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# Monthly E-Newsletter

DRUMHELLER  
FLOOD OFFICE



June 2025

## Construction Updates: Rosedale & Nacmine Berms

Work is moving forward on the flood protection berms in Rosedale and Nacmine, and we appreciate your continued patience as crews make progress.

In Rosedale, the upstream section is nearly complete with topsoil and grass still to come, while work near the Swinging Bridge and downstream includes base building, shaping, and slope finishing. In Nacmine, the berm is close to its final height, with slope shaping underway and key drainage crossings being installed.

Thanks again for your support as we continue building stronger flood protection for our community!



## Lehigh Rehabilitation Close to Completion

The demolition and removal of existing structures have been successfully completed, and the site will be restored to a natural condition this year. The decommissioning of internal gravel roads, along with tree planting, habitat restoration, and the revegetation of riparian areas, is scheduled for completion this fall. Once revegetation efforts are finalized, the land will be redesignated as Environmental Reserve to support its long-term conservation and protection and allow room for the river to flow.

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## Weeds on the Rise – But Grass is Coming

As we move into the warmer months, you may notice an increase in weed growth across various sites. This is a normal part of the seasonal cycle — many invasive and opportunistic species take advantage of disturbed or bare soil during spring and early summer.

While the weeds may seem concerning, we want to assure you that our planted vegetation are in the process of reestablishing. Grass and other desirable species often take longer to germinate and root, but with time and the right conditions, they will begin to outcompete many of the faster-growing weeds.



In the meantime, we're monitoring the situation and will take appropriate action as needed to support healthy vegetation growth. Your patience during this natural phase of restoration is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for helping us protect and restore our local environment!



## Enjoy Summer Responsibly: Help Protect Drumheller's Natural Spaces

As we step into summer and more people head outside to enjoy the sunshine, the Town of Drumheller is reminding everyone to treat our natural spaces with care—especially wooded areas and riverbanks. These spots aren't just scenic—they're part of our vital flood protection system and need to be treated with respect.

We all play a role in keeping these areas safe, healthy, and accessible. Here's what not to do when spending time in or near these sensitive spaces:

Please **Don't**:

- **Build or store anything** – Items like stairs, sheds, firewood piles, or furniture don't belong on Town-owned land, even if it's behind your property. These structures can interfere with flood protection and will be removed.
- **Cut or trim vegetation** – Trees, shrubs, and even fallen logs are part of the natural system that not only stabilizes riverbanks and supports flood resilience but also provides key habitat. Cutting or removing vegetation or deadfall without permission is not allowed.
- **Alter the landscape** – Digging, regrading, or changing the shape of berms and banks can seriously weaken our flood defenses. These modifications are prohibited and will result in enforcement action.
- **Enter restricted areas** – Areas marked off may be unsafe due to unstable ground or active work. Please respect signage and barriers.

Let's protect what protects us.

If you're unsure about land boundaries or what's allowed, contact the Town—we're here to help. Together, we can enjoy summer outdoors while keeping Drumheller safe and flood-ready.

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# Studying Fish and Invasive Species in the Rosebud River Using eDNA

As part of the Town of Drumheller's environmental commitments under the Flood Mitigation Program, a portion of the offsetting requirement for impacts to the riverbank (riparian) area is being met through research on the Rosebud River. This research, led by Ridge Environmental Planning Ltd., will help identify which aquatic organisms—including sport fish and aquatic invasive species—are currently living in the Rosebud River, from where it meets Serviceberry Creek all the way to its confluence with the Red Deer River.

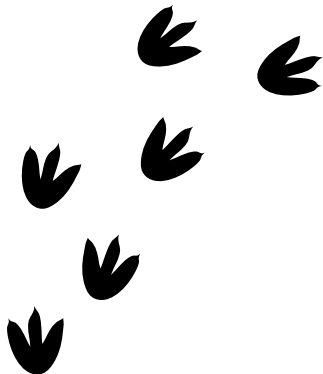
The study uses a cutting-edge technique called environmental DNA, or eDNA, to identify what species are present in the river—without needing to catch or disturb them. This information will be compared to historical data collected by Alberta Environment and Protected Areas (AEPA) to track changes over time. It's a valuable way to monitor how fish populations respond to changing conditions like floods, droughts, or habitat changes. In the future, the same method can be repeated to track trends and identify any concerns.

The research also supports AEPA's Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force (AISTF), which has identified gaps in invasive species data for the Drumheller area. By collecting and analyzing eDNA samples, researchers hope to detect invasive species such as Prussian Carp, Goldfish, Northern Crayfish, and Zebra Mussels. Knowing exactly where these species are found helps guide provincial efforts to control their spread.

## What is eDNA?

eDNA stands for environmental DNA, that consists of tiny bits of genetic material that animals leave behind in the environment through skin, waste, mucus, or eggs. In rivers and lakes, even if you can't see a fish, its DNA may still be floating in the water.

Scientists collect water samples and filter them to capture any DNA present. Then, using a lab technique called Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)—which works like a DNA photocopier—they check for matches to known species. If DNA from a species is found, it confirms that species is or was recently in the area. If no DNA is found, it suggests the species is not present.



## Why it matters

eDNA is becoming an important tool for researchers because it's non-invasive, can detect rare or hidden species, and helps monitor endangered species or invasive threats. It's a powerful way to understand our local waterways without harming the wildlife we're trying to protect.



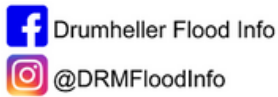
## Honouring Partnerships and Progress in June

June marked National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21—a time to recognize and celebrate the rich histories, cultures, and contributions of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples. As we continue construction work across the region, we are grateful for the insights and guidance shared by our Indigenous partners, and we remain committed to moving forward together in a spirit of respect and collaboration.

We look forward to sharing more updates as these important partnerships continue to grow and shape our projects in meaningful ways.

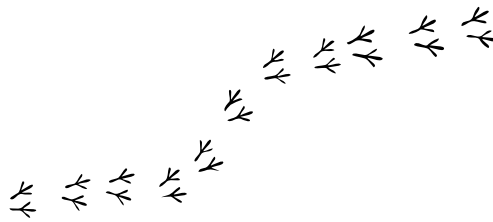
## Stay in the Loop!

Follow us on social media for real-time updates on the construction schedule and progress. Together, we're building a safer future!



Drumheller Flood Info

@DRMFloodInfo



*Thank you for reading!*

**DRUMHELLER FLOOD  
RESILIENCY PROGRAM**



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