



7.6 FLOOD PROTECTION



Richmond's dyke system provides floodproofing protection

ISSUE:

A perimeter dyke system designed to withstand a 1-in-200-year flood event has been constructed around Lulu Island, protecting most of Richmond from all but extraordinary flooding. The airport on Sea Island is also protected by a perimeter dyke. Parts of Sea Island, Mitchell Island, and the peripheral unsettled islands remain unprotected from significant flood hazards. It is also noted that portions of the dyke shoreline have fish and fish habitat values.

A study undertaken by the City and the Ministry of the Environment (Hay Report) identified the need for internal dykes to compartmentalize any flood hazard on Lulu Island. The report also suggested minimum building elevations which would further reduce the flood hazard. Much of the historic urban settlement on Lulu Island is below these suggested minimum building elevations, but raising sites on a piecemeal basis is an ineffective solution. Richmond needs to ensure ongoing appraisal, maintenance, and upgrading of its dyke system to minimize property damage and human suffering.

OBJECTIVE 1:

Improve flood protection measures in the portions of Richmond susceptible to flood damage.

POLICIES:

- a) Maintain and upgrade the perimeter dyke systems on Lulu and Sea Islands;
- b) Construct the internal dyke system identified in the Hay and Company Report;
- c) Explore senior government funding opportunities to maintain and upgrade Richmond's dyke system;
- d) Work with the Ministry of Environment in resolving improved flood protection measures for the historic settlement areas;
- e) Work with the provincial and federal governments on an approach to implement a revised set of Environmental Guidelines for Dyke Maintenance appropriate to Richmond's situation.



Drainage pumphouse