FLOODING IN BRIGUS

Flooding causes damage to personal property, disrupts the lives of individuals and communities, and can be a threat to life itself. Continuing development of flood plain increases these risks. The governments of Canada and Newfoundland and Labrador are sometimes asked to compensate property owners for damage by floods or are expected to find solutions to these problems.

While most of the past flood events on Lamb's Brook in Brigus have been caused by a combination of high flows and ice jams at hydraulic structures, floods can occur due to heavy rainfall and snow melt. This was the case in January 1995 when the Conception Bay Highway was flooded.

A "designated floodway" (1:20 flood zone) is the area subject to the most frequent flooding. A "designated floodway fringe" (1:100 year flood zone) constitutes the remainder of the flood risk area. This area generally receives less damage from flooding.

No building or structure should be erected in the "designated floodway" since extensive damage may result from deeper and more swiftly flowing waters. 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 placing of a dyke around the building, the construction of a building on raised land, or by the special design of a building.

The information is based on Flood Risk Map for Brigus. Copies of the designated Flood Risk Maps may be ordered for a nominal fee from:

Department of Government Services and Lands
Surveys and Mapping Division
Howley Building, Higgins Line
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NF, A1B 4J6

Produced February 1997