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.

Past flood events at have been caused by a combination of high flows and ice jams at hydraulic structures. The area downstream of the highway bridge has been subject to flooding nearly every year when break-up occurs. In January 1995 heavy rainfall combined with snowmelt to cause flooding in Salmon Cove. In the Riverdale Crescent area the bridge was overtopped and flooding properties adjacent to the bridge.

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, eg. the placing of a dyke around the building, the construction of a building on raised land, or by the special design of a building.