# Hydrological Storage and Pathways in Alpine Headwaters: Lake O'Hara Study Update

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### Average Flow in Bow River at Banff



### **Unanswered Questions in Alpine Hydrology**

- Where is groundwater stored?
- How large is groundwater storage?
  10 mm? 100 mm?
- How long is groundwater stored? days? weeks? months?
- How can these be represented in basin hydrology models?
   e.g. MESH

### From Processes to Parameterization

#### Field observation



physically-based model (e.g. FEM)

"virtual" slope

grid-scale function

Storage

Q

simulation and sensitivity analysis

## **Opabin Sub-Basin in Lake O'Hara Basin**



## **Opabin Plateau Snow Survey, 2008**



### Water Input to the Opabin Watershed



### Water Input to the Opabin Watershed



### Water Inputs and Output



## **Total Inputs/Output in August-September**



## Headwater of Opabin Creek Groundwater Springs



### 2008 Summer Geophysics Campaign Mapping Groundwater Pathways under the Moraine

#### **Ground Penetrating Radar**



#### **Electrical Resistivity Imaging**





## **Electrical Resistivity Results**





## Tracer Dilution Experiment, Aug. 2008



- 44 kg of NaCl released
- Slope of exponential decay proportional to flow rate
  ≅ 400 m³/d flowing through



## Plans for 2009 and Beyond

- Hydrological field data collection tapering down
- Data analysis for processes
  - Proglacial moraine (Langston, M.Sc.)
  - Talus slopes (Muir, M.Sc.)
  - Spatial distribution (Hood, Ph.D.)
- Virtual model construction (Hayashi)
- MESH parameterization (Donnelly, M.Sc.)

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