

# Your Questions Answered

Facts from the Town of Neepawa as of October 2, 2020



Question

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## Most asked... What exactly happened to Park Lake on Canada Day?!

Significant rainfall in Neepawa & the surrounding area began on June 28th, causing substantial volumes of water to fall directly on us, and travel in from neighboring municipalities. These excessive waters converged in Neepawa, and Park Lake was simply not able to contain it. This resulted in the breach of the earthen berm (not the dam) on July 1st, which caused Park Lake to completely drain into the South side of Town. (See picture next page)

### How much rain/water came? (A lot!)

In total, about 22 inches of water passed through Neepawa. This includes almost 7" that fell directly in Town, along with run-off from surrounding areas (15") that drain into Neepawa from the top of the Whitemud Watershed.

**Fun Fact:** The 7" of rain that fell overhead here in Town is the equivalent of 320 million litres of water! How much is that? Well, our Town pool holds 800,000 litres...meaning we had 400 pools of water fall directly onto Neepawa!

### Where does Neepawa's run-off water come from?

Two of the watersheds that flow into/through Neepawa include:

1. Stoney Creek, Kasprick Creek, & Franklin Creek
  - \* These flow into Park Lake (which acts as a control structure) and then into the Whitemud River.
  - \* There is an elevation change of 800 feet over approx. 48 km and 74,000 acres from the top into Neepawa.
  - \* This is what caused the breach at Park Lake and impacted most areas of Town.
2. Boggy Creek & Brookdale Drain/Creek
  - \* These flow through Lake Irwin and into the Whitemud River.
  - \* This is what added to the impact of Riverbend Park/Campground, Mill Street and the Golf Course.

The Whitemud River is formed, just south of the Hamilton Street Bridge, by all these tributaries.

### How old is Park Lake?

Established in the late 1890s, Park Lake was the original water supply for the Town until 1959. We then drew water from Lake Irwin until 2011, when we switched to a well system, drawing water from the aquifer.

Question

2

## Second most asked... When/How will Park Lake be fixed?!

Not including personal property, the Town of Neepawa has approximately 12 different sites that were impacted in the Flood Event, which includes the breach at Park Lake, Rotary Park Bridge, Riverbend Campground & Park, Dominion Road, as well as two of our Lift Stations. The damage sustained was substantial. Early estimates of the repairs/replacements required are upwards of \$5 to \$10 Million Dollars.

We are pleased the Province announced funding for the region, although we do not yet know our portion. Council and Administration continue to actively lobby our federal & provincial counterparts, as well as consult with engineers, to determine what options we have available for each of our sites and the detailed costs associated.

Unfortunately, for Park Lake, the reality is this could take 3-5 years. It is not a quick or cheap fix. We are no longer permitted to simply "plug the hole"; there are multiple levels of government such as Fisheries & Oceans Canada, Environment, Sustainable Development, Infrastructure and Conservation which all must have input.

***Rest assured, Council will continue their preparations and planning to determine the best course of action, balancing fiscal responsibility with the needs of the Town and residents!***





**Park Lake Breach Area**



Photos by Jon Luigi Pido