



XXXX River

# Whitewater Paddling Centre

*A Proposal to develop a Whitewater Kayak Training Site inXXXXXXX*

XXXXXXX Kayak Club  
Your name Phone #  
Email address  
Mailing Address AB,

Date

# Whitewater Paddling Centre

## Executive Summary

Alberta's east slope of the Rocky Mountains provides a great playground for all sorts of mountain sports including whitewater canoeing and kayaking. There are a variety of rivers in XXXX, Alberta, the xxxxx, xxxxxx and xxxxx, that provide great paddling opportunities. In 19XX the local paddlers formed the XXXXX Kayak Club, to promote and foster paddling in XXXXXX, Alberta. The club uses the xxxxxxxx course and the XXXXXX River for their programs.

The June 2013 floods completely destroyed the XXXXXX, whitewater facility. Not only did it rip out the slalom gates and wires, it also tore out the posts, eroded the river embankment and reworked the river bed. This will compromise the whitewater park that has been very important for our whitewater kayak program. This program has generated XX National Team athletes, making the XXXXX Kayak Club one of Canada's powerhouse kayak clubs.

After the flood, the XXXXX Kayak Club team had to use the rapids in XXXXX for their training. Unfortunately the Crowsnest River does not maintain its flow during the latter parts of summer – dropping from 12 cms in May/June to 5 cms by July/August. A flow of 5 cms would be adequate if the river channel was narrow and the water deep, but this is not the case in Blairmore on the Crowsnest River.

Facing the reality that the Boulder Run Whitewater Park will not reopen until 2015, the Pinch-o-Crow Creekers are looking to develop a site in the Municipality of the Crowsnest Pass that we can use this year. The rationale for looking inside the Municipality is to have an urban facility that young people can easily access into the future.

There are several options for a whitewater training site in the Crowsnest Pass, but the best two options are the site in Blairmore off the 129 St bridge at 22<sup>nd</sup> Ave and the Frank Slide Cascade below Frank Slide. There is more upside potential to the Frank Slide site than in Blairmore because the ledges, chutes and drops make it a more interesting whitewater site with the opportunity to become a world class site.

The development of a Whitewater Canoe/Kayak Park in the Crowsnest Pass will have significant positive safety, health, cultural, recreation, environmental, tourism and economic benefits to the community. The capital cost of this project is \$50,000 and the club is seeking support from the Alberta Lotteries Fund and from TECK Resources Ltd as well as club volunteer support to make this project a reality.

# Whitewater Paddling Centre

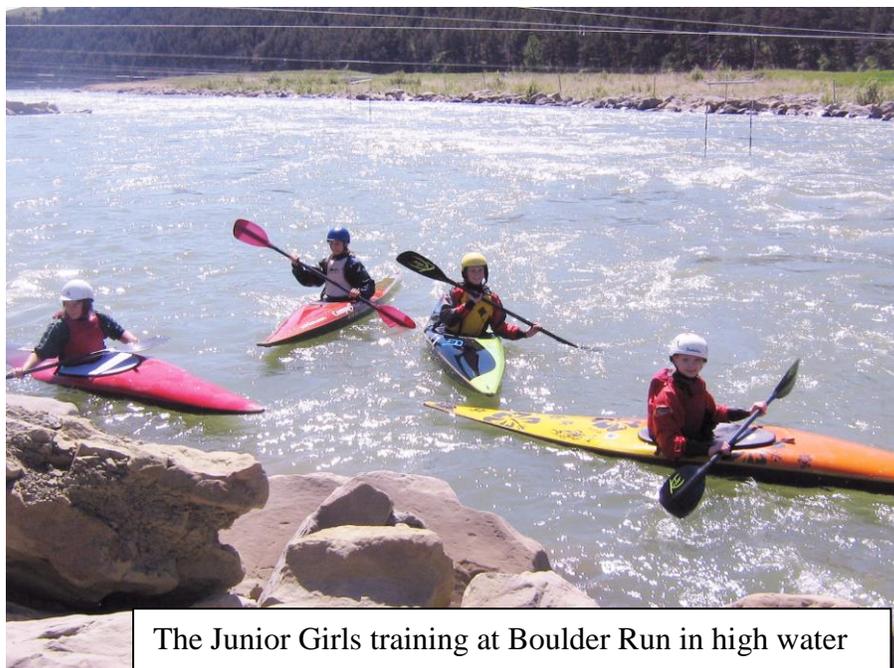
## Background

Alberta has long shared a passion for outdoor adventure. Alberta's east slope of the Rocky Mountains provides a great playground for all sorts of mountain sports including whitewater canoeing and kayaking. There are a variety of rivers in the area including the XXXXX Rivers that have their headwaters in the mountains as they rush eastward into the prairies. There are also numerous creeks in the front range that provide paddling opportunities. This has long been known to Alberta's paddling community and has been an attraction to paddlers for many years.

In 19XX, XX name of local paddler XXX cobbled together a fleet of boats and assorted equipment and began teaching kayaking in the swimming pools and rivers in the area for youth and adults. In 19XX, XXX name XX and his paddlers formalized into a kayak club, the XXXXX Kayak Club, to promote and foster paddling in xxxxxxx, Alberta. The club extensively used the XXXXX Kayak Club facility and the XXXXX River for their programs, along with the XXXXX River near XXXXX.

A Problem destroyed the work that the paddlers had done to build their facilities, but by the next year the paddlers had relocated and rebuilt the facilities gates and were back training on the site. In 20XX, hosted the XXXX races/tournament/competition for 60 competitors from around Alberta.

Interest from the local paddlers led to an opportunity in 20XX to install XXX Something XX on the XXXXX River. There are some limitations to this site but it provided a good novice training site for the club's programs.



The Junior Girls training at Boulder Run in high water

## **The Club**

The XXXXX club runs pool sessions from January to May each year, offers an introductory free kayak lesson to school classes, runs summer day camps for kids, hires coaches each summer to work with the club's team of developing and high performance athletes, offers weekend courses for kayaking and promotes water safety and boating skills to the general public.

With its own fleet of kayaks and all the gear to outfit 20 people at a time, the club is able to keep the cost for participation down to a bare minimum. The club hosts the XXXXX event each year.

Having slalom training facilities close to town in addition to the natural river runs in the area has led to the development of the club as one of the top clubs in Canada for whitewater youth kayaking. The club currently has XX members on the Provincial Whitewater Teams and has several more young teens and pre-teens following the path that these athletes and the ones before them have blazed.

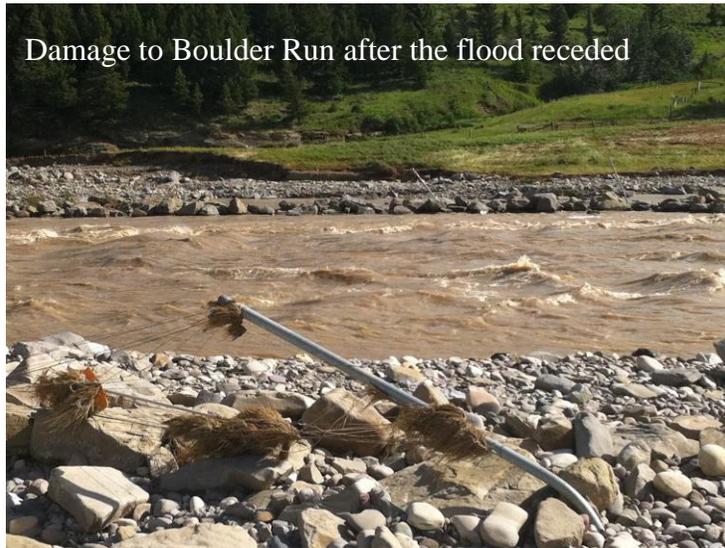


## **Our Challenge**

The floods in late June 2013 completely destroyed the Boulder Run whitewater facility again. Not only did it rip out the slalom gates and wires, it also tore out the posts and reworked the river bed. The POCC club has applied for Disaster Recovery Funding to replace its slalom gate system. But after 3 major floods in 21 years, the Government of



Alberta is looking at the floodway design below the dam to make it more resilient to these high water events.

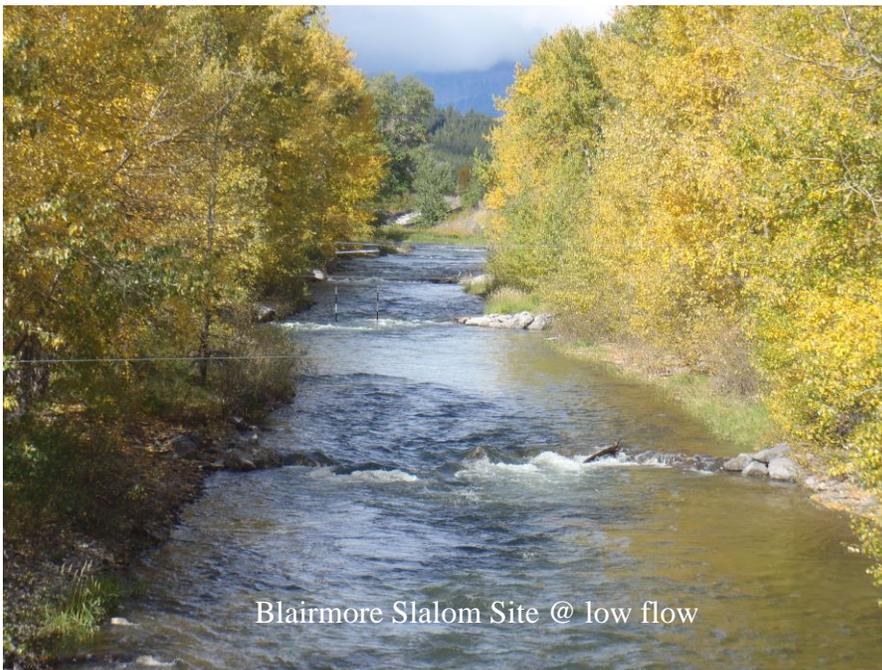


Damage to Boulder Run after the flood receded

It is uncertain at this time if the Government is going to rebuild the whitewater facility at Boulder Run again to be useable for our programs. To carry the 2000-2600 cubic meters per second that is released when these flood events occur the river has to be widened and any obstructions to the flow removed. If the river channel is widened then it will not be useable for our whitewater

programs. The process for the redesign and the river work will take all of 2014 to complete. We do not anticipate the facility to reopen until 2015.

After the flood, the POCC team had to use the slalom gate system and rapids in Blairmore for their training. Unfortunately the Crowsnest River does not maintain it's flow during the latter parts of summer – dropping from 12 cms in May/June to 5 cms by July/August. A flow of 5 cms would be adequate if the river channel was narrow and the water deep, but this is not the case in Blairmore on the Crowsnest River.



Blairmore Slalom Site @ low flow

Compounding this low flow problem is the fact that after the Government built the Crowsnest River features in the early 1990's, there has been no maintenance. Over this time the river rock has shifted and the eddies and channel have been filled with sediments. This

has exacerbated the problems during summer low flow periods and our boats are constantly hitting rocks and the river bottom.

The team did travel to Canoe Meadows on the Kananaskis River several times to train but this facility is 2.5 hours away and the cost and time involved to train at this site is not conducive to a program that requires on-water training 6 days a week.

Struggling to find a suitable training venue with deep moving water, the club examined a number of different temporary venues on the Castle, Crowsnest and upper Oldman Rivers. We finally decided to invest some time in putting up a few slalom gates below the Frank Slide Cascade. This site was well liked by the athletes and coaches because it was protected from the wind, had good deep pools and a deep channel. This allowed the team to train effectively without damaging their boats and paddles during the latter part of July and through August. Although the area used was mostly flat with few real whitewater features it did provide a moving water experience which was most beneficial for our training.

In 2014 Pincher Creek is again hosting the Southern Alberta Summer Games and the POCC club has been invited to run a kayak event for the Games. At this time we don't have a venue for the event.



### **The Opportunity**

Facing the reality that the Boulder Run Whitewater Park will not reopen this year, the Pinch-o-Crow Creekers is looking to develop a site in the Municipality of the Crowsnest Pass.

The rationale for looking at a site inside the Municipality is because for the sport to grow, we have to have urban facilities that young people can easily access. The philosophy of our Provincial Sport Governing Organization, the Alberta Whitewater Association, is that each canoe/kayak club should have a training facility in their town that young children can walk or cycle to, get a boat from the clubhouse, go and train and then walk/cycle home afterwards.

There are several options for a whitewater training site in the Crowsnest Pass, but the best option is the Frank Slide Cascade below Frank Slide.

## Frank Slide Cascade Whitewater Park

Pros	Cons
Good Accessibility off gravel road	Low Visibility – hidden from main public viewing
Located between Blairmore, Hillcrest & Bellevue	Concern about vandalism of the site
No concern about river modifications and their impact on flood capacity	Need to rework river rock to make the rapids more navigable
Partially protected from wind	Need to build a footpath alongside river
Parking beside the venue	Disturbance of rock within Historical Site
All the rock required is on site	Slalom gate system has to be built
A public park is located next to the site that can be used to host paddling events and activities in the future	More parking will be needed in the future.
The site naturally has 6 meters of drop that will provide great whitewater	Change to the character of the site from passive recreation to active recreation
Several large drops naturally occur, moving a few key rocks will allow the site to be navigable	More traffic and activity along 6 <sup>th</sup> Ave & 152 <sup>nd</sup> St gravel road.
Riverwork will make the river safer and less hazardous for everyone	Scenic value may be altered
Good for novice and intermediate training at the bottom of the rapid	
Suitable for novice races at the bottom	
Good for advanced paddlers at the top of the rapid	
Will attract ww kayakers from Western Canada to stop and paddle in CNP	
Suitable for National events in the future	
Very desirable tourism and recreational attraction	
The cascade was a natural fish barrier. Will enhance fish migration from bottom into the upper Crowsnest River	



Frank Slide Cascade – looking upstream in low water

The POCC club will apply to the necessary Government agencies to get permission to develop the Frank Slide Cascade into a whitewater park. There is more upside potential to this site than there is in Blairmore. The ability to develop a very interesting whitewater site for everyone and the opportunity to train and race on a top level slalom site is very appealing moving forward. Having already developed several top national team athletes, the POCC club can envision a future where this sport becomes well known in southwest Alberta for its excellence and attracts 100 children each year to try it out.

### **Government Regulation and Approval Process**

The process for development of the Frank Slide Cascade will be to obtain the following permits and licenses.

1. Permission from the Alberta Department of Culture to build a footpath from 6<sup>th</sup> Ave to Frank Lake alongside the Crowsnest River in the designated historic site.
2. An understanding from the Alberta Department of Culture to install slalom gate posts on the north and south banks of the Crowsnest River for a distance of 250 meters outside the designated historic site.
3. Support from the Municipality of the Crowsnest Pass for developing the Frank Slide Cascade into a whitewater park.

4. Approval of a Permit from Alberta Environment for altering the river bed and banks of the Crowsnest River. This includes reviews by Alberta Fish and Wildlife and Alberta Environment River Engineering Division.
5. Approval of a Permit from Government of Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans for altering the river bed and banks of the Crowsnest River.
6. Approvals from Government of Canada Department of Transportation to suspend a series of cables to hang the slalom gates over the Crowsnest River.

The cost of developing the site is just under \$50,000. The window of opportunity to complete this work is limited because of the Environmental Sensitivities of working in the river. Government policies restrict in river construction to two narrow windows in April/May and August/September. Approvals and funding will need to be secured prior to mid-April in order for this work to be completed for the 2014 paddling season.

### **Trend Analysis**

Activity trends in Canada support this proposal from several perspectives. In the past activity participation had a higher indoor facility focus, involved structured programs, contained frequent participation in smaller segments, and involved more team oriented sports. Today we are seeing more outdoor and home based activity. The shift has moved to more informal self-oriented participation with larger blocks of activity fewer times per week. Team sports are being replaced with individual activity where participants are interested in doing something with an experiential focus.

**Chart Changes in Activity Participation**

<i><b>Past</b></i>	<i><b>Present</b></i>
<i>Indoor facility focused activity</i>	<i>Outdoor or home based activity</i>
<i>Highly structured programs</i>	<i>Informal self oriented participation</i>
<i>Frequent participation in smaller amounts</i>	<i>Larger blocks of activity fewer times per week</i>
<i>Team oriented sports</i>	<i>Individual activity</i>
<i>Participating</i>	<i>Doing something with an experiential focus</i>

--- → shift to --- →

*\*Alberta Recreation and Parks Association 2002*

### **Environmental Stewardship Trends**

Parks provide a valuable "sense of place in communities" and are places for self discovery, unstructured activity, heritage interpretation and access to natural environments. The Public Perception on Use of Benefits of Local Government on Recreation and Park Services (2008) notes that parks "enhance aesthetic quality, increase property values and improve the image and liveability of communities."

*\*Alberta Recreation and Parks Association 2008*

The 2011, “Results of a Provincial Dialogue, Reporting in the Pan Canadian Survey”, noted that many municipalities have difficulty building policies and programs that connect children and youth with the natural environment. Recreation professionals identified not having appropriate financial resources as the main challenge.

*\*Alberta Recreation Parks Association 2011*

### **Recreation Facility Development and Sustainability Trends**

Parks and recreation are core facilities that provide opportunities for residents to be active and enjoy nature year round. In Alberta Recreation and Parks Association’s 2010 study the Role of Recreation, Parks and Open Space in Regional Planning it was noted the importance to conserve open space helps to build the unique character within the community.

*\*Alberta Recreation Parks Association 2010*

### **Recreation Activity Trends**

Recreation contributes to individual and community health and wellness. Recreation and cultural activities provide social opportunities for people to interact with others and learn new skills. The top leisure activities Albertans participate in include: outdoor recreation activities such as walking for pleasure (79%), gardening (65%), and bicycling (48%); cultural activities such as, attending a fair or festival (62%), doing a craft or a creative hobby (54%), and visiting a museum or art gallery (51%); spectator at a sport event (59%); playing video/computer games, and indoor activities such as swimming in pools (47%) and aerobics/fitness/yoga (45%). Of the active sports, more people canoed/kayaked (#10) than played soccer, hockey, baseball, mountain biked or x-country skied.

*\*Alberta Recreation Survey 2008*

Albertans are becoming less active. The trend in Alberta from 2000 to 2008 has shown a decreasing participation in the majority of activities. However the research points out that eight activities were growing in participation which include aerobics, wall climbing, swimming lakes and rivers, motor boating, attending festivals, river rafting, canoeing/kayaking and jogging/running. Another five activities including bird watching, playing video/computer games, weight training, martial arts (karate/judo) and snowboarding have maintained the same level of participation since 2000.

### **Recreation Interest Trends**

When asked about what activities Albertans would like to try, canoe/kayak was in the top 5 choices. Barriers to participation included lack of facilities and equipment and a limited knowledge about the sport and how to get involved.

*\*Alberta Recreation Survey 2008*

These trends have direct implications to this proposal as five of these outdoor recreation activities (jogging/running, canoeing/kayaking, river rafting, and swimming in lakes and rivers) are consistent with the proposed facility being available for both residents and visitors who come to the area to participate in activities.

## **Future Benefits**

The development of a Whitewater Canoe/Kayak Park in the Crowsnest Pass will have significant positive safety, health, cultural, recreation, environmental, tourism and economic benefits to the community. Below are the benefits that will be recognized in the Frank Slide site.

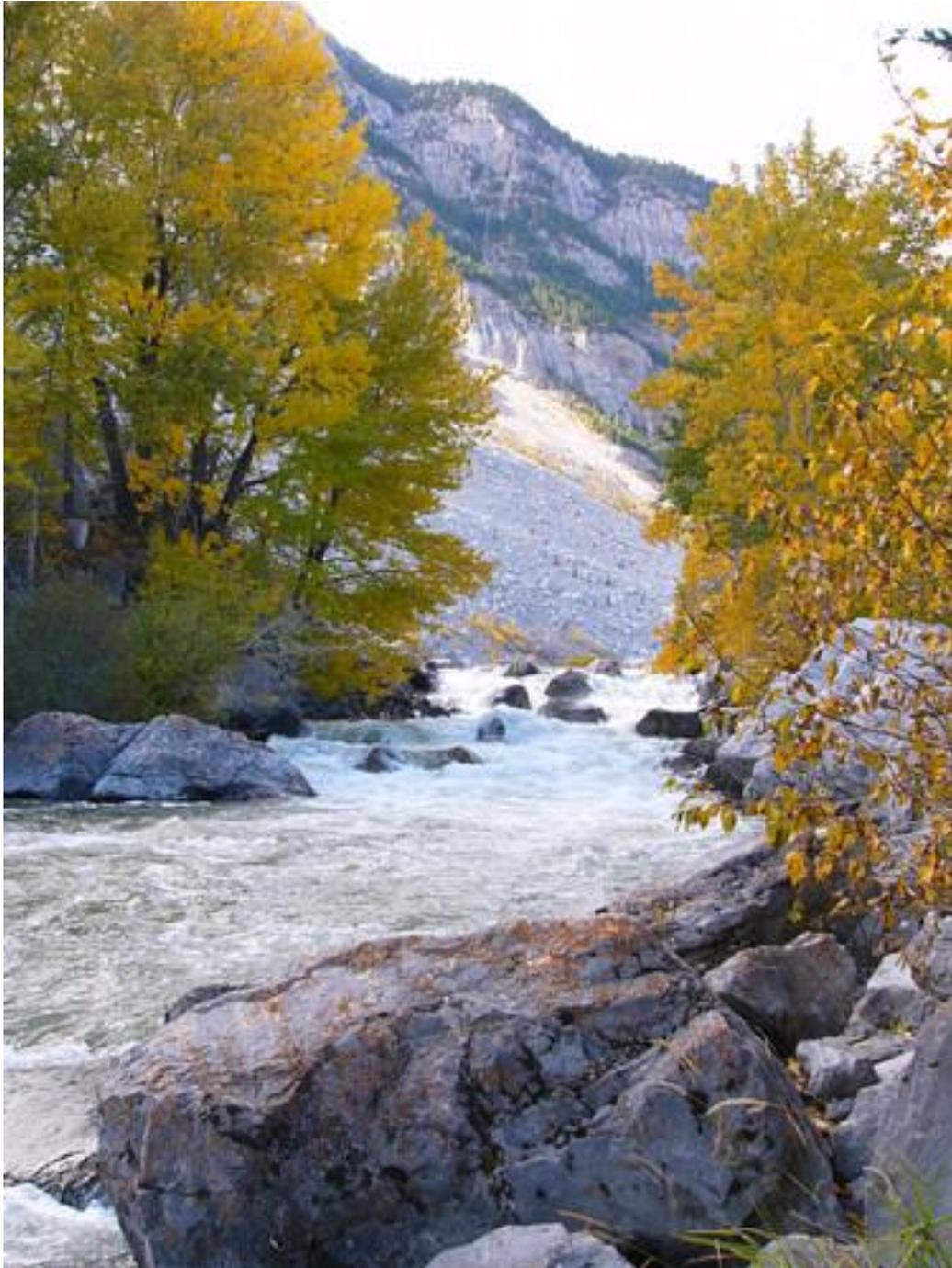


## **Safety**

- Building a walking trail from the 6<sup>th</sup> Ave road along the river and up to the lake will make it safer to get to Frank Lake. This will make the lake and the river upstream of the lake accessible to people to enjoy for all watersports.
- It is too treacherous to walk safely through the boulders without the use of your hands and both feet. Carrying your canoe/kayak/raft makes this task impossible and therefore makes transecting the valley by water extremely dangerous as there is no safe way by water or by land to get past the Frank Slide Cascades.
- The existing boulder choked channel has numerous water safety issues including dangerous sieves, narrow passages and entrapment snares. Moving rocks and filling the sieves will make the Cascades safer for anyone boating in these rapids.
- Training children in safe boating habits for a future of fun and safe boating in all watercraft will benefit generations to come.
- Educating the public about safety on and in the river
- Developing physical literacy skills for boating, canoeing and kayaking in children at an early age so they innately know how to balance, propel and steer a watercraft.
- In a region with a population less than 20,000, the POCC club has taught kayaking to over 1,300 people over the last 15 years and touched a lot of lives in a positive and meaningful manner. We would hope to continue to strengthen this relationship with the Crowsnest Pass in the future.

## Health

- Helping children to turn off their computers and video games and get off the couch by staying active through a fun, positive sport activity that is easily accessible and affordable and most importantly FUN.
- Getting children engaged in the outdoors and connecting to nature through the connection of their kayak to the river to the shoreline to the river valley.
- Providing a physical activity that can be done by all ages 8 to 80 that will last a lifetime and provide a legacy of physical health.



## Social

- Whitewater kayaking is an individual sport that is practiced in a team environment. It provides a unique opportunity for that child that is not into team sports to find their own niche. And it is done with other children in a supportive environment that provides safety and supervision.
- It is a proven fact that kids that are active in sports are less likely to be involved in destructive juvenile activities. Keeping our youth active in a supervised after school activity like the kayak club will provide an engaging and interactive program that promotes good health, active living and social development.
- The whitewater kayaking community integrates beginners with advanced paddlers allowing a strong connection between different ages and skill levels. It is not uncommon to see young children training next to National Team athletes. This peer role model will be a strong influence for the children in the club.

## Cultural

- Building a portage trail from the lake to 6<sup>th</sup> Ave opens up the possibility that users can experience the Frank Slide from the water. This gives another opportunity to understand the history and the magnitude of the Slide up close and personal. This is especially true for people that would have a hard time walking the existing Frank Slide interpretive trail. The
- Connecting Canadians with their historic roots in canoes and kayaks and creating a positive connection with the aboriginal communities who gave these watercraft to the world.

## Recreation

- The advanced character of the Frank Slide Cascade Class III-IV will be very attractive for all the paddlers in the Crowsnest Pass and region. It will get a lot of regular use from advanced recreational paddlers who would not be attracted to any other site in the Crowsnest Pass.
- Having this site in town will help to improve the ability of all the recreational paddlers who use it.
- A whitewater park is a small capital investment to set up initially and then there is a small ongoing maintenance cost that is typically less than a few hundred dollars per year. Periodically the river bed needs to be cleaned up and that cost might be a few thousand dollars.
- There is little to no cost for the public to use and enjoy this public amenity. The river is free for anyone to use and the only cost is your personal time.
- There isn't a daily schedule or operating program for the river, anyone can go and use it at any time from sunrise to sundown.

## Environment

- Paddlers have a very close connection to the water and have proven to be good stewards of their rivers and the lands that feed water into their rivers.

- The appreciation for the environment begins at an early age for paddlers and knowing and understanding the annual cycles and life of the river benefits everyone around them.
- Kayaking is a low impact sport, with no trace left behind of the path of the paddle through the water.
- Even where a river is modified to make it safer or to enhance its character, it takes a trained eye to see where the changes were made and with time even these minor changes blend in with the natural features on the river.

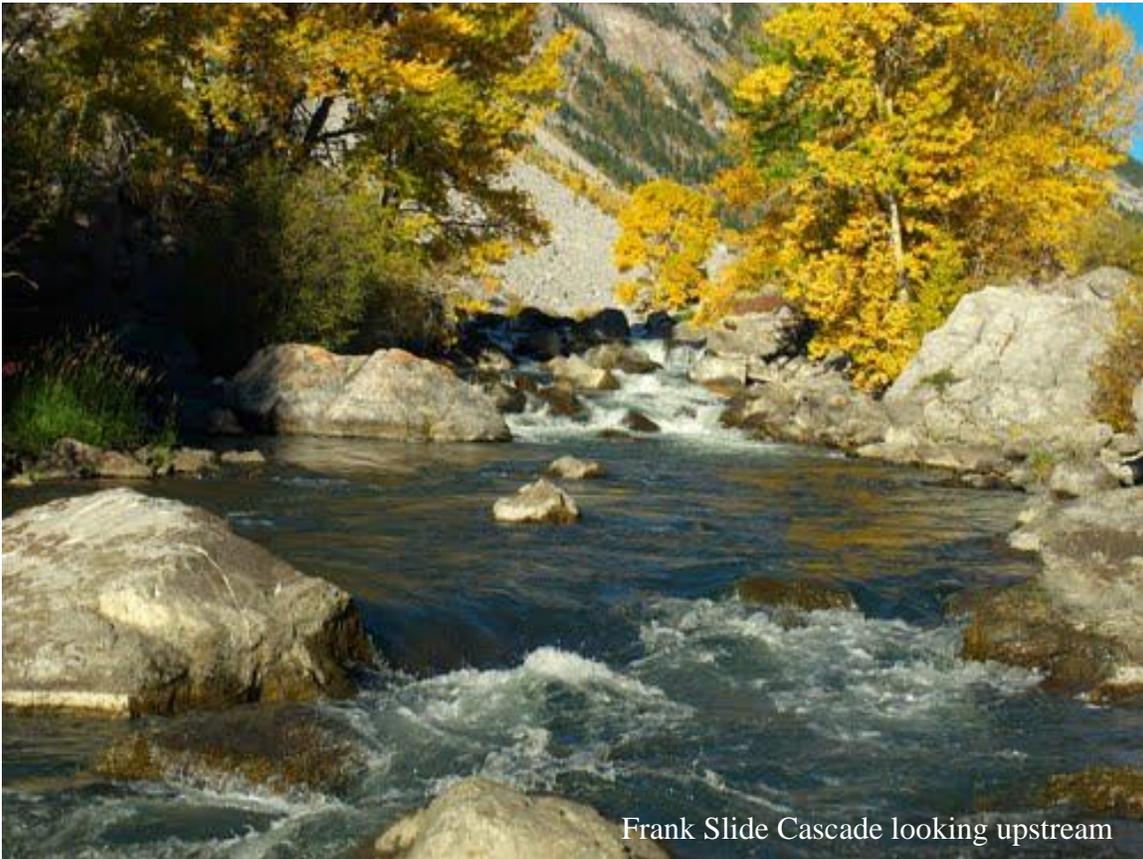
### Tourism

- A whitewater park recreation facility is a unique attraction that can draw travelers to a destination or delay their departure from the community. Even non-paddlers find these facilities fascinating.
- Cities with a good whitewater park list their whitewater attractions in their top 10 must-see spots for travelers.
- A whitewater park in the Crowsnest Pass will host 1 Provincial kayak event every year. This weekend event will attract 50 participants and families from around Alberta and Southeast BC.
- Different clubs from western Canada will come to the Crowsnest Pass to train on the whitewater park for a 2-5 day period.
- With the changes being proposed, the Frank Slide Cascade will become a popular spot for kayakers travelling through the Crowsnest Pass to stop and paddle. The Calgary to Fernie traffic that normally zips through the Pass will spend time and money in the valley after spending a few hours paddling this unique facility.
- Tourists will also be enticed to come and watch the people action at the Cascade. Watching these colourful characters on the water is very appealing for all ages and invariably attracts a crowd.

### Economic

- There are the direct tourism expenditures that will come from the whitewater park. Because this is a unique recreation/sport venue it will generate new tourism expenditures in the valley. The value of the tourism expenditures is estimated to be \$250,000 per year.
- The other direct economic benefit is the attraction and retention of skilled workers to the Crowsnest Pass because of the lifestyle attraction that the whitewater park will provide. Already the citizens of the Crowsnest Pass enjoy a mountain environment, but the whitewater park is a unique facility among mountain communities. When children are involved and they are invested in the sport it can be very challenging for their parents to move away to another location that does not have the same amenities. This makes the retention of skilled workers easier in the future.
- The whitewater park facility provides another attraction for people to relocate to the Crowsnest Pass

- The small capital cost and low annual maintenance costs, combined with the free access and long term benefits makes this project a strong positive economic benefit to the valley.
- The Frank Slide Cascade has the possibility to become a top Canadian whitewater race course. This possibility would lead to the opportunity to host the National Team Selection races, National Championships, Western Canadian Championships, Provincial Team races and other top level events. Each of these events would bring in 50-100 competitors that would stay in the valley for 6-10 days for the competition. This would result in a direct expenditure of up to \$100,000 every 2-3 years.
- Exposure of the Crowsnest Pass in the media as a venue for an Elite Sports Event has an intrinsic marketing value of the valley across Canada and will help solidify the Crowsnest Pass as a desirable mountain community rivaling Canmore and the towns in the BC interior.



Frank Slide Cascade looking upstream

### **Are there Concerns with a Whitewater Park ?**

There are naturally going to be conflicting opinions and different values among each user group and special interest club or between individuals. In any situation there are bound to be voices against change to the status quo. As with most elements in our society today, change is a part of life and the ability to determine best practices and

where necessary to preserve critical pieces for the future is part of this process. Here are some of the thoughts against whitewater parks and specifically against the Frank Slide Cascade project, with our counterpoints.

*1. Historical values of the Frank Slide Historical Site will be undermined*

There have been a number of times over the past 100+ years where there have been disturbances to the Provincial Designation to the Frank Slide as a memorial site to the victims of the Frank Slide.

The Crowsnest River at Frank Lake was dynamited soon after the slide to create a river route through the slide and to drain the lake that threatened to flood the remaining houses in Frank. The dynamiting created the Frank Slide Cascade and this has remained the path of the river since that time.

More recently the Minister of Culture allowed the placement of utility poles along 6<sup>th</sup> Ave and 152<sup>nd</sup> St through the Frank Slide Historic Site by Fortis Alberta. This has negatively damaged the scenic and historical values through the slide.

It has included the construction of the walking paths at the Frank Slide Interpretive Centre, as well as the other informal footpaths that have developed over the years.

The provision of a walking path from 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Frank Lake opens up new opportunities to provide Historical Interpretive programs in the Frank Slide, both walking and on the water. An important **'WOW'** factor of this historic event that is not being actively engaged with the public is the onsite visitation of the Crowsnest River through the slide where the rockfall jumped over the river. This new walking path will create an opportunity for more people to see this phenomenon.

*2. A whitewater course will be detrimental to fish populations*

Any work in the river has to be done during a specified fish window when the construction will not affect spawning fish populations and not cause any undue stress on the fish. Because the construction of whitewater parks define channels, deepen eddies and aerate the water they help to sustain fish populations by creating better movement corridors and resting places and improving water quality.

When fisheries biologists attempt to improve habitat for fish populations they use the same techniques that whitewater park designers use to create fast riffles, drop structures, deep pools, bankside eddies and midstream obstacles. The fisheries work in 1990 on the Crowsnest River was intended to enhance the carrying capacity of the river but also improved the kayaking features on the river.

*3. Fishing at the site will be compromised*

With over 50 km of fishing on the Crowsnest River, the change of use for a 250 meter stretch of river to support paddling groups, will impact less than ½ of 1% of the total

river available to flyfishing. Fishing with hook and lines when people are paddling in close proximity do not make good partners, but there will be times when there are no other river users on the water and fishing can take place.

*4. The site will change from passive recreation to active recreation*

Many existing users are attracted to the river because it allows for a special opportunity to relax by the river and contemplate and reflect. This will not be lost but there may be times of the day or the year when kids having fun on the water will not provide the peace that some users value. However there are 50 km of river in which to find a similar experience on the Crowsnest River very close by and within easy walking distance should a visitor desire to find their special place.

*5. Scenic values will be compromised*

The Frank Slide Cascade is a unique location with its cascading ledges and plunges and clean deep pools. That is one of the attractions for paddlers and the work planned will not compromise this scenic value. While each drop might not look exactly like it did before the work occurs, there will be no discernible difference and the same photographic opportunity to capture water flowing down through the Cascades will be retained.

Rocks will not be removed from the site, they will be moved to an adjacent spot so that the desired effect for a trail or the riverbed can be achieved.

A portion of the site will have a permanent slalom gate system installed that allows for the kayak team to quickly slide out their gates for training. These will be colourful features that provides a different perspective for photographers and people enjoying people activity on and near the river. They can be moved over to the side of the river easily, creating unobstructed views when desired.

*6. Public safety*

A whitewater park by its very nature has a degree of risk associated with it and the forces of moving water are critically important to plan for. But this risk is largely a perceived risk and with proper facility design and informed use the site will be safe for whitewater use. Operating parameters would include the use of helmets and PFD's (lifejackets) and proper thermal protection. Education about the equipment and proper river safety is part of the club's mandate to keep the river safe for everyone. More use and more people around the river will make the site safer as well.

*7. What is the liability for the site*

The Pinch-o-Crow Creekers is a long-standing member of the Alberta Whitewater Association (AWA). As part of our membership, the club and its facilities are covered under the AWA's General Insurance policy. This \$5 Million policy provides insurance coverage in the event of an accident to the public on this facility.

## **Budget**

The window of opportunity to complete this work is limited because of the Environmental Sensitivities of working in the river. Government policies restrict in river construction to two narrow windows in April/May and August/September. Approvals and funding will need to be secured prior to mid-April in order for this work to be completed for the 2014 paddling season.

The Frank Slide Cascade budget is attached below. For details of costing items please review to Appendix A that describes in greater depth how the expenses were arrived at.

### Frank Slide Cascade Project

#### **REVENUES**

<b><u>Source</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>
Alberta Lotteries Fund	20,000
Teck Resources Donation	25,131
Volunteers	2,325
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>47,456</b>
Cash Revenues	45,131
Donated In-Kind Contributions	2,325
Matching Funds for Alberta Lotteries grant	47,456

Cost estimates have been prepared based upon standard Alberta contract construction rates and past AWA projects on the Kananaskis River.

#### **EXPENSES**

<b><u>Type</u></b>	<b><u>In Kind</u></b>	<b><u>Cash</u></b>
Construction Labour	2,325	2,325
Planning and Management Costs		4,240
Slalom Gate System		17,866
Pathway Construction		6,500
Rock Placement		14,200
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>2,325</b>	<b>45,131</b>
TOTAL		47,456

## **Operating Costs**

The costs to maintain and keep a whitewater training facility operational can be quite affordable. The Pinch-o-Crow Creekers have been maintaining 2 sites, the Boulder Run and Blairmore slalom courses for 5 years. The annual cost is the cost of nylon string, replacement poles and some hardware. The club spends under \$250 per year to cover these costs. Volunteers and the club coaches handle this chore to maintain a safe and functional high quality training site.

The other cost is the expense to clean out the river when large amounts of sedimentation accumulate in the eddies and river channel. This may occur every 5 - 10 years and involves bringing in a Trackhoe to remove the loose river gravels from the riverbed. The cost for this service is \$5 - 10,000 depending on the amount of work required. Special funding is available to help the club cover these extraordinary costs.

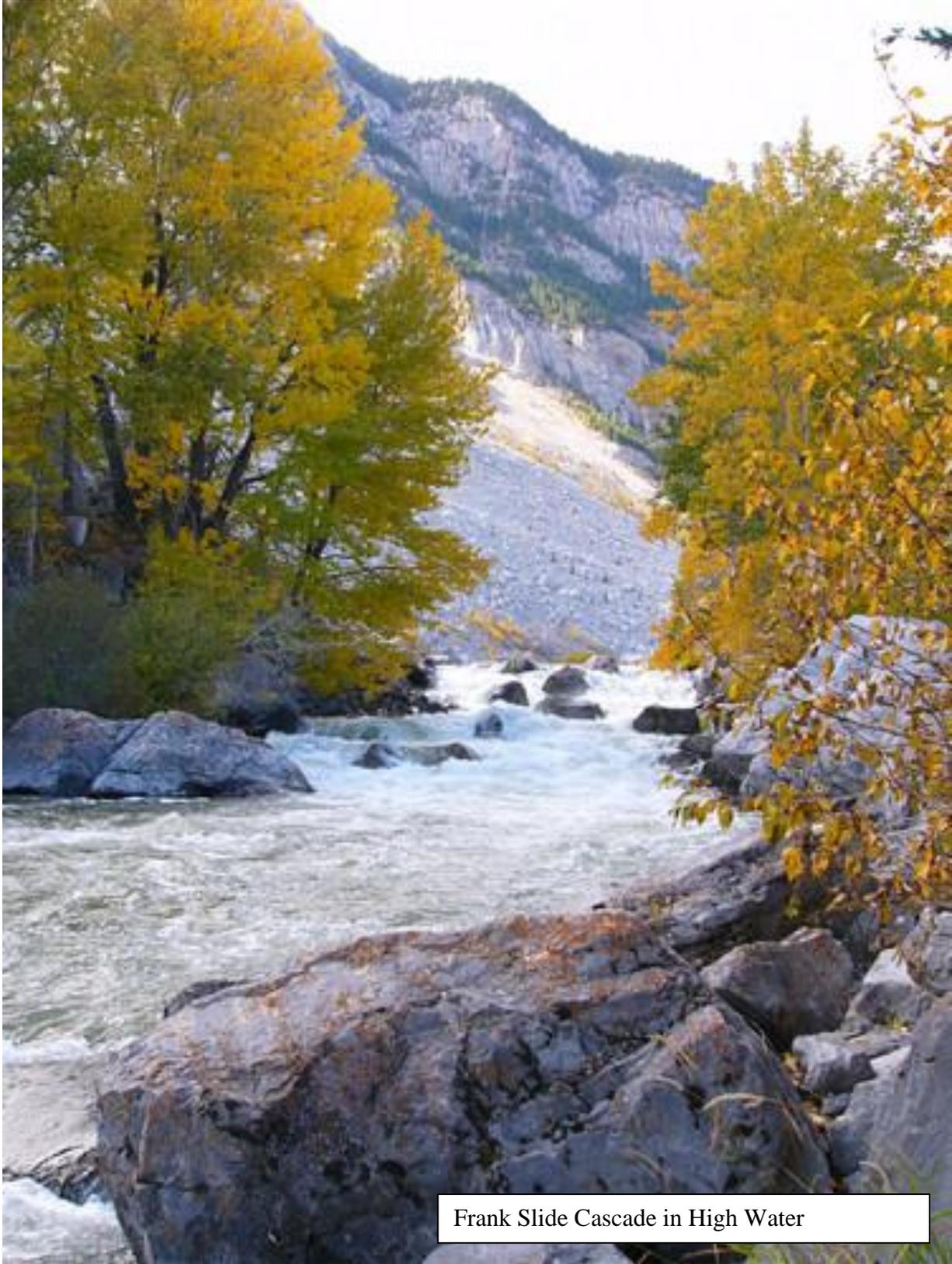
## **Conclusion**

The history of whitewater sport development would suggest that given time the Frank Slide Cascade will be developed as a premier sport and recreation facility for the Crownsnest Pass. This was true in Calgary, when the Bow River Weir was initially targeted for redesign by the canoe/kayak clubs in 1985. It took another 25 years before this project was realized but eventually all the obstacles were addressed and Harvie Passage was developed at a cost substantially higher than it would have been back in 1985. We believe that this is true today for the Frank Slide Cascade, this site has too much potential not to be developed properly. The only question is should we do this now or wait 10 - 20 years before it can be completed.

The club is looking long term and envisioning a scenario where the youth in the Crownsnest Pass, southwest Alberta and the Elk Valley have easy local access to world class whitewater venues for our very exciting sport. We believe that the Frank Slide Cascade is the facility that will give us the best opportunity for a future of youth development in whitewater canoe/kayak sport.

Because of the impact of last year's flood events, the Pinch-o-Crow Creekers on behalf of the youth in southwest Alberta are hoping that the Government agencies responsible for public lands and waters will be attentive and supportive of their situation and will expedite the necessary paperwork to make this development possible this year.

Any assistance that TECK Resources may be able to give us would be very much appreciated. We look forward to discussing how we can work together on this exciting project.



Frank Slide Cascade in High Water

Google Earth Image #1 – Frank Slide Overview



Google Earth Image #2 – Frank Slide Cascade (looking north)



Google Earth Image #3 – Frank Lake and Top Drops (looking west)



Google Earth Image #4 – Frank Lake - Top and Middle Drops (looking west)



Google Earth Image #5 – Frank Lake and Top Drops (looking south)

