



The Calgary Foundation ***Harvie Passage***

Over 100 years ago, the Bow River flowed freely through Calgary. In 1904, a weir across the river was built near Inglewood to divert water for agriculture in the Western Irrigation district. Although the original weir structure was replaced in 1975, it continues to provide the water that is vital for farming. Unfortunately, the weir has a dangerous side-effect – it creates a lethal hydraulic wave that prevents movement up and down stream and has claimed the lives of several people. However, a group of concerned Calgarians established a process for improving the weir area while maintaining its important diverse function.

This group of stakeholders and interested parties began developing the plan and today it has received widespread support as well as significant funding from the Province of Alberta, City of Calgary, The Calgary Foundation and Parks Foundation Calgary. Our vision is to create *“a river passage in the heart of Calgary, to celebrate the Bow River, its natural abundance and surrounding landscape.”*

Building upon the vision of philanthropist Don Harvie, and funding from the Donald Harvie Fund at The Calgary Foundation, the name **“Harvie Passage”** was given to what is sure to become a spectacular inner-city treasure. Countless benefits will flow from this project – including a reconfiguration of the river-bed which will result in an aesthetically attractive passage through the centre of the city, while respecting fisheries and the aquatic ecosystem. Naturalization of the area will improve local habitat, movement corridors and riparian functions, allowing all kinds of wildlife to pass freely up and down the river. Perhaps most importantly, the hydraulic roller known as the “drowning machine” will be eliminated, giving safe and unrestricted access to emergency safety patrols, recreational patrols, recreational paddlers and fish.

Following a period of intensive testing and the instalment of new safety booms, the Bow River will one day flow freely. More news will follow in the coming months.