest, dumping 100 mm to 200 mm of rain over an area that included the town. Minimum 24-hour rainfall of 170 mm over an area 20 km by 20 km resulted in the Exploits River flowing at temperatures which were well above freezing day and night for several days, resulting in rapid snowmelt. Incessant rainfall combined with rapidly snowmelted produced record flows, which resulted in considerable erosion of the river bank.

Near peak flow, an estimated 150 to 170 homes were evacuated. Three homes were swept away and many more were left unsafe to return to due the unthrall river flows. Flood damages amounted to $20 million. Damage to residential property amounted to about $300,000 while damage to residential property amounted to about $500,000 while damage to roads and other public utilities amounted to $1.5 million.

**FLOOD ZONES**

A "designated floodway" (1/200 year flood zone) is the area subject to the most frequent flooding. A "designated floodway fringe" (1/100 year flood zone) constitutes the remainder of this flood risk area. This area generally receives less damage from flooding.

The 1/200 and 1/100 flood zones depicted on this map were calculated based on the new Atlantic Price generating station which was constructed in 1988.

No building or structure should be erected in the "designated floodway" since extreme damage may result from deeper and more swiftly flowing water.

However, it is often desirable, and may be acceptable, to use land in this area for agricultural or recreational purposes. Within the floodway fringe, a building, or an alteration to an existing building, should receive flood-proofing measures. A variety of these may be used, e.g., the raising of its floor above the flood level, the construction of 100-year building on raised piers, or the special design of a building.

Buildings erected prior to the designation of these two areas may still be eligible for flood damage compensation.