



KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH  
CITY OF KETCHIKAN



## **Joint Media Release: Third Avenue Landslide Update 22**

Date: September 6, 2024, 6:00 p.m.  
Contact: Kacie Paxton, Public Information Officer, 907-228-2383

### **For Immediate Release**

**\*\* The next Landslide Recovery Update will be provided on Tuesday, September 10\*\***

#### **Family Belongings Salvaged in Home Demolition Process:**

Contractors began careful removal of house debris today. Each home scheduled for demolition had a list of family items that they requested contractors locate (if possible) during the process. Ernie Hamilton of Three Dog Construction was one of the contractors sorting through the Trudeau home rubble (originally on the uphill side of Third Avenue). Ernie carefully separated material and set it in stacks on the road for the excavator to load into dump trucks. As he sorted, he was looking for a bronze "Algonquin" bust at the request of homeowner Doug Trudeau. Doug also requested his brother's ashes be found, but he knew it was a long shot. Through Ernie's meticulous efforts, he first found the ashes, and later the Algonquin.

*"The bust was made in the 1930's by an artist friend of mine, and it meant a lot to me. I'm so thankful that they took the time to be careful and to find it, and to find my brother's ashes. I was over the top when I found out." – Doug Trudeau*

Doug Trudeau purchased the home in January of this year. He was born in Ketchikan, and after being away for many years, he was looking forward to moving back. As of today, that plan is in limbo. The loss of his home is devastating, but the recovery of the bust and his brother's ashes has somewhat softened the loss.

#### **House Demolition Continues Through the Weekend**

Contractors will continue to sort through the remnants of the three homes being demolished to look for family belongings. Materials are carefully sorted and house debris will be transported to the Ketchikan Landfill throughout the weekend, finishing on September 8. Traffic control will be provided at the intersections of Schoenbar Rd and Park Ave, as well as Fair St and Deermount. The public is requested to avoid the landfill and from stopping along the haul route and Fair Street.

**Tour Operators Asked to Avoid Fair Street (Base of Dump Hill) on Sept. 6, 7, 8**

To allow for safe and efficient transport of the dump trucks carrying house debris, tour operators must avoid Fair Street on September 6, 7, and 8. Tour companies must use an alternate route on these dates.

**Residents Requested to Avoid Ketchikan Landfill on Saturday, Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>**

Residents are also asked to avoid taking household refuse and materials to the landfill on Saturday to allow open access for the dump trucks carrying house debris from the landslide. We realize this is an inconvenience to our citizens, and we thank you in advance for your help with this process.

**Recovery Work:** Secon Construction began hydroseeding (a planting process that uses a slurry of seed and mulch) on the slopes above and below the Third Avenue Bypass. The hydroseed is a USFS hybrid mix of seed that will cause vegetation to grow and assist with surface stabilization of the slope.

**Road Closures:**

- Second Ave from Austin St to Whitecliff Ave
- A portion of Second Ave South as identified by closure signs
- Third Ave from the Library to Washington Street. This area is expected to be closed for an extended period as debris is cleared and as safety measures are put in place.

**Rainbird Trail remains CLOSED.** All sections of the trail have been closed since August 25, 2024. Entering the Rainbird Trail is prohibited. People's unauthorized presence on the trail or the ridge causes the shutdown of clean-up and stabilization efforts and diverts the efforts of the workers and emergency responders. Additional caution tape and signage was placed on the trail in the areas of the slide. Please respect this closure and do not attempt to access the trail.

**NOAA/NWS:** Citizens are reminded to check for daily weather updates at <https://www.weather.gov/ajk/>

**Services for Families Affected by the Landslide:** Services remain available and have moved to the Salvation Army.

Anyone who had disaster-related expenses to their primary residence because of the event on August 25, 2024, is encouraged to complete the Individual Assistance application. The application can be accessed via <https://ready.alaska.gov/Recovery/IA> or calls may be made to the IA hotline at 1-844-445-7131 Monday-Friday. The caseworker assigned can work to investigate other programs individuals may be eligible to use.

### **EOC Objectives**

The Ketchikan Emergency Operations Center Unified Command is operating under the following seven objectives:

1. Provide assistance to displaced residents. Ongoing.
2. Restore services on 2nd Avenue by 9/10/2024.
3. Complete slope stabilization (up and down) along the slide area by 9/13/2024.
4. Complete necessary repairs/updates to open to 3rd Avenue by 9/30/2024.
5. Complete demolition of condemned homes by 9/9/2024.
6. Develop and implement transportation plan by 9/1/2024. Completed and ongoing.
7. Ensure the financial stability of the City of Ketchikan while managing the costs associated with the landslide response and recovery. Ongoing.
8. Develop demobilization plan by 9/10/2024.
9. Conduct landslide awareness and public outreach. Date TBD.

**Information and Disaster-Related Resources:** Additional information about the August 25, 2024, Third Avenue Landslide is available at <https://www.kgbak.us/1098/3rd-Avenue-Bypass-Landslide>

To sign up for Nixle emergency alerts text "99901" to 888777 for updates.

Photos to follow.

# # #



Ernie Hamilton of Three Dog Construction showing the "Algonquin Bust" he recovered from the Trudeau home debris. Photo courtesy of City of Ketchikan.



The "Algonquin Bust" recovered by Ernie Hamilton of Three Dog Construction in the Trudeau family home debris. Photo courtesy of City of Ketchikan.



Seccon Construction crew applying hydroseed to the slope above Second Avenue. Photo courtesy of KGB.