



BOW RIVER TROUT

NEWSLETTER – Summer 2016

Calgary, Alberta



Drought to Flood in a Week:

A year of transition for the Bow River with low snow pack in the mountains and an unusually warm winter. The spring brought high temperatures and an early run off. Although these conditions made for some excellent early season fishing, the low flows in all eastern slope rivers coupled with a forecast for drought condition in the summer generated concerns for the fishery.

On June 30, AEP issued an advisory for Alberta anglers, *“Significantly low flows, coupled with consistent high temperatures, have created an*

increased risk to fish populations”. Anglers were asked to take extra caution when fishing streams and rivers along the Eastern Slopes. To minimize risk to fish, anglers were encouraged to fish in stocked ponds and lakes, fish early in the mornings, minimize handling time and release fish as quickly as possible. If the extreme weather conditions continued river closures were expected. Fortunately for the Bow River rain arrived a week later along with the Calgary Stampede! July rainfall increased the year to date precipitation above the long-term average. Normal Bow River flows are expected for the remainder of the year eliminating the potential for fishery closure.

[River Flow Forecast](#)
are available on our website



“Advocate and Support for the Bow River Fishery”



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Graves Bridge Boat Ramp

Calgary Boat Ramp Closures

The City of Calgary closed the **Graves Bridge Boat Ramp** to the public in May sighting significant vehicle damage to the upstream gravel bar. This eliminated the last remaining public access boat ramp in Calgary. The uproar was immediate from river users.

Bow River Trout as a member of the newly formed, **Calgary River Users Alliance** negotiated the reopening of the boat ramp within a few days.

Discussions with Councillor's Shane Keating's office resulted in the motion "**Calgary River Access Strategy**" being passed by Calgary's City Council in June. As a river user stakeholder, **CRUA** is currently in contact with City Administration to resolve short-term public access at Graves Bridge and engagement in the

long term river access strategy within Calgary. A report is expected to be presented to City Council in Q1 2107.

Bow River Basin Access



Fish Creek Park Boat Ramp

Outside of Calgary, access to the Bow River has been a challenge for years. The "**Blue Ribbon Trout Fishery**" downstream of Calgary relies on access at Calgary's **Fish Creek Provincial Park** and downstream at **Policeman's Flats, MacKinnon's Flats, Legacy Island and Wyndham-Carseland Provincial Park**. All of which were damaged by the 2013 flood. Normal access has been reinstated at all access points, with the exception of Policeman's and MacKinnon's where infrastructure improvements are needed.



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Upstream of Calgary, fishing the majestic Cochrane to Calgary stretch of the Bow River is only possible by jet boat. Access at the new **Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park** is not feasible under the current management guidelines. The development of Calgary's **Haskayne Legacy Park** bordering Bearspaw Reservoir may resolve boat access to the river.



BRT Vision

Bow River Trout had informal discussions with Alberta Environment and Parks and non-government organizations to explore the possibility for a river access strategy for Bow River Basin. It is evident that **BRT** as a river user stakeholder is in a position to further these discussions with the objective to advocate for enhanced public boat access in the region. To facilitate this, there is a need to register **Bow River Trout** under the **Society Act of Alberta**. When this is complete, we will be in a better position to advocate and fundraise for our vision, to improved recreational fishing access in the Bow River Basin.

Peter Crowe-Swords

Bow River Trout

Cel: 403 680-8320

Email: daritek@shaw.ca

An organization meeting will be held in the fall to strategize a vision for Bow River Trout.

If you are interested in getting involved, please contact me at the

[BRT Contact Information](#)



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