

On August 14, 2018, extremely heavy rain falling upstream of Salt Springs Park turned both Silver Creek and Fall Brook into raging torrents that rose well above their banks. At our historical measuring point on the kiosk by the Wheaton House, Silver Creek crested at a new high about a foot above the flood of 2011. This was the 5th major flood in the past 12 years and caused by far the worst damage.

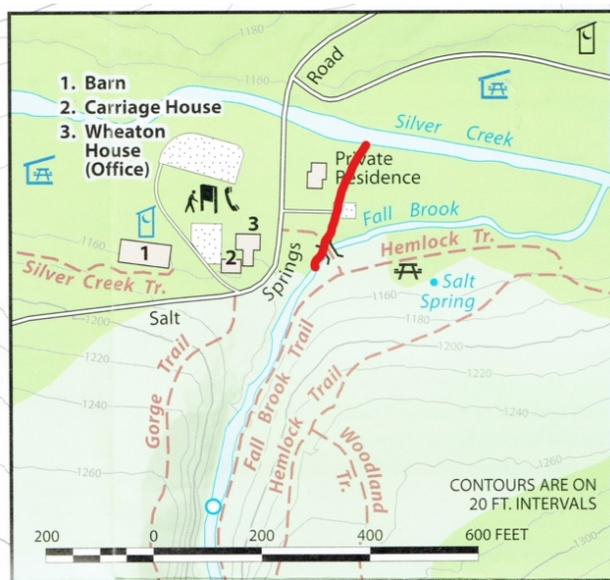
The Barn Pavilion was severely damaged, two campsites no longer exist and three more can't be reclaimed. The septic system for the Wheaton House and Calvin House (which provides rental income for us) was destroyed, as was the back (main) parking lot and the Williams Pavilion flooring. When the back parking lot was washed away, the electric cable was exposed and destroyed that ran from the pole to the boxes running the solar panels, so we are no longer producing solar power.

In sum, not only did we lose significant sources of income but we now must raise many, many thousands of dollars to repair these key assets.

Following is a full description of the damage written by our board president, Tom Stoll:

Fall Brook rose just to the level of the ground floor of the Calvin House (an income-producing rental). More importantly, the force of the water on the inside of the brook's bend at the footbridge washed away the bridge's northwest abutment, causing both it and the bridge to be swept away. The brook continued cutting a new channel much closer to the Calvin House and cutting off most of the east meadow. The bank on the west side is undercut and rather unstable so we will be putting up a rope to warn people to stay away from the edge until it can be graded and lined with stone.

The approximate new location of Fall Brook is indicated in red:



This new channel severed the sewer lines leading from both the Wheaton House and Calvin House septic tanks to the dosing tank and also the line from the dosing tank that carried pumped effluent to the drain field behind the Dairy Barn. As a result, the piles have been plugged and plumbing in both houses cannot be used.

Those are the most significant general issues. Here's a rundown on specific buildings and areas that were affected:

Wheaton House

- Flood water filled the basement to a depth of about 3.5 feet but drained out by the end of the day. The furnace was flooded but is likely repairable since this has happened before. Some items stored there got wet but nothing of significant value.

- **The septic system is unusable (see above.)**

Calvin House

- **The septic system is unusable (see above.)**

- Flood water filled the basement to the bottom of the ceiling joists but drained out within 24 hours. As a result

1) **The electric panel was compromised** and needs to be replaced. DCNR is going to do this next week.

2) **The fuel oil tank floated off the floor** and came down leaning against the wall. There was no leakage. The tank needs to be pumped out so it can be re-set.

3) There is about 2 inches of mud on the floor that needs to be mucked out.

4) The walls and plumbing are coated with mud and debris which needs to be removed with a pressure washer.

- **One stone washed out of the foundation** wall at the north west corner of the kitchen. This needs to be repaired.

- **A small amount of flood water seeped into the first floor** under the front door. There is a ring of mud around the perimeter of the wood living room floor and the carpet in the small room at the back got a little wet.

Since the house is not livable, our tenants have moved out.

Williams Pavilion

The gravel floor washed away along with some of the soil underneath, leaving some deep trenches. DCNR replaced the subsoil and has left enough gravel nearby for the top layer. See "Back Parking Lot" below for details on an issue with power at the pavilion.

Barn Pavilion

Several trees, including one huge one, washed up against the front. **The force of the water pushed the building about 10 feet off its foundation and bowed it out.**

The electric cables coming in from the transformer were stretched when the building moved and the feed out to the restrooms and cabins was broken off. We had Claverack turn off the power for safety until we can find a workaround to feed the restrooms and cabins.

Back Parking Lot and Road to Williams Pavilion

Much of the gravel in the lot and road was washed away and several deep trenches were eroded in the subsoil. The lot and road have been repaired and are now usable again.

The conduit carrying the power cable from the pole near the road to the transformer at the solar project near the Williams Pavilion was exposed by the flood and about 40 feet were ripped away. The cable itself had to be removed from the whole length of the conduit so **the power is turned off and we are not currently selling any solar power back to Claverack.** (The solar panels are still feeding the lights and outlets in the pavilion.). We will see if we can file a warranty claim since it has not been a year yet since the system went live.

Footbridge and Salt Spring Picnic Area

As described above, **the footbridge was lost** when the southeast abutment washed away. Getting across the new Fall Brook is a challenge although there are a couple of stepping-stone fords up- and downstream.

The salt spring itself has only a few inches of silt covering it although the rock walls surrounding it were washed away. The wayside sign describing the spring was also washed away but has been recovered and will be reinstalled.

The flooding Fall Brook **tore up the ground in the picnic area and deposited a huge amount of rock and stone throughout.** Getting through to the Hemlock and Hardwood Trails is also a challenge.

Cabin 2

The building was twisted a few inches by the force of the flood and severely undermined. One of the concrete columns supporting the front was undermined and collapsed; many of the rest are leaning somewhat as a result of the twisting. Also, most of the posts holding up the front ramp were undermined. Flood water was several inches deep inside and left mud.

DCNR is requiring us to replace the missing column, straighten the leaning columns, and re-anchor the ramp before the cabin can be used again. This will likely require the building to be jacked up.

The floor is covered with mud and needs to be cleaned out.

Cabin 3

The building was flooded to a depth of an inch or so, leaving mud on the floor and porch. When DCNR inspected it they noticed one rear column was tipped and although this is apparently old damage, they want it fixed.

Salt Springs and Buckley Roads

Both roads were badly washed out and were barely passable until Josh Holbrook did some work with his skid steer Saturday. They are better now but still quite narrow and rough. Franklin Township will fix them up eventually.