

# Flooded homeowners want city to pay more

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Just over a week after raw sewage and water poured into their basements due to a city error, flooded St. James homeowners are afraid they won't fully recoup their losses.

Rick Shaw, a flooded Ferry Road resident, said the city is pushing to cover a depreciated value of damaged items, not the actual cost to replace them.

"I'm very displeased with their decisions," said Shaw.

"They're accepting responsibility but they're not willing to pay for it."

Up to four feet of sludge gushed into about 50 homes on and surrounding Assiniboine Avenue east of Ferry Road July 25, after a city crew failed to re-open a gate that prevents sewer overflow from entering the Assiniboine River.

They had closed the gate to do regular maintenance work.



**SCHULZ**  
'Man-made'

The city immediately took responsibility for the flooding, stating a downpour could have passed without damage if the gate had been open.

Now residents worry they'll be left paying for some of the cleanup.

"There were a lot of upset neighbours," said Donna Schulz of a Wednesday meeting

with the city.

Her husband, Rick Schulz,

said his family's gently used appliances would be hard to replace with used equivalents.

"This is a man-made mistake and they should own up to it. If it's an insurance claim, you get replacement," he said. "I would have thought that was a given."

Irwin Kumka, chair of the Insurance Brokers Association of Manitoba, said replacement coverage is common, but optional, and government rules tend to focus on the depreciated or actual value of what was lost.

The Assiniboine residents were told to make claims to their insurance companies, which would then recover costs from the city.

"We're dealing very closely with the residents," said Mike Ruta, the city's chief financial officer.

Ruta said the city is still waiting for claims to determine a damage estimate and noted the coverage process could take "a few months" to complete.

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