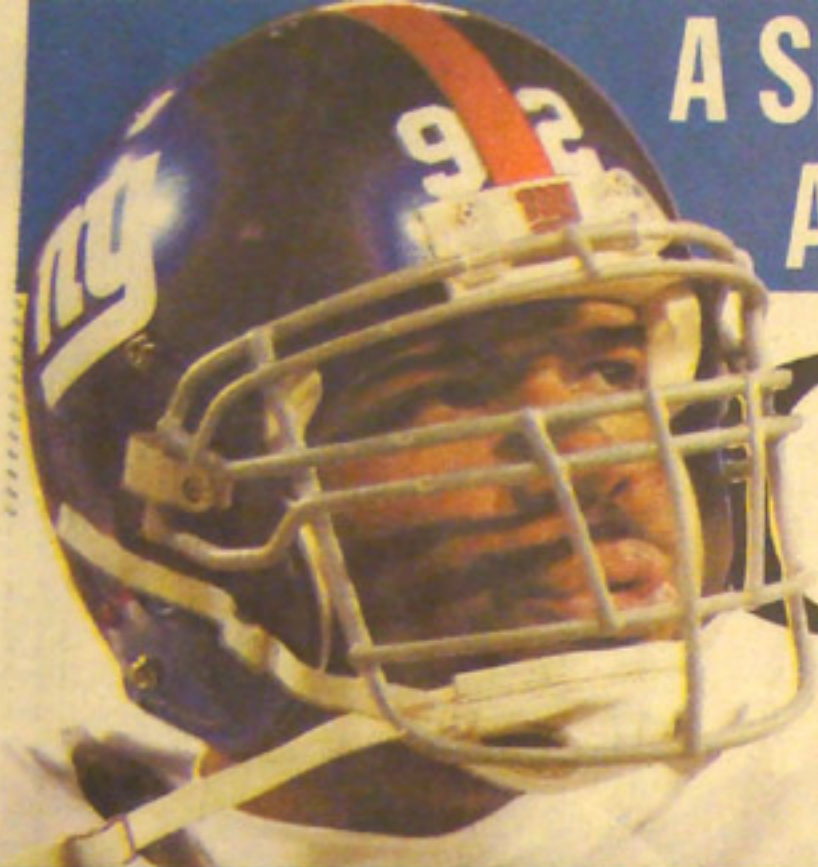


A SECOND CHANCE AT PERFECTION

Giants get another crack
at the Patriot's unblemished
season in Super Bowl XLII



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IT'S HERE!

Citizen photos by
Brent Braaten

The Amphibex, an amphibious excavator, works on the confluence of the Nechako and Fraser Rivers on Saturday, right. Far right, the Canfor pumphouse, top of photo, in relation to where the Amphibex, bottom of photo, started Saturday.



The Amphibex arrives to take on the big job of the Nechako ice jam

by SCOTT STANFIELD
Citizen staff

A multi-purpose excavator capable of breaking thick slabs of ice plunged into the Fraser River Saturday morning at Paddlewheel Park, where crew members began testing the current in an effort to break up the troublesome Nechako ice jam.

In conjunction with a plan to pump warm water onto the ice from Canfor's Intercon pulp mill, city officials hope this latest effort marks the beginning of the end of the flood situation that has been plaguing homes and businesses near the Nechako River for upwards of a month. "When something drags on as long as this particular ice incident has, we have to try every option," Mayor Colin Kinsley said.

The amphibious excavator, called an Amphibex, is characterized by a hinged stabilizer and dredger. It was brought in from Montreal at a 10-day cost of \$375,000, paid by the Provincial Emergency Program (PEP). The machine will be manned by six workers who will chip away at the jam once they get a feel for the river's currents. After 10 days, they will reassess the situation.

"They're ready to work 24 hours a day," said city clerk Don Schaffer, who likened the machine to a "big green grasshopper."

Paddlewheel Park was chosen as the entry point because a channel that has opened along the Fras-

FLOOD UPDATE

■ **Area A - River Road:** Construction of the last ramps at the west end of the raised River Road is under way. Three pumps remain deployed, all in Area A, down from a high of 28 last week.

■ **Area B - Ongman Road/McAloney Crescent:** Gabion diking will be raised to the 200-year flood level plus .6 metres in keeping with the levels other dikes have been raised to in Area A.

■ **Area C - Pulp Mill Road:** Status quo, no new developments.

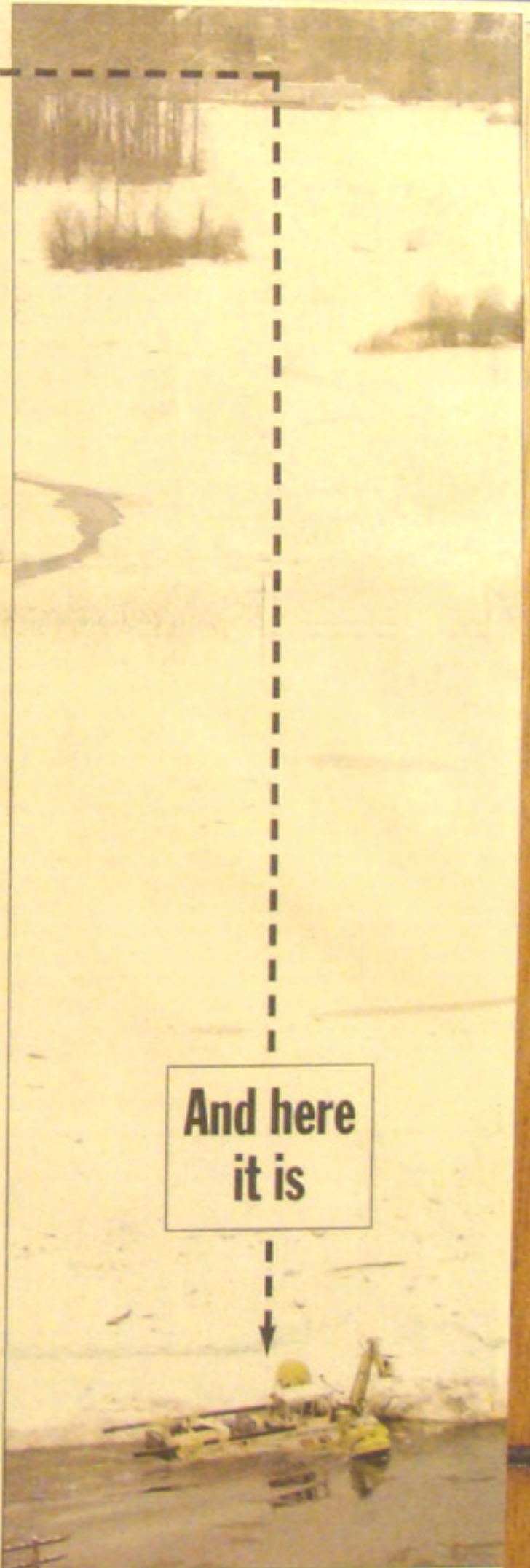
■ **Area D - Delhaven/Pozer Road:** Same as Area B.

■ **Area E - Morning Place/North Nechako Road:** Open water conditions remain evident in this area.

er now stretches to the mouth of the Nechako. "We have an opportunity to do this now, which we didn't before because we have open water in the river that we didn't have last week," Schaffer said.

The Amphibex, valued at \$750,000, is one of two such machines manufactured by New Brunswick-based Eco Technologies.

— See ICE-BREAKING on page 3



And here
it is