

Bow Waters Canoe Club



Mission Statement: "Promote and support recreational paddling, our primary activity, and cross country skiing, by providing educational and social opportunities in a safe and environmentally conscious manner to all interested people."

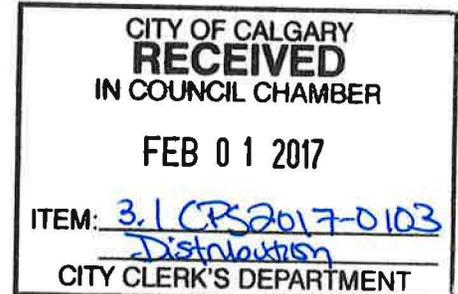
Howard Heffler:

- Long-time and active member of Bow Waters Canoe Club;
- Began the initiative 17 years ago to replace the drowning hazard associated with the Calgary weir. This culminated in construction of Harvie Passage in 2012;
- Past Chairman of RiverWatch;
- Founding member of the Harvie Passage Alliance and of the Calgary River Users' Alliance.

Bow Waters Canoe Club:

- Founding member in 1972 was Gordon Shrake, Alderman for Ward 5
- 150-170 members. Many are families.
- 5000+ youths in lessons and summer camps in 2016.
- 16 Club trips on the Bow River reaches within the City in 2016.

My Vision:



A full range of strategies be developed to offer safe and enjoyable river float trips ["River Trails"] from one end of Calgary to the other. Protect and promote the value of Calgary's two main rivers and their adjacent lands for their natural ecological functions and as aesthetic and recreational amenities for all Calgarians.

Sincere thanks to Councillors Keating and Carra and to Calgary Parks for the River Access Strategy. Please acknowledge this is the START, not the END of the process. There are several concurrent policy, planning and construction activities related to Calgary's rivers currently underway. [Harvie Passage re-construction; 12th Street bridge replacement; Bend-in-the-Bow planning; 17 Avenue SE Bus Rapid Transit project ; flood mitigation planning, and other in- or near-river projects] Appoint a senior City staff person to liaise between these projects and the ongoing need to manage river access. The CRUA looks forward to an ongoing role.

Harvie Passage was badly damaged by the 2013 flood and is being repaired by the Province. This is a significant investment by the Province in a City park, Pearce Estate Park. There is a need for the City to make some investments related to landscaping and amenities to support paddling activities.

The competency and performance of Calgary Fire Department, Aquatic Rescue Team is second to none. But closing ramps that have long been used by river users to public access is not the answer.

The RAS report places too great an emphasis on discouraging use of Bowness Park for river access; both lessons and launching. Paddle sports are long-standing and legitimate activities at Bowness Park.

In the past 100 years, Calgary's rivers have been transformed from primarily industrial uses (transportation, logging, irrigation, waste assimilation, power generation) to a focus on recreation and parks (Calgary's extensive pathway system, numerous parks, sport fishing, boating and floating of all types).

The two rivers are no longer Calgary's "Backyard", but are now our "Front yard".

Thanks to all and I personally extend my full support for the River Access Strategy and will do whatever I can to contribute to the ongoing success and to seek funding for access improvement.