FLOOD INFORMATION MAP

STEPHENVILLE
NEWFOUNDLAND

FLOODING IN STEPHENVILLE

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.

The residents of Stephenville have experienced many floods over the past 30 years. These floods have been caused by heavy rainfall sometimes accompanied by snowmelt. Ice and debris jams at the many culvert and bridge crossings have worsened the damage.

In December 1990, heavy rain and snowmelt caused widespread damage on the West coast of Newfoundland. Two bridges and several culvert crossings in Stephenville were destroyed. Long sections of the banks of Blanche Brook were also eroded. In addition to the direct damages to replace the bridges and culverts, several hundred thousand dollars were spent in remedial works along Blanche Brook.

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

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