The Chesterville Record

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This Week

This week's edition is fully dedicated to coverage of the devastating ice storm that battered eastern Ontario last week. Inside are reports from North Dundas and South Dundas, North Stormont and South Stormont about the emergency responses in place to deal with the states of emergency that continue.

Briefly

Emergency numbers

Each municipality in Stormont and Dundas counties has set up an emergency response command centre to co-ordinate shelter, volunteers and information on issues relating to the states of emergency that continue in all areas of eastern Ontario. Locally, residents who continue to endure hardship as a result of the ice storm are reminded to consult the emergency numbers in their respective municipality.

By calling these numbers, residents can obtain information on shelter and both regular and special emergency municipal services during the crisis.

North Dundas
774-5699
South Dundas
543-4558
North Stormont
984-2436,
for other enquiries,
984-2757
South Stormont
537-2362.

Estimates for power restoration

Information about power resoration from Ontario Hydro was released at press time Tuesday. These times are estimates only, and do not include outlying areas.

Berwick –Wednesday.
Finch – Friday.
Avonmore – Saturday.
Crysler –a week or longer
Moose Creek – A week or longer.
Newington – Friday.
Morewood – Saturday.
Long Sault - Wednesday.
Monkland – a week or longer.

Power was restored to Williamsburg Friday and Chesterville and Winchester Saturday night. Power was restored to Ingleside at 2 p.m. Tuesday.

In a glacial grip

Greg Hewitt
Record Editor

Eastern Ontario remains crippled and in a state of emergency in the wake of the vicious ice storm that so mercilessly was unleashed across the district for five days last week, leaving behind a path of destruction, damage and hardship that continues to upend any sense of normal life.

Tens of thousands across the region are still without power, especially in the hard-hit rural areas of SD&G where the full fury of the storm was realized, coating every object with up to three inches of solid ice. Words can barely describe the way thousands of hydro poles snapped like twigs, lines fell across roads, huge tree branches, unable to bear the weight of the ice, littered lawns and streets from one end of the district to the other. Even tall, metal hydro towers in areas, such as the ones between Morewood and Crysler, were crumpled like pop cans. Scenes of destruction were found around every corner, far too numerous to even begin to list and the cost, undoubtedly hundreds of millions of dollars, still far from being assessed.

States of emergency were declared late last week in every local municipality, as 24-hour emergency command centres sprang up and municipal leaders, staff and countless volunteers began the ominous task of arranging emergency shelter for the thousands forced to flee the cold and darkness that invaded their homes. States of emergency continue indefinitely as emergency workers cope with continuing power failures outside the villages, with estimates for power restoration in some areas being counted in weeks, rather than days. Schools and halls in every community, powered by generators, have become home to thousands of weary families and the elderly, especially as temperatures dropped later in the weekend.

Local officials are urging extreme caution from falling ice and branches, from alternative heating sources and electrical infrastructure. Officials are also urging people to ensure neighbors and the elderly are cared for, and to contact command centres to ensure needs are being met. It is also advised, sadly, that any generators outside buildings should be kept under watch, and that suspicious vehicles should be reported to provincial police.

Reports of fires, especially in western North Dundas, came in. A fire at a shelter at the Moose Creek Recreation Centre Tuesday afternoon was isolated and quickly controlled.

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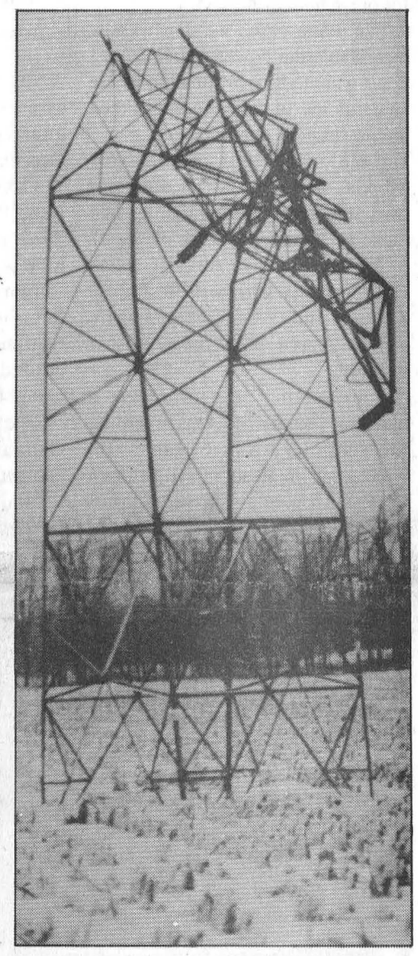
Emergency workers, left, unloaded 75 army beds at the Faucet in Chesterville Friday evening as a vicious ice storm forced thousands across the region to seek shelter. Below, a twisted hydro tower between Morewood and Crysler, one of several that succumbed to the weight of ice. Thousands in rural SD&G are still without power.



Schools out until at least Friday, boards say

Rich Thorpe
Record Staff

CORNWALL -- Students in SD&G won't be back in the classroom for the remainder of this week.

As all of eastern Ontario tries to come to grips with the effects of the catastrophic ice storm of last week, school officials are trying to assess the situation on a day-to-day basis.

A joint press release was issued on Tuesday morning announcing that all schools both public and separate in SD&G would be closed up to and including Friday.

A further announcement will be made on Friday concerning possible phased-in openings for schools.

Students will be advised of any altered schedules and make-up times upon return to school.

☐ Please see SCHOOLS on page 2

OFA "lobbying hard"

BROCKVILLE - Ontario Federation of Agriculture president Ed Segsworth toured the counties of Leeds, Grenville, Stormont and Dundas Tuesday as part of a two-day fact-finding swing through the hardest hit areas designed to "put passion into our lobbying efforts" to pry loose disaster funding from the provincial and federal governments and to infrom those in areas isolated by the e worst ice storm in history and resulting power outages that there are those outside the "war zone who care about them".

The OFA was quick off the mark in its disaster relief efforts, contacting defence minister Art Eggleton last Wednesday to ask that the Armed Forces be deployed across Eastern Ontario to assist local disaster agencies in coping with the emergency.

The federation was told that although Ottawa was ready to send in the troops, regardless of the cost, it was up to the provincial government to request help from the Forces so Segsworth, his staff and the federation's executive members turned their efforts to Ontario agriculture Minister Noble Villeneuve, who was at his Moose Creek constituency office when the storm hit.

Villeneuve had a first-hand taste of the storm's devastation and gave the federation a sympathetic ear.

"We didn't have to convince him" although some of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs' senior bureaucrats were less enthusiastic about the federation's plea that an emergency be declared in the region.

The newly-elected president of the province's largest farm organization, Segsworth and the OFA' staff were in their Toronto offices from 7 a.m until midnight from Wednesday through the weekend co-ordinating the organization's response and fielding telephone calls from those hardest hit.

He left for Eastern Ontario Monday night accompanied by communications chief Marian Smith and executive member Gary Davison.

They are being escorted through the area by field staff member Joanne High of Williamstown and by county federation presidents and directors.

● Continued on page 11

Generators helped WDMH through blackout

Rich Thorpe
Record Staff

WINCHESTER -- Winchester District Memorial Hospital weathered the ice storm thanks to the extraordinary efforts of the many volunteers in the community.

While the power has been restored to Chesterville and Winchester, the WDMH is still trying to cope with the needs of the many rural residents who are still without hydro service.

"We are still working closely with residents who are residing in shelters," said Jean Holmes, director of Human Resources at WDMH.

Although Holmes said she did not believe there have been any storm-related fatalities in the area, she said some patients that were transported to WDMH during the storm had to be transferred to Ottawa hospitals.

Most of the cases checking into the hospital during the height of the storm were related to hypothermia or mild cases of carbon monoxide poisoning.

As power is expected to be out in rural areas serviced by WDMH for an indefinite period of time, Holmes is urging residents who are utilizing alternative forms of heat in their homes such as kerosene heaters and wood stoves to exercise extreme caution to avoid the potential for carbon monoxide poisoning.

Now that the weather has improved somewhat, the hospital has been seeing an increase in emergency cases resulting from people falling on ice and other types of injuries.

"During the storm people were heeding the warnings to stay indoors," she said. "In the last couple of days we've been seeing more broken bones and ice-related injuries."

The hospital operated on its auxiliary generator system for approximately three days until power was restored in Winchester Saturday night.

"What was most impressive was the degree of co-operation we received," she said. "Staff were working extended hours and went above and beyond the call of duty."

At one point during the storm and its after effects it became necessary to evacuate a number of people who rely on community care programs. They were housed at the WDMH until it was safe to return to their homes.

Holmes said hospital staff worked closely in conjunction with community care staff.

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WDMH

☐ Comtinued from page 1

"We had extra staff from the community care programs helping us out," she said.

When the phone system to the hospital was temporarily out of service, volunteer fire fighters as well as local ham radio operators ensured that a communications system of some sort remained operational.

"We had literally hundreds of volunteers helping us out," she said. "It was amazing how everyone pulled together."

As of Monday, the hospital resumed its regular schedule for elective surgeries which were cancelled during the storm.

"We're slowly starting to resume our normal functioning level," she said.

Schools

☐ Continued from page 1

Don Fairweather, superintendent of schools and operations for the SD&G sector of District School Board 26 said it may be some time before the routine is back to normal.

"We are in consultation daily with Ontario Hydro and Cornwall Electric about the status of power for our schools," he said.

"In some cases we don't know how stable the power source is. We don't want to be in a situation where students are in the school and then the power goes out."

"We cancelled school for Monday and Tuesday to allow our own staff to tour the buildings and make an assessment of the damage."

Within the Township of North Dundas, only Chesterville Public School and Winchester Public School have had their power restored.

Fairweather said there are a number of safety concerns regarding the school yard in Chesterville which have to be addressed before a decision on opening the school would be considered.



A traffic sign at the corner of County Road 7 and Hwy. 31 reflected the way eastern Ontario residents felt about persistent freezing rain last week. It did stop, but states of emergency are still in place and shelters responding to the crisis at hand.

As for Winchester, the gymnasiusm is being used as living quarters for members of the Canadian Armed Forces.

Power has yet to be restored to Elma Public School, Maple Ridge Senior Public School and Morewood Public School.

North Dundas District High School has yet to have power restored and it is currently being utilized as a base for members of the armed forces.

The Lancer Centre at Rothwell-Osnabruck is being used as a community shelter for the Township of South Stormont. Longue Sault Public School is also without power.

Fairweather said board officials will be meeting with principals of the secondary schools to discuss how to make up for lost time.

"For secondary schools who are on the semester system the first semester is rapidly drawing to a close," he said. "We will be discussing ways to make up for lost time."

In a bitter touch of irony, Fairweather noted that many of his colleagues in the other areas which comprise District School Board 26 have also been severely affected by the ice storm as well.

"I guess that is one way of helping to promote unity," he said.

Region wages battle against ice

☐ Continued from page 1

Hydro crews, both local and imported, worked feverishly on lines and electrical infrastructure throughout the week, and power was restored to Williamsburg and parts of Morrisburg Friday, the hamlets of Chesterville and parts of Winchester Saturday night.

But continuing power outages are causing a serious crisis on dairy farms, as farmers scramble to find generators so they can milk and heat their herd, trying desperately to avoid the drying of their milking herd or the loss of cattle to bacterial infection. Despite a network of roving generators in the farm community and provincial co-ordination of their availability, the need for generators has so far outweighed their availability, painting a grim picture for many farmers.

Indeed, generators have been in short supply, as emergency officials, farmers and individuals scramble to obtain them. Generators have come into eastern Ontario from all corners of northeastern North America and as far away as Atlanta, Georgia. Farmers are sharing generators, fire departments and other volunteers are roving comunities to pump basements, but still more generators - and other supplies - are in desperate need in many communities.

Mike Dean's grocery store in Chesterville, though, was brought back to life Friday thanks to a large, trailer-mounted generator. It was, until Saturday, a brightly lit oasis in an otherwise blackened downtown Chesterville and the fact it was open was seen as a godsend by many. Dean was even offering to cook people's meals for them at the store.

With hydro and telephone service knocked out at mid-week, communication became hampered, making the spread of information from officials to residents extremely difficlt. Emergency workers, including especially firefighters and later, military personnel, fanned out across the townships door-to-door to check on people and deal with emergency situations. Many local officials encountered difficulty in obtaining the military help that was said to be available; it was not until Saturday that townships like North Stormont, for example, were able to get through to military officials and communicate their need for help. By Saturday afternoon, military trucks were a common sight on local roads. There are currently hundreds of military personnel stationed throughout SD&G, from CFBs Petawawa and Gagetown, N.B.

The military has established a base in Winchester, as one of five in eastern Ontario. Military medics are assisting caregivers, and other personnel are clearing roads for hydro crews, transporting generators between farms, recovering downed hydro lines and clearing broken hydro poles and other debris to help Ontario Hydro.

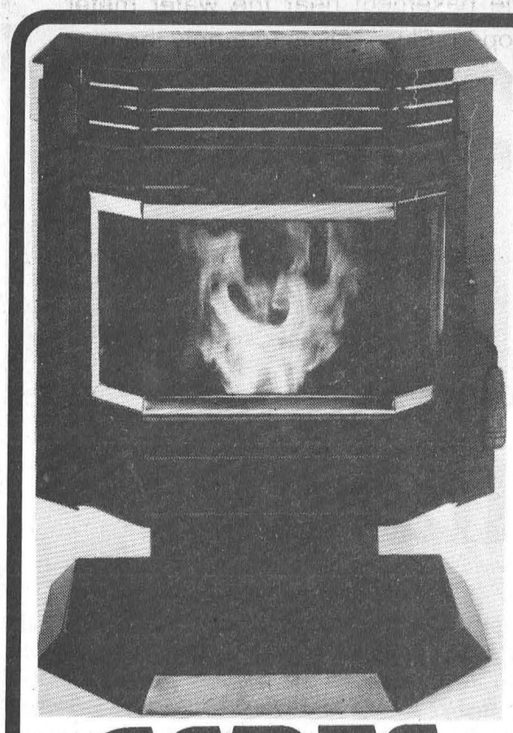
But as hydro-electric power is lost, it is the power of people helping people that energizes so many communities; volunteers from all walks of life – many of them working 22 hours a day or more – have flocked to emergency command centres to assist local officials, manning emergency phone lines to give out crucial information about available help. But moreso, neighbors are helping neighbors, residents and businesses donating food to shelters, volunteers and emergency workers in the kitchens. Countless acts of people helping where help is needed are being played out on farms, at shelters, in communities, on highways and everywhere else.

Commonly, when asked who was organizing and staffing a particular shelter, there is no single answer. It is everyone; it is the community itself that has responded, under the guidance of the command centres in each municipality.

The ice storm of 1998 is possibly the single largest disaster in Canadian history, crippling all of eastern Ontario, southern Quebec and some northeast U.S. states. SD&G, and its six newly amalgamated townships, were square in the sights of the storm, taking direct hit after direct hit from the freezing rain that never seemed to abate. The city of Ottawa was hard-hit, but even so, by Saturday, all major media - from CFRA to the CBC to CNN - had acknowledged it is in the rural areas south of the city, where power infrastructure was virtually obliterated in most places, that were in the deepest crisis. The storm is the first time states of emergency have been declared in these eastern Ontario communities, and is responsible for the largest peacetime mobilization of Canadian Forces personnel in Canada. It is believed the damage costs in Ontario and Quebec will exceed those of the Manitoba floods in early 1997.

While the declaration of a state of emergency does not entitle a municipality to disaster relief funds, both provincial and federal leaders were quick to pledge that there will be help when the final costs are tallied, but it is the restoration of power and other services that are a priority. Prime Minister Jean Chretien, Premier Mike Harris and other high-level officials including Ontario Solicitor General Bob Runciman toured eastern Ontario by helicopter on the weekend, to see the situation for themselves.

While the city of Ottawa received 69mm of freezing rain last week, the count south of the city was closer to 75 or 80 mm, equalling more than three inches. The organization of emergency reponse has also been a test for the newly-amalgamated municipalities in SD&G, like North Dundas, South Dundas, North Stormont and South Stormont. This crisis has hit them less than a week after they took their oaths of office and staff put in place.



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Eastern Ontario's agricultural industry reels under weather's icy assault

Officials can't even begin to put a dollar figure to the damage last week's horrific ice storm caused to Eastern Ontario's agricultural industry.

Not until all the horror stories are in.

Stories that include milk being dumped, hens dying, apple and sugar maple trees damaged, stressed beef cattle dropping weight because they couldn't be properly watered. Stories that include collapsed barns, the extra cost of purchasing generators to keep milking machines and barn ventilation systems working. Blackout-enforced shutdowns of Winchester's Parmalat, Ingleside's Kraft Foods and Smiths Falls' Hershey plants. Not to mention the human toll as producers tended their livestock around the clock while ignoring their own needs for warmth, sleep and food.

Eastern Ontario's rural landscape looked as if it had been picked up, shaken and tossed aside by some demonic giant. Steel Hydro transmission towers crumpled under the weight of nearly 70mm of ice, fallen power and phone lines snaked across the ground already littered with wooden poles snapped off at their bases as the power needed to run today's mechanized farming operations was strangled at its source.

Milk producers were immediately hit as the region-wide power blackout that hit early Thursday morning shut down milk processing plants and knocked out farm milking systems, some of which had been without power since Mon., Jan. 5 when the first assault of the ice rain coated the region.

About two-million litres are produced each day in the region hit by the storm - from Kingston to the Quebec border - and with Parmalat and Kraft out of commission, daily processing capability of well over a million litres a day was lost. And with the power out on-farm milking equipment and bulk coolers were down although gas-powered generators could get at least some barn operations restored. Adding to the problems were roads made impassable by falling trees and downed Hydro poles and lines.

Even with generators being hustled into the area from as far away as Georgia and Wisconsin - that state's dairy producers were the first to respond to the province's state of emergency, according to the Ontario Federation of Agriculture's communications manager Marian Smith - milk from many farms was undeliverable and the Dairy Farmers of Ontario was advising producers to dump their product as late as Tuesday.

Ingleside's Kraft plant was not expected to be back up and running until midweek - power was restored to Ingleside at about 2 p.m. Tuesday - and Parmalat plant manager Patrick Timmins told *The Record* Monday afternoon that 900,000 litres was shipped into the Winchester plant, almost half-again its normal daily production. Some of this milk was being shipped out again to Parmalat's sister plants in southwestern Ontario, he said. The plant was not back to full power as of Monday - electricity began flowing to the plant Saturday night - but the lagoon end of the plant was still being run with generators. Timmins couldn't guess how long the Winchester plant could keep processing the extra milk.

DFO also reported that milk was being shipped to Michigan to a plant owned by the state's dairy producers.

A barn near South Mountain collapsed under the weight of the ice on the weekend killing several head of cattle; another collapsed near Casselman but mercifully no animals were hurt. A Dalkeith-area milk producer had 13 head of cattle electrocuted and an Eastern Ontario poultry producer called the OFA in Toronto Monday to tell the organization that a generator had just been stolen for his operation and he was forced to watch as a $50,000 investment in poultry was extinguished like a match.

As of Monday police reported that about 50 generators had been stolen from rural areas as the storm and its aftermath brought out the worst in some people.

Others responded with generosity.

Eastern Engines in Williamsburg is co-ordinating a generator lending program organized by the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee, a Burlington-based organization which is collecting generators in southwestern Ontario and sending them to the hardest hit areas.

Ed Scharringa, a farmer from Waterdown, arrived Tuesday morning with a truckload of generators that had been collected from farmers throughout the Cambridge-Hamilton-Waterdown area. The generators are being loaned out at no cost as the local Christian Reformed Church struggles to keep the area's head above water. Eastern Engines can be reached at 535-2488.

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) staff have been manning phone lines since the storm first hit and ministry representative Joanne Newman told *The Record* Tuesday morning that its generator hotline is operating at full bore.

The sign outside the Winchester OMAFRA office says it all. "Help! Generators Needed!" is pasted onto the signboard.

Producers needing generators can call the Guelph hotline at 1-888-466-2372 or they can call the OMAFRA command centre offices in Winchester (774-2313), Alfred (679-4411), or Nepean (828-9127).

Newman, an Embrun resident who has been without power since Jan. 7, said producers can call the hotline or the local offices where they will be asked for their addresses, phone numbers, size of their herd and when it was last milked, particulars about their electrical services and the size of the generator they need. Generators leased by the ministry and coming into the area are being distributed through designated electrical contractors - Thom Electric south of Williamsburg has been set up as the Winchester distribution point. Generators are being loaned to producers and Newman said the ministry is trying to co-ordinate efforts so that two or three farms can share a ministry-provided unit.

There is no cost for the loan; farmers are only being asked to pay the electrician for the wiring of the unit and in some cases this is being done by military electricians.

Newman said ministry personnel are "jumping into our cars and going out to look for people if we know their area has had its telephone service knocked out" so that help can be delivered. "We're trying to get ahold of everyone. We've heard that some farmer haven't been able to milk since last Wednesday."

Newman added that the Mennonites will be providing relief milking assistance to give Eastern Ontario dairy producers a respite.

The storm and its after-effects have also forced the postponement of the DFO and Ontario DHI's annual meetings, which were to have been held this week.

DFO will hold its meeting at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto Mon., Feb. 16 and ODHI will meet at the same location Tues., Feb. 17.

BRISTER Group

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PRESCOTT 925-5902

WINCHESTER 774-2832 1-800-487-3706

ICE STORM 1998

IF YOU FEEL YOU HAVE AN INSURANCE CLAIM TAKE THE FOLLOWING STEPS:

1. Take any steps you can to stop further damage e.g.: Have a contractor board up a broken window or pump the water from your basement.
2. Keep detailed records of all your costs, ask for receipts and record any pertinent telephone numbers of suppliers of goods or services you use as a result of the loss. If possible take photos of the loss.
3. Call your Insurance Broker and report the claim.

WINTER FREEZE IN ICEBOUND EAST

We have a state of emergency declared for most of Eastern Ontario, as a result of the prolonged ice storm in the area. This bulletin offers suggestions to assist your insureds in taking preventative action to avoid or minimize potential damage, as a result of the week's excessive freezing rainfall.

HYDRO: Leave downed wires alone and don't try to clear branches or trees that are touching wires. Contact your hydro supplier or a licensed electrician.

PLUMBING: If power is off and looks like it will be off for some time, shut off water at main valve, usually found in the basement near the water meter. Open taps to drain the pipes. Leave taps open. Flush toilets to empty them.
Drain all appliances such as dishwashers and washing machines.
Insulate main valve, inlet pipe and water meter with blankets or towels.

FOOD: Food in freezers will keep for 24 to 48 hours without power. Store perishables **outside in suitable containers if outdoor temperature is below 5 degrees.**
Insulate freezers with sleeping bags or blankets to retain cold.
Store drinking water in suitable containers.
Most regions have urged grocery stores and merchants selling emergency supplies to stay open. Stock up on your way home.

GARAGE DOORS: If the power fails, pull the emergency release cord that hangs from most door openers, then raise the door by hand.
Check first for ice buildup that may make door too heavy to lift or to stay up.

AQUARIUMS: If power goes off, don't feed your fish. They'll be less active in cooler water and filters will not be operating.
Insulate tanks with thick blankets to retain heat for tropical fish.
When power returns, check that impellers are working.

DRIVING: Keep gas tank full in case service stations lose power.
Respect police barricades – don't remove or drive or walk around them.
Unless you really must go out, stay at home in safety and let the maintenance people do their job.
If you absolutely must be on the road, slow down and back off.

TREES: Don't try to knock ice off branches, leave trees and bushes alone.
Remove loose and broken branches if it can be done safely.

HOME: In case of power failure, houses will retain heat for several hours.
Fireplaces can provide heat. Check chimneys for creosote buildup or debris.
Shut doors to keep heat in a confined area. Fireplaces can also be used for limited cooking.
Fondue pots can be used indoors to heat water and food.
Use barbecues or camp stoves for cooking outdoors only. Make sure gasoline-burning devices such as generators are run outside.
Use only flashlights. Candles can be a fire hazard. **If you do need to use candles in your home, place them in non-combustible containers and away from drapes and carpets.**
Make sure smoke detectors are operating. If you are without electrical power in your home, you could install a second battery-operated smoke detector.
Install a battery operated carbon monoxide detector in your home, to monitor any possible carbon monoxide.
If you use your fireplace, do not leave any open flame unattended.
Switch off lights or appliances to prevent power surge when electricity comes back on.
Check around the basement walls and slope snowpack away from house for drainage and to prevent flooding.
Raise valuable furniture or possessions off basement floor in case of flooding.

Additional information concerning power outages, road conditions and emergency services will be provided through public information (radio, television and newspapers)

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Editorial

We're getting through it

The *Chesterville Record* was faced with an enormous challenge this week. We had the task of putting what has happened in the wake of last week's ice storm into words. Even pictures can only begin to describe the sheer destruction and obliteration this storm has caused.

But our duty pales in comparison to the challenges faced by so, so many people out there, from common folk to municipal leaders, staff, volunteers and others, whose lives have been turned upside-down since Mother Nature unleashed this fury a week ago.

Only now is any sense of normacly returning to those fortunate communities that have had their power restored. And for thousands, who live in places like Crysler and Moose Creek, and any rural section of SD&G, this emergency is far from over.

Quite frankly, this is the most extraordinary story to ever appear in the *Chesterville Record* in modern history, perhaps since 1945 when the Second World War ended. And you will see that the 12 pages that constitute this edition, cover to cover, are exclusively about this disaster.

Each day since the lights went out Thursday, members of the Record news team have been out in the community, taking pictures and talking to municipal leaders, volunteers, shelter workers and those taking shelter. And we cannot state boldly enough how impressed we have been with response from all of the above.

Think of it: Less than a week after coming into existence, our newly amalgamated townships were hit with an emergency of major proportions. Their councils, administration, staff and in some cases municipal headquarters were less than a week in service. But that didn't stop them. States of emergency were declared. Command centres were set up. Shelters were arranged. Volunteers were enlisted. Emergencies were handled. Most of these people, from reeves and mayors right down to people off the street who volunteered, worked non-stop for 22 or more hours a day because they knew the need was there. Information was hard to obtain, let alone basic necessities, but the did their damnedest. They fought through the cold and darkness to obtain generators - a need that continues right now.

This newspaper is filled with stories of people who are working to help others cope with the effects of this emergency. But they can only be considered representative; the tip of the iceberg. Because for every mayor or reeve interviewed, there were dozens of staff also running themselves ragged at command centres and in the community. For every volunteer interviewed, dozens and dozens more in the background unable to spare a minute to talk to the media. For every story about an individual or family's struggle, countless more on every street. And for every act of kindness and help, no doubt thousands more, in every corner of SD&G.

There are so many people that deserve credit in the ongoing battle against the effects of this terrible storm. Far too many to list. Businesses and individuals gave what they could. People who wandered into shelters for breakfast found themselves still there at night helping to prepare dinner. People with generators, without second thought, offered them to farmers and people whose basements were filling with water as sump pumps were inactive.

How many people opened their homes to neighbors, even strangers, who needed a warm place to stay? How many hours have our councillors, firefighters, municipal staff and volunteers worked in the last week, without complaint or asking for something extra? Who did not, when asked, or when the need presented itself, jump in and help out?

So many businesses and individuals have done whatever they canto help the people in their community. They are playing a crucial role in this battle, and they deserve credit.

Canada's Armed Forces has been much maligned over recent indiscretions. But the help they have provided in SD&G since they arrived on the weekend is proving invaluable. Every reeve and mayor has praised the men and women deployed in their township. The value of the work they are doing here is beyond measure, and it is reported they are pleased with the opportunity to help Canadians in a time of need.

A word must also be said about CFRA radio in Ottawa. For much of last week, they were the single greatest source of information at a time when information was so badly needed. Their ongoing coverage gave crucial information to residents of each corner of SD&G during the early stages of the storm. Even mayors and emergency workers gained crucial information from CFRA about how to get help from higher up. As early as Saturday, CFRA recognized the crisis was much deeper in the rural areas outside Ottawa - and its coverage shifted decidedly to those areas. CFRA is a private business, but they went above and beyond to play a role as an information centre for this entire area, even broadcasting Cornwall and Montreal radio reports when radio towers went down in those communities.

In time, when the last cold, dark home in eastern Ontario is hooked up once again to a rebuilt electrical system ,the many implications this crisis has had on all of us, implications that are both bad and good.

None of us will ever forget the ice storm of 1998. And none of us will forget how it strengthened us.

Off The Record

Inconvenience but no tragedy?

By Robin Morris
Ice Age Editor

The words in the headline are a paraphrase of Susan Riley's words from her column in Monday's Ottawa *Citizen*. Riley's uninformed rants are a regular feature of the Monday *Citizen* but this week she cubed her usual dunderheadedness with her comments about the effects of the worst ice storm ever to hit Eastern Ontario.

To wit, an excerpt from the *Life O'Riley*:

"The media, particularly radio, plays an essential and mostly salutary role in these events. But as the days passed, the tone of excitement and alarm escalated. In the *Citizen*, the worst storm of the year quickly became the worst storm in a decade and, by week's end, had escalated to the Storm of the Millennium."

"On radio, to fill hours of broadcast time, hard-pressed anchors were reduced to interviewing electricians about the intricacies of operating an emergency generator..."

"Apart from the unfortunate few, the story of the ice storm was one of inconvenience, not tragedy."

And where has Susie Q been living for the past week? Is she trapped inside an endless Lillith Fair?

Is her world circumscribed by metropolitan Ottawa? Is she bounded by Nepean and Kanata? Is she blinkered by stuffing her head into places where the Ottawa *Sun* doesn't shine?

The "unfortunate few"!!??!

Susan Riley, you are a dimwitted cow.

Try the 85,000 Eastern Ontario homes that were still without power Monday night as the temperature jumped on a pogo stick and hopped all over the weather map.

Tell me, Susie, have you tried sleeping in an unheated house while the temperature outside plunges to -15? Have you wakened up in a bedroom whose temperature parallels that of a bitterly cold January morning? Have you watched your kids shiver and shake under a mound of blankets as they contend with the worst power failure ever to hit the region?

Did you give a thought to the young mothers who were - and many still are - trying to get bottles sterilized and milk or formula warmed, all without power?

Would you consider your boss, *Citizen* editor Neil Reynolds to be one of the "unfortunate few" when he watched his house go up in flames Friday night after a power surge lit the thing up like a Roman candle? Or did you miss the front page of Saturday morning's *Citizen*?

The "unfortunate few"? While you were hooting with your pals about radio's attempts to keep us up to date with the emergency situation that had been declared across the region, did you think about the tens of thousands in rural areas who may be without power for at least another week as Mother Nature reveals herself to be nothing more than a vicious, uncaring old harridan?

Did you think about the farmers who are fighting a 24-hour-a-day battle with the blackout to keep their cattle fed and watered, to keep barn ventilation systems working, to milk their herds only to have to pour the milk out when it can't be delivered to a processing plant, and then starting the whole futile process over again? Of the human toll exacted by 18- and 20-hour days?

To watch as over-worked generators burn themselves out, plunging a rural household once again into the frigid darkness? Of wells refusing to pump water and furnaces refusing to provide heat? Of public buildings being turned into emergency shelters to accept hundreds and even thousands across the area in search of a hot meal and a warm place to sleep? Of the helplessness that strikes the normally resourceful rural resident when he or she realizes that there is nothing to be done except to give in, accept help and wait it out until some sort of normalcy returns?

While you were curled up in your cozy home did you give a thought to the "unfortunate few" like the elderly who had to be evacuated from their homes so they wouldn't freeze to death? Of the police, Armed Forces personnel and volunteer firefighters who carried out house-to-house checks to ensure that those in the hardest hit areas were able to deal with a situation that stretched our ability to cope to the breaking point?

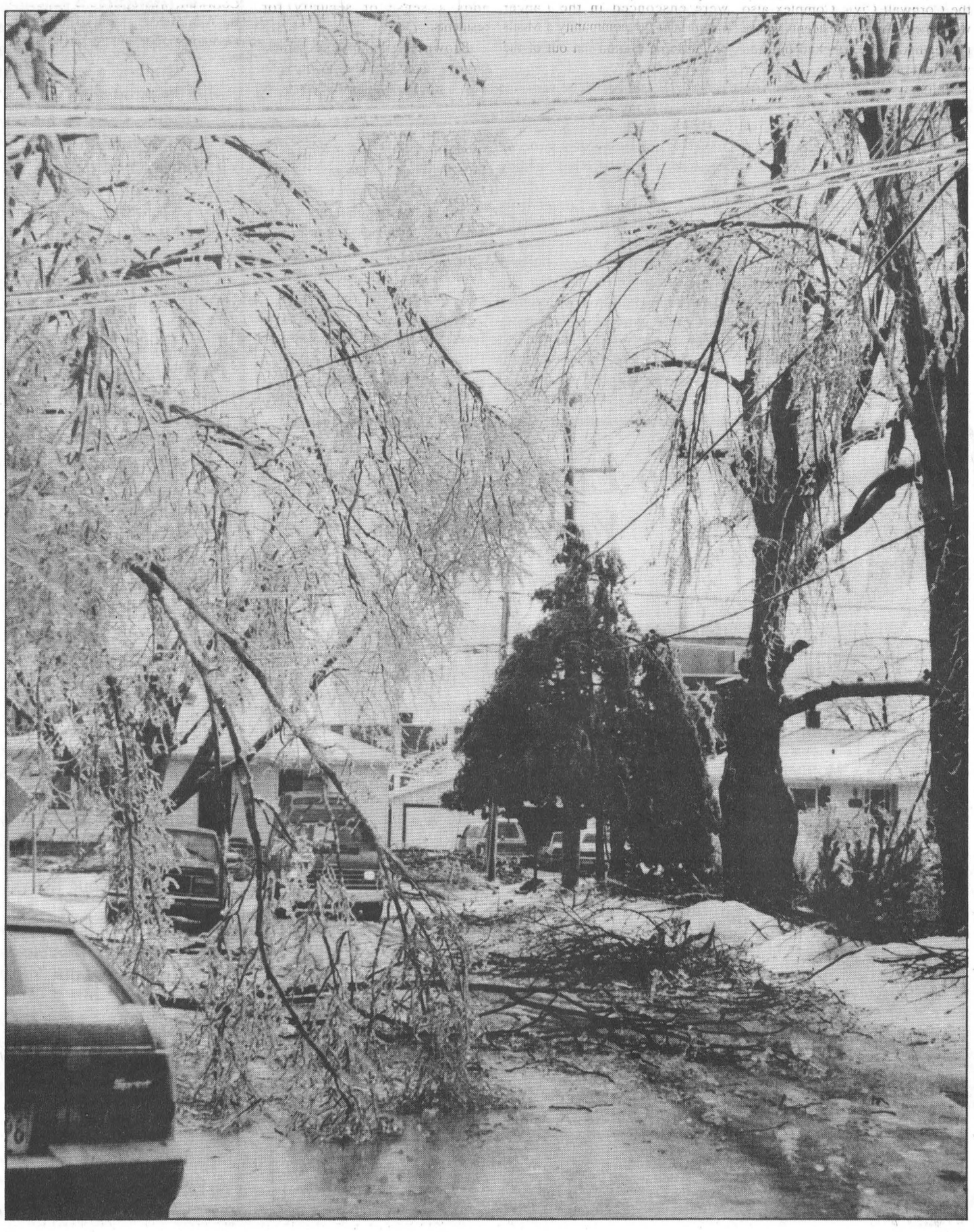
Did you think about the thousands of utilities workers who swarmed into Eastern Ontario from as far away as Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania to get power restored? Have you driven through the inky blackness of a rural night where the only illumination is provided by the lights of a Hydro truck, focused on its cherry picker as its workers battle mind-numbing cold to get power lines back up? Have you thought about the truckers who brought in generators from points as far away as Atlanta and Wisconsin as help from those who cared about the "unfortunate few" poured in from across the continent?

As radio hosts who provided us with such essential information as interviewing electricians about the intricacies of operating an emergency generator (by the way, Susie, generators are used to provide electricity during power failures - some of us can't just call the public utilities when we can't get the Women's Network on cable) while metropolitan newspaper columnists whine and bitch and complain because news about the emergency dominated the airwaves?

And Susie, if you'd looked up from your double latté long enough to notice, this was, at the very least, the storm of the decade. Maybe even the half century.

I know, Susie, we in rural Ontario may not be as chi-chi as you and your pals in Ottawa, but the next time you pour some low-fat milk into your Starbucks mochachino, remember, it was probably produced by one of those "unfortunate few" you take such delight in ridiculing.

Here's hoping you choke on it.



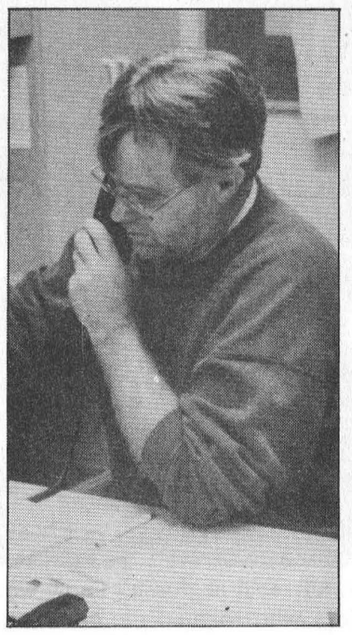
South Stormont mobilizes to meet emergency needs

New municipality snaps into sharp focus in wake of storm

INGLESIDE - It was more like a community festival than an emergency repsonse at the Lancer Centre here Saturday afternoon as hundreds of South Stormont residents crowded into the emergency centre set up in Rothwell-Osnabruck School here in the wake of the paralyzing ice storm that left the township, along with the rest of eastern Ontario, freezing in the dark.

By 4 p.m. over 300 had registered for emergency services, coming in for accommodations, meals and showers.

The school was opened as an emergency shelter office was converted to the township's emergency command centre Saturday, moving down form the township office in Osnabruck Centre, and volunteers, including a haggard reeve Jim Brownell, manned the telephone lines setting up response lines to the flood of requests for help that washed over the school.



Jim Brownell mans the phones Saturday afternoon.

Army of volunteers

Volunteers staffed the school's kitchen, providing meals around the clock as food poured in from private donors, stores and from Kraft Foods. Meat was being cooked as soon as it came in the door and turkeys and roasts filled the ovens; a private citizen dropped off six home-baked pies and the freezers were bulging with donated frozen food that could no longer be safely stored in homes.

The volunteer fire department auxiliary first staffed the kitched but the role was gradually taken over by others from the community at large, freeing up the auxiliary to assist the fire department.

R-O is one of three emergency centres serving the township. Woodlands Villa in Long Sault and the Cornwall Civic Complex also welcomed township residents whose power had been knocked out and who had no alternative sources of heat. Some had been without power since Monday of last week when the first coating of ice blanketed the region, snapping Hydro lines and sending tree limbs crashing down on telephone lines.

The emergency galvanized an army of volunteers across the newly-formed township, providing the first test for the township, which officially came into being on Jan. 1.

The new council was sworn in Jan. 2 and the township offices in Osnabruck Centre were to have been closed for the week, scheduled for re-opening Mon., Jan. 12 as the re-organization was carried out but the vicious storm that coated the area with 70mm of ice provided the new municipality and its staff with a baptism by fire.

"We were only supposed to be open for emergencies and now we've had an emergency and the door hasn't stopped swinging.," Brownell said.

Under a microscope

The state of emergency put the new township under a microscope as it responded to the crisis and in a way heightened residents' awareness of the new government that had so recently come into being to serve them, the reeve added.

Putting down the phone sitting just outside R-O principal Sue Lopez's office for a minute, Brownell said, "This is where you find out what a community is all about, especially as we come together today. Our problem is only in getting out to meet the needs of those who are calling us,"

Senior citizens staying at the support centre in Ingleside were evacuated to R-O Saturday afternoon to free up a badly-needed generator. Twenty to 25 seniors were ensconced in the Lancer Centre and the community's Meals on Wheels program ran out of the staff kitchen.

Seniors were provided with the quieter western end of the school complex while others seeking shelter were housed in the school gymnasium, which was divided into two separate recreation areas during the day - one for more rambunctious youngsters who wanted to play basketball or floor hockey while the other was outfitted with televisions and VCRs for younger children. At night the gym was turned into sleeping quarters. Organizers even provided a smoking room in school.

The centre is licensed for 700 but township recreation director Dale Swerdfeger said the school would house as many as sought shelter, regardless of numbers.

Firefighters staff 24 hours

The township mobilized its volunteer firefighters for quick response, staffing each station - Ingleside, Newington, Long Sault and St. Andrew's - around the clock.

Volunteers operated out of the township garage as a list of names of those who needed their basements pumped out was compiled at the command centre.

They were dispatched throughout the township with generators, the only limit being the number of generators the township could get its hands on.

Volunteers also took small generators to farms throughout the municipality to pump water for cattle, some of which had been without water for several days.

Like in other local townships, South Stormont had difficulty contacting the Armed Forces for help. But they eventually did, and the Army came through. There are upward of 100 soldiers now in the township, with 28 posted in Newington, 28 in Ingleside and 28 in St. Andrew's.

Also, Emergency Measures Ontario twinned South Stormont with the Peel Region, but so far, the township is able to get by without their assistance, Brownell says. EMO itself and the military have been helpful, and firefighters have been obtained from the city of Cornwall. Also coming to South Stormont's aid have been tree crews from western Ontario, and crews in Kingston are on standby if needed.

The military in South Stormont has identified three priorities. In order, they are providing assistance at the emergency shelters and addressing situations that threaten life or injury, transportation and helping farmers and assisting individuals clear their properties of fallen branches. Brownell notes the presence of soldiers in the township, especially in door-to-door sweeps, adds a sense of security for residents.

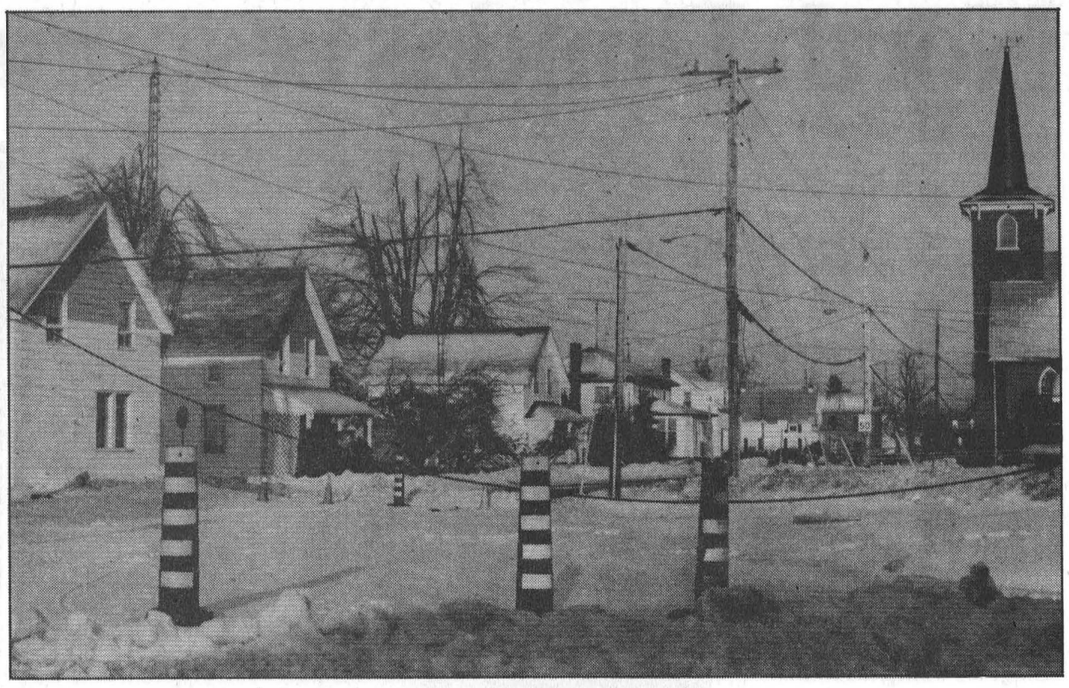
Brownell asks anyone who is burning fallen branches or brush in the township contact the fire department beforehand, so that firefighters are not called away from essential emergency work to answer false alarms.

The ice storm has forced the cancellation of the South Stormont council meeting scheduled for today, Wed., Jan. 14. The township's command centre remains open, and can be reached at 537-2362.

"Our staff and administration have given 100 per cent, without complaint and without looking for anything extra," Brownell said Tuesday afternoon. "They just said where can we help?"

Power restored

Power was restored in Ingleside at 2 p.m. Tuesday although some rural parts of the township remained without electricity at press time.



Lines down

Fallen hydro lines closed off the main entrance to Newington's residential area, as the hamlet, like all of the new Township of South Stormont, was not spared from the destruction of last week's ferocious ice storm. A state of emergency continues in the township, as municipal leaders, backed by staff, volunteers, the Canadian Forces and other agencies, continue to deal with the crisis.

Obituaries

Joanne Van't Foort

Joanne Van't Foort, of RR1 Chesterville, Grantley Road, died suddenly January 7, 1998 at home. She was 39.

Mrs. Van't Foort, a farmerette, was born December 31, 1958 in New Westminster, B.C., daughter of Cornelius and Petronella Dykstra. She was a member of the Christian Reformed Church in Williamsburg.

Mrs. Van't Foort is survived by her husband, Tim, children Jodi, Nicole and Justin, brothers Bill (Tsering) Dykstra of New Westminster and Nick (Mary-Ann) Dykstra of Abbotsford, B.C. and sister Mary (Al) Vanmuyen of Langley, B.C.

Funeral services were held January 12 at the Christian Reformed Church in Williamsburg and were officiated by Pastor George Rowaan.

Interment was at Grantley Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Bill Dykstra, Nick Dykstra, Hans Schuler, Al Vanmuyen, Henry Staal and Harry Van't Foort.

Herman Gideon Strader

Herman Gideon Strader, of Dundas Manor in Winchester, died January 10, 1998 in Winchester. He was 88.

Mr. Strader, a retired mechanic, formerly of Chesterville and Cornwall, was born June 12, 1910 in Winchester, son of the late Donald Strader and Jessie Barkley. He was a member of the United Church, and was an avid photographer, traveller and camper.

He is survived by his wife, Lillian Whittaker, and was brother of Hazel Larmer and Cecil (Nelda) Strader. He was loving uncle of many nieces, nephews and great-nieces and great-nephews.

He is predeceased by sister Annie Coons and brother Harry Strader.

Funeral Services were held January 12 at the Byers Funeral Home and were officiated by Rev. Marion Milnes. Interment was at Maple Ridge Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Ronnie Whitteker, Dale Whitteker, Jack Barkley and nephews Beverly, Brian and Gary Strader.

Legion News Branch 434

Ever since the disaster happened, the Chesterville Legion Hall has been open 24 hours a day for use as a shelter for local people. There have been several local volunteers taking care of the needs of those who needed it. At times there were up to about 250 people being fed at meal times and nobody left hungry.

When you want to thank those who volunteered their time or those who provided food, there is always a name or two inadvertently left off the list, so I will not name people. Thanks to all those who did take part in one way or another so that everything went smoothly. It really shows how people can come together to help others in a time of need.

The Girl Guides will be holding a sale in the Legion Hall on Saturday, Jan. 24.

The Winter Carnival will happen the last weekend of the month. The Knights of Columbus will have a Monte Carlo Night on Friday, Jan. 30. The Rotary will have pancake breakfasts on Saturday and Sunday mornings.

The Ladies Auxiliary will hold a bingo on Saturday, Jan. 31 with the normal prizes and a jackpot of $500 or more. Come out and enjoy an afternoon of bingo.

For those who would like to spend an afternoon playing cards, crib or talking to some of the older members, you can do this every Friday from 12:30 to about 6 p.m.

- Vern Williamson

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North Dundas responds to a state of disaster

Greg Hewitt
Record Editor

WINCHESTER – Help has poured into North Dundas from far and wide to help local leaders, staff and volunteers in their battle against the continuing effects of last week's vicious ice storm.

While electrical power was mercifully restored to the villages of Chesterville and Winchester Saturday night, wide sections of the fledgling township remain without power, and could be in the dark – and cold – for up to two weeks. North Dundas was not spared from the destruction of the storm, with more than its share of hydro poles snapped like matchsticks, trees stripped of their cover and other damage too widespread to list.

But the needs of North Dundas residents are being met, says Mayor Claude Cousineau, quickly praising the hundreds of local volunteers as well as citizens and agencies that have responded in this time of crisis.

The township is still in need of large generators to reduce the strain on those already obtained and the volunteer crews working 16 or more hours a day shutting them between farms, homes and other locations. North Dundas bought 200 generators itself, but more are still needed.

When the devastation of the ice storm became apparent, an emergency meeting of the new North Dundas council was held, Thursday morning, after which councillors went back into their own wards - organized by fire districts - to set up a network of shelters, volunteers and necessary emergency plans. Firefighters in every community in North Dundas toured the streets, pumping basements and handling other emergencies. Flyers listing emergency numbers and other information were distributed door-to-door by volunteers.

Shelters sprang up in Chesterville, Morewood, Winchester and South Mountain, powered by generators, staffed by volunteers and filled with army beds that arrived Friday evening. A total of 400 were shipped to North Dundas, 100 for the shelters in each ward. In Chesterville, residents took shelter at the Faucet Hall, which graciously opened its doors and took with 75 beds, and the Chesterville Legion Hall, with 25. The Fire Hall in Chesterville also provided shelter.

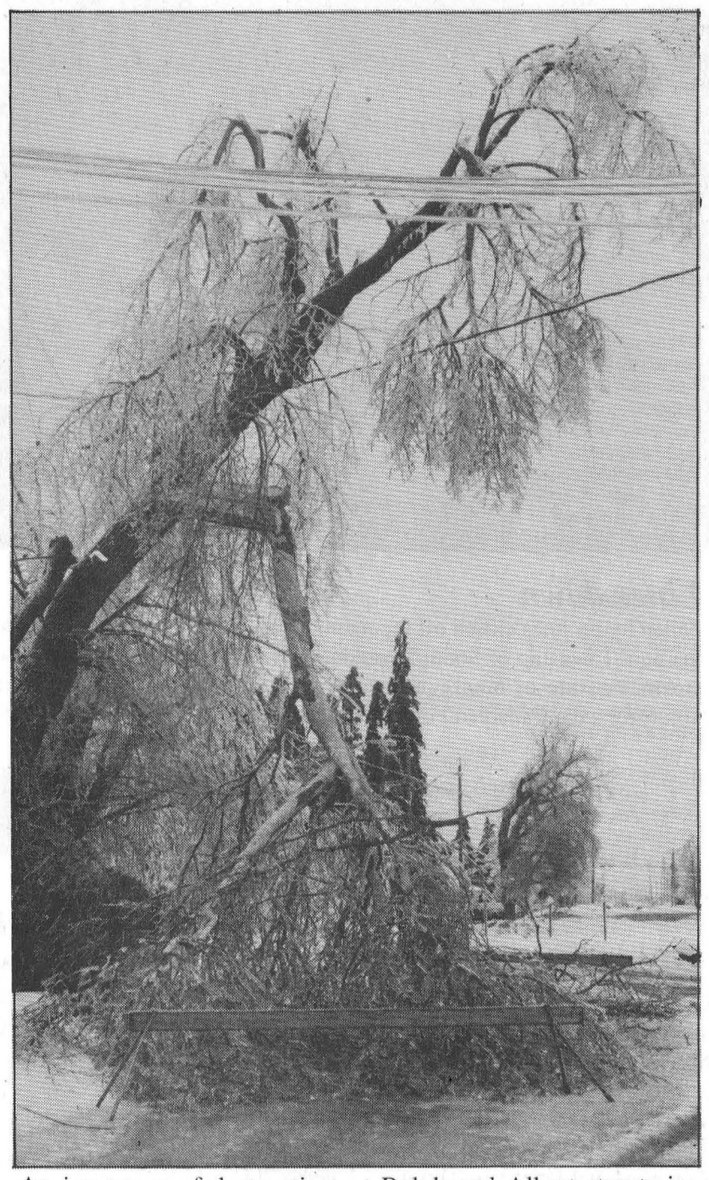
About 300 township residents made use of the shelters before Saturday night, when power was restored in Chesterville and Winchester. Cousineau says that strangely, it doesn't seem that rural resident still without power are flocking to the shelters, suggesting perhaps they're a "heartier breed." Many are likely staying with friends or family that have power, he adds. Shelters in the township will stay open until all homes, urban and rural, have power restored.

There are about 160 Canadian Forces personnel stationed in Winchester and at the high school, helping hydro crews, farmers and local emergency workers. Emergency Measures Ontario twinned North Dundas with Quinte, near Belleville. Firefighters and other crews from that municipality arrived in North Dundas Saturday, with three trucks, backhoes, 12 men, batteries, propane heaters and other supplies. "They've just been a wealth of help to us." Also, the Ministry of Transportation brought in wood chippers and men from the Kingston area. Even the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton sent 40 volunteers to help with the North Dundas effort.

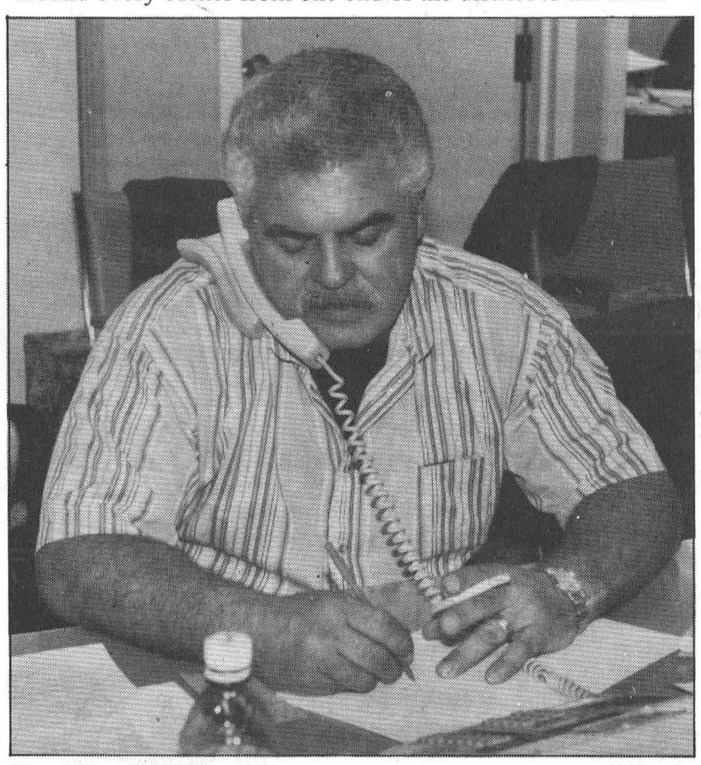
And citizens keep dropping by the command centre in Winchester, asking what they can do to help. "They just keep coming to the window and saying what can I do to help," Cousineau says.

While communication in the early stages of the crisis was difficult and the township had trouble contacting the military for help, the arrival of troops on the weekend was a blessing, Cousineau says.

"They've been a great help," the mayor says, adding they have also provided security in some areas of the township, checking vehicles and ensuring people on the roads are supposed to be there. Still, five generators have been stolen from within the township, and there are cases of price gouging for supplies and services.



An icy scene of destruction, at Ralph and Albert streets in Chesterville. Scenes like this were commonplace were found around every corner from one end of the district to the other.



North Dundas Mayor Claude Cousineau, all councillors, staff, firefighters and numerous volunteers continue to operate the township's command centre in Winchester. Cousineau said his first shift was 30 hours, but they were scaled back to around 20 and later 16 hours by Tuesday.

As of Monday, the command centre for North Dundas was urgently trying to get a number of messages out to township residents, that public showers are available at North Dundas District High School and the Winchester and Chesterville arenas, that garbage will be picked up on an intermittent basis, and tree branches, if dragged to the sides of streets, will be handled by crews with tree shredders already at work in the township.

The North Dundas Command Centre has arranged for electricians and plumbers from across the province to arrive in the area, to bolster local workers in those fields, and they are available to residents. For information on services, shelter or anything else in North Dundas, the number to cal is 774-5699.

Also, people who are leaving their homes for shelters or other areas should inform a neighbor, says North Dundas worker Bonnie Dingwall. Military personnel are going door to door in rural areas, and are coming across vacant homes and do not know whether the home has been evacuated or there is an emergency inside.

But Dingwall says residents of the township so far have been patient in the face of the crisis. "There have been very few aggressive ratepayers. They do understand the situation and they're very patient with us," she said. "They do realize we're doing the best we can."

Cousineau says residents do not need to buy the services of tree care businesses, because the township is offering that service for free. He said one elderly woman called the command centre to say she was about to pay $300 to have branches cut. Cousineau told the woman to tell the tree people to "get lost." There have been incidents of thefts and gouging, but they are far outweighed by acts of kindness.

Farms in North Dundas are keeping up with the need for generators, Cousineau says. There have been a couple of cows electrocuted, and a couple put down, but otherwise the growing inventory of generators and volunteers is making progress.

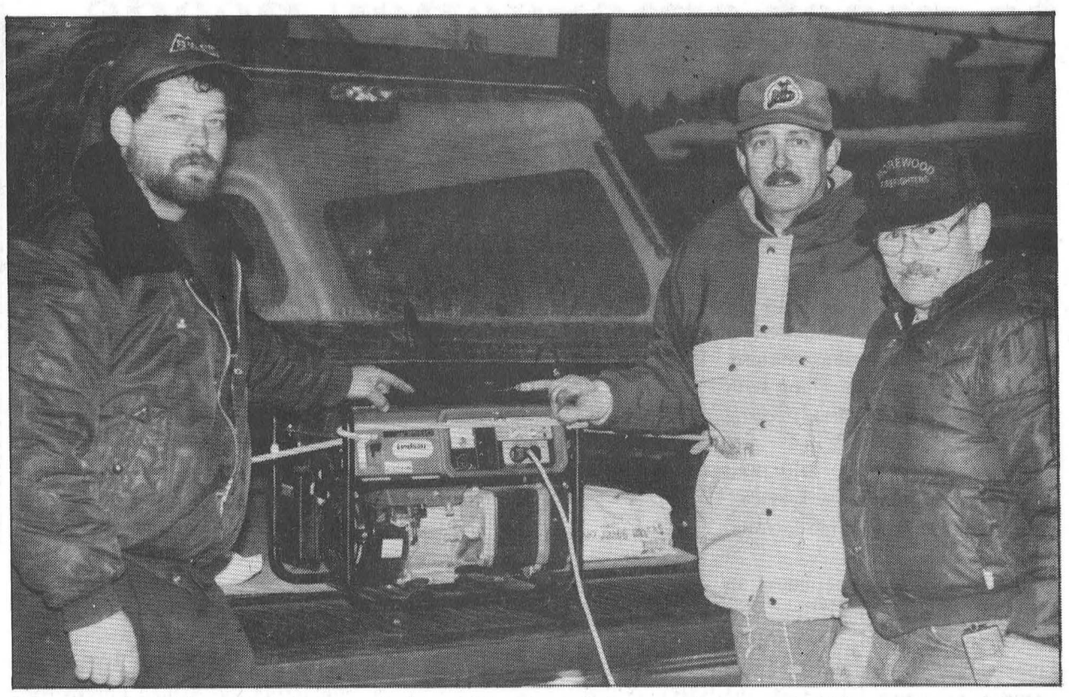
On Friday night, a visit to the shelter at the Chesterville Legion Hall finds about 40 people in a warm environment, kids playing board games, adults playing euchre and a few seniors lying comfortably on army cots, all to the warm glow of candlelight. There is a generator hooked up to the building, but it is powering the busy kitchen, where food donated by Mike Dean, Nestle, Barry's Meats and citizens is being cooked by a group of volunteers, co-ordinated by Chesterville councillor Gail Parker. She said response in the village has been excellent.

"It's overwhelming. Everyone realizes the distress we're in." A huge amount of stew was gone before 5:30 p.m. Friday, followed by hot dogs, hamburgers and other items as 175 people warmed up. Breakfasts and lunches Thursday and Friday had attracted dozens as well. The volunteers, Parker said, are "people that just walked in."

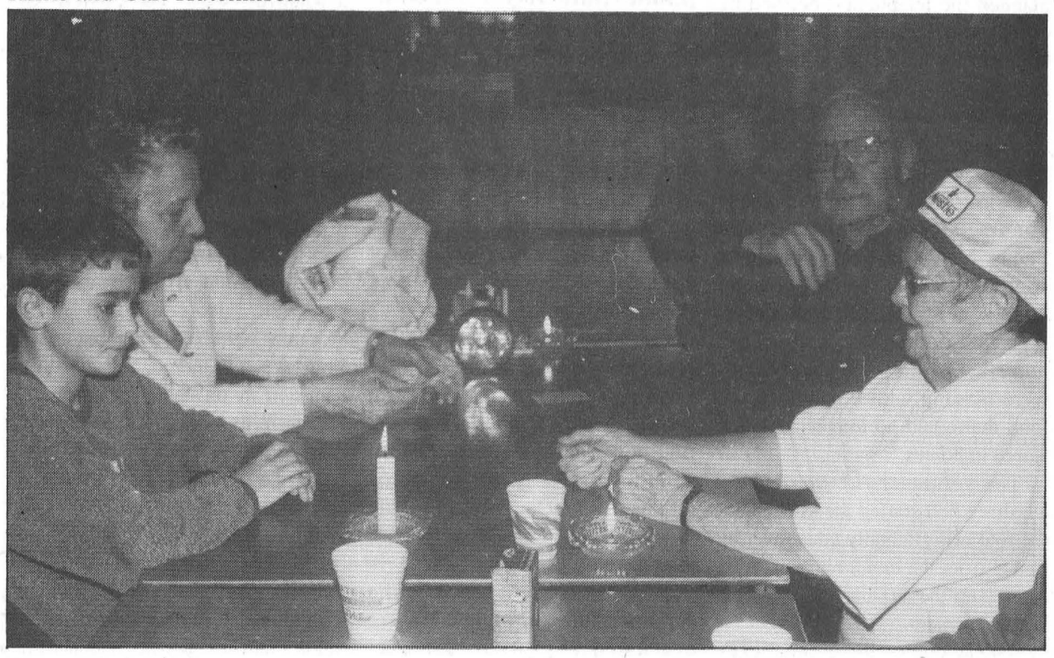
Jo-Anne Naish was one of those. She came to the Legion Hall for breakfast on Friday morning, and at 7 p.m., was in the kitchen helping with round-the-clock food preparations. A resident of the village for six years, she says she has seen how people have really pulled together to help. "I guess the only way you could say it is small town people helping people. Definitely, it's a sense of family."

Playing euchre with her family by candlelight Friday evening at the Legion, Mary McCloskey recalls the ice storm of 1943, which knocked out power for weeks. The family's hotel was packed with hydro workers. Hubert Casselman, also in the euchre party notes the shelter is a blessing, that the community is lucky to have the Legion.

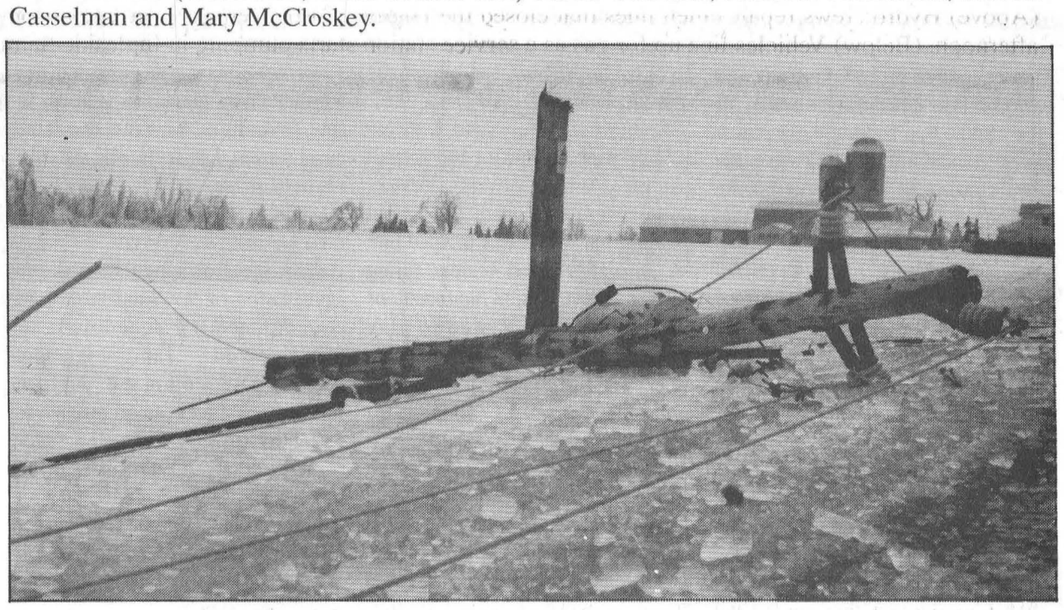
The township of North Dundas, despite dealing with its own crisis, has helped other municipalities deal with their emergencies. A large generator was given to the seniors' residence in Crysler and men were sent to Osgoode for milking. "We help any way we can," Cousineau says, noting the crisis has really been one without borders. "To me it makes everything else – this amalgamation stuff – so trivial. And it's amazing to think a tragedy like this would pull us so close together."



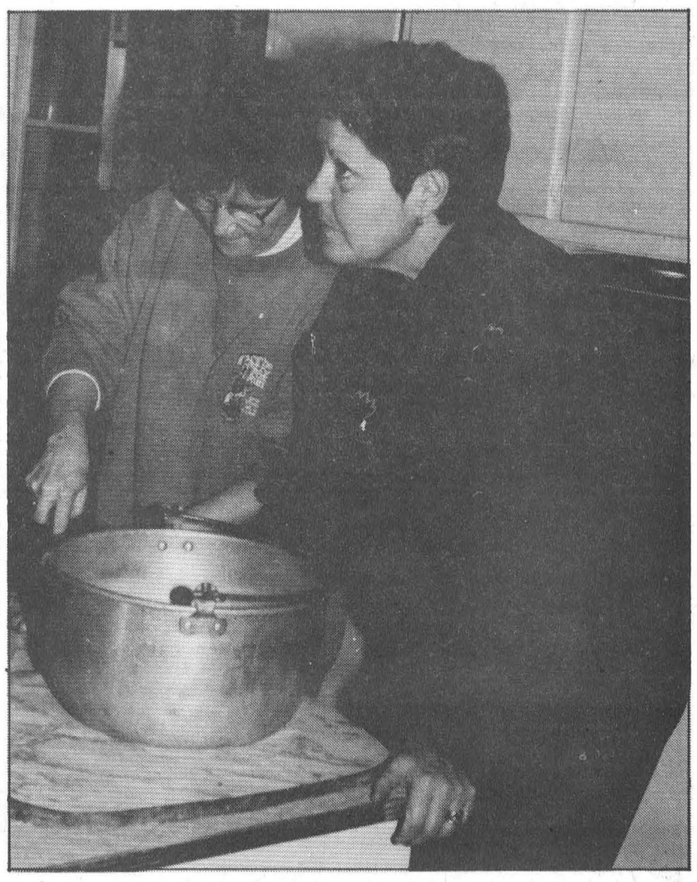
Morewood resident Rob Cooper, left, said he doesn't know what he would have done without firefighters and other volunteers who roamed the community with generators pumping basements. His had to be pumped every six hours. On this call Saturday evening were Don Hillis and Carl Hutchinson.



A candlelight euchre game in the shelter at Chesterville's Legion Hall Friday night was a diversion for (clockwise, from bottom left) Jason Catellier, Allison Casselman, Hubert Casselman and Mary McCloskey.



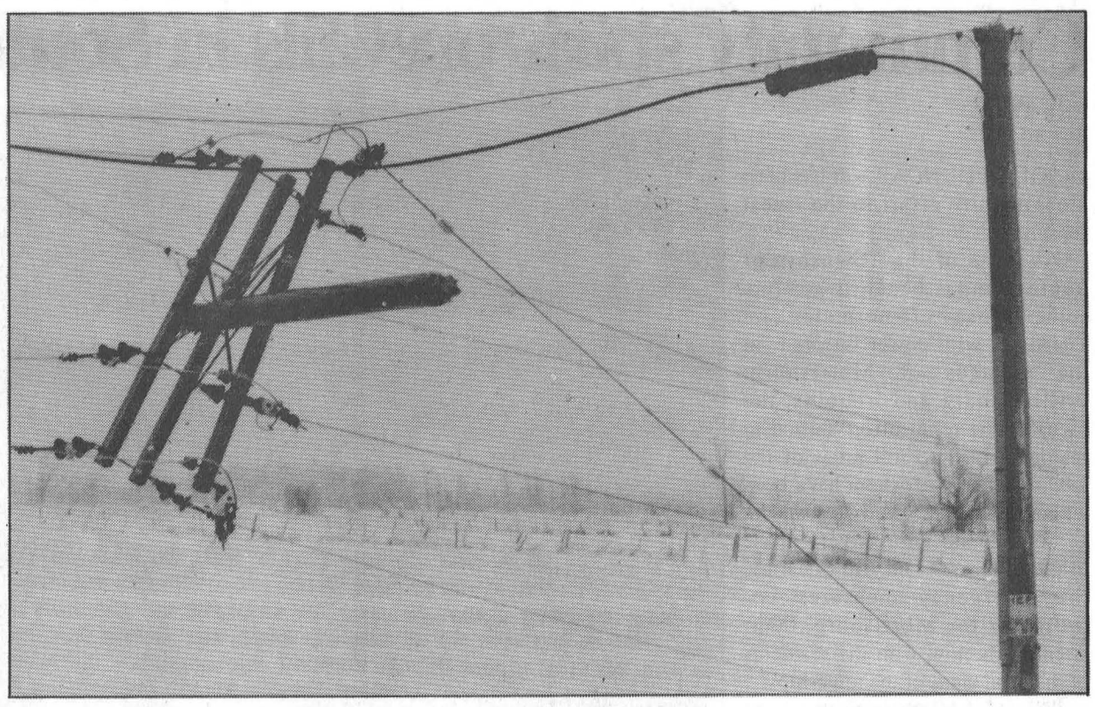
This hydro pole was one of a dozen in a row between Chesterville and Morewood and thousands across eastern Ontario that were no match for the weight of the ice that accumulated on the lines they supported.



Volunteer Betty Vanden Bosch and North Dundas councillor Gail Parker on kitchen duty at the shelter in Chesterville's Legion Hall on Friday night.

Record photos by Greg Hewitt





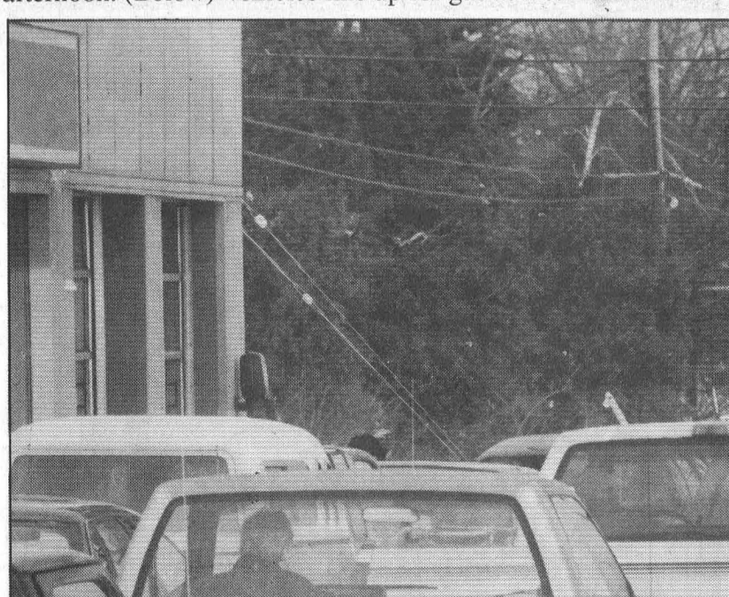
(Left photo) Hybrid poplars in a Domtar managed forest on County Road 18 between Gallingertown and Osnabruck Centre were reduced to matchsticks and kindling. (Above) A Hydro line alongside Highway 43 just west of Chesterville ends up supporting the pole meant to hold it up.



(Above) Hydro crews repair fallen lines that closed the Highway 401 overpass over Dickinson Drive north of Ingleside Saturday afternoon. (Below) Vehicles line up for gas as a service station starts pumping in Ingleside Saturday.



(Above) Leeds-Grenville MPP Bob Runciman, Ontario's solicitor-general, (left) is escorted by OPP after landing by helicopter in Long Sault to survey the situation Saturday afternoon. (Below) Hydro linemen swing up in a pair of buckets to repair a transformer near Winchester Friday.



With its service down and telephone lines being replaced by Bell crews, a Chestervile home still sports its Christmas deocrations and a certain resident of the North Pole sleems oblivious to the scene of destruction.

Record photos by Greg Hewitt, Rich Thorpe and Robin Morris.



A tractor trailer load of generators arrives at Thom Electric south of Williamsburg Monday morning. The generators were trucked in from Atlanta, Georgia, as part of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food's generator hotline program designed to assist farmers throughout the region.

Community spirit prevails in South Dundas

Rich Thorpe
Record Staff





Members of the 2SVC BTN from CFB Petawawa have been utilizing Arthur Thom Electric Ltd., in Williamsburg as a base as the army assists area dairy farmers. The Williamsburg Shell station was a popular destination for residents on Saturday afternoon looking for much-needed gasoline for generators and vehicles.

SOUTH DUNDAS -- It has been a community effort in the truest sense.

As parts of the Township of South Dundas began to resume some sense of normalcy on Tuesday, with power restored in the villages of Morrisburg, Williamsburg and Iroquois, the focus of the relief effort shifted to residents in the rural areas of the township many of whom have been without hydro since early last week.

"We're into the recovery phase in the villages," said Bill Shearing, the emergency measures co-ordinator for Morrisburg. "Our attention is now with the residents of the rural areas of the township."

The relief effort received a huge shot in the arm on Monday when a contingent of 100 troops from CFB Gagetown, New Brunswick arrived in Morrisburg on Monday.

"They were fully operational on Monday," Shearing said. "They are helping out in anyway they can. They are conducting house-to-house searches and are relieving a lot of our volunteers who have been going non-stop since last Tuesday or Wednesday."

"The army has a portable computer system and we are establishing a data-base of who is okay and who is having problems and what those problems may be. That has been very helpful in being able to better assess the situation and respond to their needs whether it is pumping water out of the basement or getting some heat on in their homes."

Through Emergency Measures Ontario, the Township of South Dundas has been twinned with the City of Barrie.

Barrie will be providing equipment and technical support to South Dundas.

"We haven't received anything as of yet, but they are well aware of our situation," Shearing said.

Mayor Johnny Whitteker had spent considerable time on the weekend touring the rural areas checking on residents and setting up generators for residents.

"It's a case of neighbors helping out neighbors," he said. "Everyone has been tremendous. We've coped far better than many other communities thanks to our own people. I am absolutely amazed by the spirit of volunteerism that has seen us through one of eastern Ontario's worst disasters."

The magnitude of the problem became apparent in the early morning hours of Thursday.

"We held an emergency meeting in Williamsburg at 9 a.m.," Shearing said. "We advised Mayor Whitteker and council to declare a state of emergency."

At approximately 10:20 a.m. council declared a state of emergency. An emergency operations centre was established at the South Dundas Economic Development Commission Office.

The emergency operations centre is still operating on a 24-hours-a-day basis. An evacuation centre is in operation at the Operating Engineers Training Institute of Ontario located east of Morrisburg.

Once word of the state of emergency spread throughout the community, it didn't take long for help to start to arrive.

"We had a real positive response from the community," Shearing said. "We opened up the emergency command centre on Thursday and we had our first volunteers shortly after noon. They've been helping out around the clock."

The local business community also rallied to the cause throughout the early part of the storm.

Cruickshank Construction brought in a generator for use at the emergency command centre. They They also supplied a generator for the shelter at the Operating Engineers Training Centre and the Woodlands Villa in Long Sault.

Harland Veinotte Transport made several trips to Ottawa to pick up supplies and cots from Health and Welfare Canada.

Rohmax Canada's parent company, Rohm and Haas in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania responded to the crisis by sending generators and other necessary supplies to South Dundas.

Throughout the state of emergency, briefing sessions have been held at the command centre. Shearing credits the extensive preparedness training of officials as being a major help in the crisis.

"To use a rather tired old cliche we really hit the ground running in South Dundas," he said. "There is a real synergy in the room during our briefing sessions. It is a real brainstorming session."

The state of emergency will remain in effect for the time being, Shearing said, until the members of the community control group are satisfied residents will be able to cope with the effects of the disaster.

Daytime drop-in centres with heat and hot refreshments are in operation from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the Matida Township Hall in Dixon's Corners and Williamsburg at Park Villa Drive.

Potable water is available at fire halls in Iroquois, Williamsburg and Morrisburg and at the Matilda Hall in Dixon's Corners. Residents are asked to bring their own containers.

The medical clinic in Morrisburg is open during regular hours this week.

Regular garbage collection will take place in the township. The two bag limit will not be enforced.

Small generators are available by calling 543-4558.

Anyone who will be leaving their residence to seek shelter elsewhere is asked to notify the emergency measures office at 543-4558 or 652-4377.

Additional service crews are continuing to work to restore power in the affected areas of the township. Property owners are responsible for hiring contractors to assess and make repairs to power lines on private property (including connections to homes and barns). Ontario Hydro will not repair power lines on private property.

"The people of South Dundas have been tolerant and patient," Whitteker said. "We've been blessed by a tremendous amount of help."

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at

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Mon. & Wed. 6:30 - 9:30pm **Introduction to Computers** In this "user friendly" course, students will be introduced to the IBM computer by discussing software/hardware, the advantages of a computer and how a computer processes information. A large part of the course will be spent working with different Data Processing concepts. Students will also be introduced to the DOS operating System.	**Mon. & Wed. 6:30 - 9:30pm** **Microsoft Works** This course will explore in depth all three components of the Microsoft Works program. Students will understand in depth the operation of the Wordprocessor, Spreadsheets and the Database through a variety of business applications exercises.
Tues. & Thurs. 6:30 - 9:30pm **Microsoft Works** This course will explore in depth all three components of the Microsoft Works program. Students will understand in depth the operation of the Wordprocessor, Spreadsheets and the Database through a variety of business applications exercises.	**Tues. & Thurs. 6:30 - 9:30pm** **Introduction to Computers** In this "user friendly" course, students will be introduced to the IBM computer by discussing software/hardware, the advantages of a computer and how a computer processes information. A large part of the course will be spent working with different Data Processing concepts. Students will also be introduced to the DOS operating System.

To Register:
Call the Lifelong Learning Centre at
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Between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.
Courses are FREE and a minimum of 15 people must register

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Class start times may be moved to 7:00 p.m. if enough people make the request.

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CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO
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VISA

Classified Advertising Deadline 1 pm Tuesday. Phone orders by Visa or Prepaid only. Call 448-2321. $4.00 + GST Minimum for 20 words. Extra Words 20¢ each.

FOR SALE

WANT THAT PRIVATE OR DEALER VEHICLE, but can't get finance, call Car-o-line Auto's, we will buy it for you. Call for details 613-448-2488.
23-1

FUTON QUEEN SIZE BLONDE hardwood frame, mattress & cover. Excellent condition. Reg. $499 asking $200 or B.O. Phone Linda at 448-1965.
23

BLEACHED OAK COFFEE TABLE, two end tables and entertainment unit $500. 448-3915.
22

MINK CAPE, size 14, medium brown, excellent condition. Reg. $899 asking $200 or B.O. Phone Linda at 448-1965.
23

BOXING WEEK SALE! On a purchase of $1000 and more, get 5 months free interest or 30 days on all purchase (on credit approval). 1x3 8': $0.55, 2x3 8': $0.77. Plywood 3/8: $10.39, 5/8: $15.99. Aspenite 3'x6': $1.89. Prevarnished parquet: $1.19, select: $1.59. Ceramic 6x6: $0.17, 12x12: $0.99. Vinyl tile #1: $0.43. Styrofoam #1 1": $4.19, 2": $8.39. Lauan door: $12.95, colonial: $16.95. Bargain Building Materials Masson 819-986-5720.
23

1 ABSOLUTELY FANTASTIC WAY to purchase a computer - Rent to own weekly Pentium 166MMX/200MMX/233MMX, fully loaded multi-media plug & play systems from only $11.88 weekly, no money down. Call Krazy Kelly's Rent to Own direct 1-800-772-6159 for delivery today!
25-4

CRIB - 2 years old, $75. Call 448-3791.
23-2

1989 FORD 150 - 4x4 pick up truck $5,800. 774-3148.
23

1 ABSOLUTELY AMAZING WAY TO purchase a digital satellite system, Canadian or U.S., this week's special 18" digital echostar 90 channels free one year, full professional install, rent to own only $5.88 weekly, call 1-800-772-6159.
25-4

27" SHARP STEREO TELEVISION, super flat lynitron one gun tube, stereo, universal remote, no money down, rent to own only $4.88 weekly, free delivery and stand call 1-800-772-6159.
25-4

FOR SALE - Antique John Raper piano, asking $295. Baby exersaucer asking $35. Wanted Nintendo machine (original or super). 774-2967.
22

440 WATT KENWOOD HOME theater surround sound package, 100 multi-disc player prologic A/V receiver, !.C. logic dual cassette, 5 speakers, fully remote, stand, no money down, rent to own only $7.88 weekly. Call 1-800-772-6159.
25-4

VEHICLE FOR SALE. No established credit. On a pension, limited income, bankrupt or starting a new business. We can help with finance or leasing. YOU CHOOSE THE VEHICLE. Private or dealer sale, and we buy it. Call for details 613-448-2488.
22-1

APPLIANCES WHITE WESTINGHOUSE, fridge, stove, washer, dryers, no money down, free delivery, rent to own by phone from $6.25 weekly call 1-800-772-6159.
25-4

HYDRAULIC STYLING CHAIR - used, grey. $150. Phone 448-1411.
22

A 27"-36" TOSHIBA STEREO TV, pic-in-pic, universal remote, surround sound, free delivery only $5.43/week. Own by phone 1-888-666-6103.
25

BROAN CONVERTIBLE extra venting white rangehood. Never used, paid $300, asking $150 or B.O. 448-2033 or 987-5763.
18stfc

36" SHARP SUPER-FLAT ONE-GUN tube, stereo, picture-in-picture, universal remote, 3 year in-home service, with stand and delivery included, rent to own only $13.88 weekly, call 1-800-772-6159.
25-4

1993 SKI DOO SAFARI RALLY 503cc - Hand & thumb warmer, 2 up seat, back rest. $3500 or B.O. Phone after 5pm. 987-5685.
15stfc

FOR SALE

1 AMAZING STEREO PKG. Dolby pro-logic surround sound home theatre, 500w, multi-disc CD, 5 speakers, 4 head HI-FI VCR, full remote. Free delivery only $9.99/week. Own by phone 1-888-666-6103.
25

ANTIQUE - Old fashioned oval bath tub, excellent shape. Call 448-3558 after 5pm. Best offer.
8stfc

ZENITH 19", 27", 32", 36" and projection big screen televisions, with free delivery and stands and no money down. Rent to own from $4.99 weekly, call 1-800-772-6159.
25-4

UTILITY TRAILER - Tandem 14x8 with electric brakes. Phone 448-3891 after 5pm.
7stfc

APPLES
Cider, apple products
Smyth's Apple Orchard
Dundela 652-2477
County Rd. #18 - 5km west of flashing light in Williamsburg. Open 7 days a week, 8am.
52tfc

1 AMAZING COMPUTER P166, 200MMX 16mb, 2.6gb, 33.6 modem, 14" SVGA monitor, Cannon printer & more. Only $12.79/week. Own by phone 1-888-666-6103.
25

HAY - Alfalfa/timothy, very good hay, no rain. Also straw. Call 984-2978.
51tfc

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25-4

FOR SALE - New 1 pc. shower and tub white acrylic finished $450. Miniature rabbits, all colors $5 each. 984-2813.
51tfc

FOR SALE - Scratch chicken & cattle feed, cracked corn $10/88 lb. bag. Cleaned horse oats $10/88 lb. bag. Please call ahead for pick-up. Phone 984-2849, 984-2427 or 984-2258.
33tfc

FOR SALE - If we don't have it we will get it. New and like new appliances. Fridges our specialty. Order now. Courville Appliances 613-448-3463.

FOR SALE - Firewood. We deliver. Call 984-2827.
27tfc

FOR SALE - Firewood $50/cord. Phone 346-5650 or 346-0707.
20stfc

FOR SALE - New and like new - fridges 10, 12, 15, 18 cu.ft. white or almond. New chest freezers 7, 10 and 12 cu.ft, New and like new brand name washers, dryers & stoves with warranty. Courville Appliances 448-3463.

NOTICES

VACATION NOTICE - Roger's Barber Shop, Williamsburg. Closed Mon., Jan. 26. Re-open Tues., Feb. 10.
42-44

BEVERLY'S FAMILY HAIR CARE will be closed Jan. 19 to 26 inclusive. Please make note of these dates to avoid any inconvenience. Thanks and see you on the 27th.
Bev Smith
23-2

PLEASE - If you have been kind enough to lend the Chesterville Record some photos, please make arrangements to pick them up.

SERVICES

TAXI SERVICE - BBL. Call 448-3325.
7tfc

GETTING MARRIED? Have your personal wedding story captured by an experienced photographer. We also take family, anniversary and personal photographs. Book early by calling Wayne LaPrade, Chesterville. 448-2852.
50stfc

SORE FEET!!! TIRED!!!
Try a reflexology treatment. It helps relieve stress, increase circulation and helps the body to normalize. Relaxation massages also available. Gift certificates available for birthdays, anniversaries or just because you care. Reasonable rates. Call Tricia Hyndman, Cert. Reflexologist, 774-1323.

FOR RENT

FOR RENT - 2-bedroom apartment, Chesterville $475/month plus utilities. Practically new. References required. 448-2332.
23tfc

FOR RENT - 3-bedroom duplex, oil heat, available Jan. $450/month plus utilities. Phone 448-3365 after 6.
23

FOR RENT - Farm house near Avonmore. Available immediately. Call 346-5444.
23

FOR RENT - 2-bedroom duplex in Chesterville, $430/month, utilities not included, first & last. 448-2775.
23-2

FOR RENT - 2-bedroom apartment and garage in Chesterville, available now. Phone 448-2444.
22

FOR RENT - 2-bedroom apartment in modern block, Chesterville. Includes fridge, stove and parking. Utilities extra. Available Feb. 1/98. Phone 448-2558.
22tfc

FOR RENT - Apartment, heat & hydro included. $375 and up. Plug in parking, laundry room, fridge & stove. Phone 535-1246 or 535-2881.
25

FOR RENT - 1-bedroom apartment, all utilities included, available immediately. $400/month. 448-3914 after 6.
21tfc

FOR RENT - 2-bedroom apt. in Chesterville, $282/month utilities not included. First & last. 448-2775.
23-2

FOR RENT - Bright country living. Main hwy. Finch. Wood & oil heat. Great for young couple, finished basement. References required. Call 984-2050.
18stfc

FOR RENT - 1-bedroom apartment, first floor, sunny southerly exposure, fridge, stove, laundry facilities, large deck, cozy and quiet. Winchester area. 448-1730.
18tfc

FOR RENT - 1-bedroom apt. (two floors) in Chesterville, $300/month utilities not included, first & last. 448-2775.
23-2

FOR RENT - 3-bedroom bungalow, paved road, 2 mi. from Chesterville, 1st & last months rent, references required. Phone 448-2332, 7 - 10pm.
17tfc

FOR RENT - 2-bedroom apt. in Winchester, $325/month, utilities not included. First & last. 448-2775.
23-2

BERWICK, 2-bedroom house $500/month incl. utilities. Now available. Phone 346-2317.
16tfc

FOR RENT - 2-bedroom apartment in Chesterville $460/month plus utilities. 774-5323.
16tfc

FOR RENT - 1-bedroom apartment in Chesterville. Call 448-2051.
15tfc

FOR RENT - 2-bedroom semi-detached residence, north side of Hwy. 2, Dundas-Stormont County line. $360.50/month plus utilities, available immediately. References required. Telephone 543-2924.
12tfc

FOR RENT - 1 & 2-bedroom apartment, 64 Queen St., Chesterville. Utilities extra. Available now. Phone 448-2832.
12tfc

FOR RENT - 2-bedroom apartment in Williamsburg, secure building with laundry. Free parking and water. Available Nov. 1. Call days 652-4802, evenings 652-2319.
12tfc

FOR RENT - 2-bedroom apartment, 43 Moffat St., Morewood. Large yard, laundry facilities, parking. Now available. $470/month plus utilities. Phone 771-6433 or 448-1224.
35tfc

WANTED

WORK WANTED - Certified personal support worker with CPR and mental health certification. Seeking full time employment, over nights okay. Phone Linda at 448-1965. Professional references available.
23

HELP WANTED - Licensed hairdresser at K.B.'s Hair Salon in Williamsburg. Phone 535-1313. After 6, 543-4087.
24-2

WANTED

WANTED - HOUSE TO BUY - Compact 2/3 bedroom bungalow, full basement, Ingleside/Morrisburg area, rural or town. Private purchase. Phone 613-923-2463. Needed immediately.
25

WANTED - Chesterville Fire Department are looking for firefighters, must live within five kilometres of Chesterville Fire Hall. Application forms may be picked up from any firefighter or telephone 448-2619. Must be returned by January 20/98.
23-2

WANTED - To locate a copy of the book "The Orphanage" locally printed around 1915 by Mary Brisson MacDermot. Please contact Sheila at 987-5763 or Patrick at 448-2033.
16stfc

WORK WANTED - CERTIFIED CARPENTER - Quality carpentry, roofing, siding, painting, odd jobs, etc. For experience, quality and value call Dan Chambers 448-2363.
2tfc

WORK WANTED - Carpenter with over 14 years experience available for all your carpentry needs. Additions, renovations, decks, siding, roofing, windows, doors, drywall and more. Call Andrew Lamoureux 774-5294.
26tfc

WANTED - Every Wed., healthy Holstein bull calves. Top price for good young calves between 95-110 lbs. Deliver to Delft Blue Veal Farm, Lightning St., Williamsburg, between 12 - 4pm. For prices of the week, phone Walt at 543-2796 Mon. nights after 8pm.
19tfc

IN MEMORIAM

IN MEMORIAM
SMITH - In loving memory of a dear husband, father and grandfather, Edward, who passed away January 14, 1994.
There's a special kind of feeling
That is meant for you alone,
A place within our hearts
That only you can own.
There will always be a sadness
And many a silent tear,
But always previous memories
Of the days when you were here.
Lovingly remembered
and sadly missed
Dora & Family
23

IN MEMORIAM
MERKLEY - In loving memory of a dear wife, mother and grandmother, Leila, who passed away January 15, 1989.
Loving and kind in all her ways,
Upright and just to the end of her days;
Sincere and true in her heart and mind,
Beautiful memories she left behind.
Lovingly remembered,
Lloyd & Family

COMING EVENTS

CHILDREN'S MUSIC CLASSES - Music for Young Children SUNRISE classes for 3 and 4 year olds begin Sat., Jan. 14 at 9am and 3pm in Chesterville at The Village Music Academy. Child, parent and teacher are a team having fun together! Course runs for 10 weeks, no keyboard needed. Cost $67.50 includes book. Call Alicia at 448-3960.
23-2

LEGION LADIES AUXILIARY BINGO - Cancelled for this Sat., Jan. 17/98.
23

CHESTERVILLE & DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY Annual Meeting, ***Sat., Jan. 24, 12noon***, Chesterville Anglican Parish Hall. Tickets $8, dinner/elections of directors and executive. All members are invited to attend. Anyone interested in becoming a member, director or assisting with the Chesterville Fair are asked to contact George Ennis, president 774-2079 or Mary Schoones, secretary 448-3866.
23-2

OPEN EUCHRE TOURNAMENT - Finch Legion, Sun., Jan. 18. Starts 1pm sharp. Registration 12noon. Cash prizes to top 3 players.
23-2

COMING EVENTS

SUNDAY BRUNCH - At the Country Kitchen Restaurant, 9:30am - 2pm. Corner of Highways 31 and 43, Winchester. Adults $6.95; Children under 8 years, $2.95. Call 774-2417.
tfc

JASPERS CAFFE open this Sunday for breakfast, 9am - 1pm. Set menu $3.99.
21tfc

STORMONT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING
and
POT LUCK LUNCHEON
Saturday, January 17, 1998
~~CANCELLED~~
12 Noon
OMAFRA Boardroom
Centennial Drive
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Special Guest
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Everyone Welcome!

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or write "Anita"
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Belleville, Ontario
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All replies confidential

"SNOW DRAGS"
Sponsored by Riverside Snowmobile Club
Sun, Jan. 18, 1998
Proceeds to C.H.E.O.
Breakfast:
7am - 12 Noon
At The Club House
Registration
~~CANCELLED~~
Drags at 12 Noon
Upper Canada Air Strip
'All Stock Classes Plus Modified'
Tim Horton's will be serving coffee, hot soup, etc. at track
Beef on a Bun served at the Club House
Music by - O.C. Central
'Everyone Welcome'

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33% Discount
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448-3714 Chesterville
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Open 7 Days a Week

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Our hostess will bring gifts and greetings, along with helpful community information.

ATTENTION
NEEDED
Holstein purebred in grade 1st calf heifers fresh one week to one month.
WANTED
Holstein Heifers bred 5-8 months - ***Also Open Heifers of all ages.***
Call Jason Maloney
613-346-7777

HOUSE FOR SALE
3 bedroom - 1,400 sq. ft. house in Chesterville on a 3/4 acre lot., R-2000 insulation, vinyl siding, tile floors, large bathroom, hardwood floor, dining room, living room & kitchen, all hardwood flooring, bedrooms, tile flooring, knee wall basement, high efficiency oil fired furnace, oil fired hot water tank, 200amp service.
Call between 7:00pm - 10:00pm
448-2332

CHILDREN'S MUSIC CLASSES
Music for Young Children
SUNRISE
classes for 3 and 4 year olds beginning
Saturday, Jan. 17
at 9am & 3pm
in Chesterville at
THE VILLAGE MUSIC ACADEMY
Child, parent and teacher are a team having fun together!
Course runs for 10 weeks, no keyboard needed.
Cost $67.50 includes book
Call Alicia at 448-3960

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Darren Chambers

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Located at Karen's TV & Appl. Hwy 43W, Finch
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Snow Removal by Hour/by Job • HiHoe for Fence Line Removal & Ditching • Dump Trucks • Backhoe • Moving & Jacking of Houses & Foundations
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Karen Parker-Neville
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- Computer Installation and Training
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448-2084
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11:00 A.M. Worship Service
Message: "victory and Vocation"
Mon. 7:30 P.M. Women's Ministries
Jan. 16 7:30 P.M. Youth Rally at Bethel Church in Nepean
Wed. Jan. 21 7:00 P.M. Family Night begins!
(Postponed due to Storm)
- Adult Bible Study
- Kids for Christ (Ages 4-12)
- Nursery (Ages 3 & under)
Jan. 31 10:00 A.. Men's Fellowship Brunch (Postponed from Jan. 17)
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May 1998

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Evangelical Missionary Church
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774-5170
Pastor:Rev. Bruce North
SUNDAY, January 18, 1998
Super Church for Ages 1 - 12
10:30 A.M. Morning Worship
Wed. 7:30 P.M. Bible Study
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December 1997

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Morewood &
ST. ANDREW'S - Chesterville
Pastor: Rev. Bert de Bruijn
448-1304
SUNDAY, January 18, 1998
MOREWOOD
No regular Sunday Worship
See the R.A. Center for service announcement
CHESTERVILLE
9:25 A.M. Sunday Worship
Nursery & Sunday School
Mon. Jan. 19 7:15 P.M. St. Andrew's Ladies meet at Ruth Allan's home
Tues. 9:30 A.M. Women's Bible Study "Coffee Break", toddlers' "Story Hour" and Nursery
Tues. 7:30P.M. Life in the Spirit Seminar in the Manse
Wed. 7:00 P.M. Senior Choir
Thurs. 7:00 P.M. Praise & Bible Study, #34 Senior Apts. Water Street
Fri Jan. 16. 6:00 P.M. Youth Group leaves for Ottawa Youth Rally
Sat. Jan. 17 8:30 A.M. Managers meet at the Heritage Cafe
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May 1998

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Minister: Rev. Roy Harwood
SUNDAY, January 18, 1998
9:30 A.M. - MOREWOOD
11:00 A.M. - CHESTERVILLE
Everyone Welcome
July 1997

ST. LUKE'S - KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FINCH
Interim Moderator
Rev. Bert de Bruijn 448-3813
SUNDAY, January 18, 1998
11:00 A.M. Morning Worship & Sunday School Classes
Everyone Welcome!
December. 1997

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
CHESTERVILLE
448-3262
SUNDAY, January 18, 1998
MASSES
Saturday: 5:30 P.M.
Sunday: 9:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.
January 1998

DUNBAR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DUNBAR
Rev. Gregory W. Blatch
Organist: Mrs. Marjorie Thom
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May 1998

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May 1998

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Rev. Robert Assaly
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8:00 A.M. - Chesterville
11:15 A.M. - Winchester
9:30 A.M. - South Mountain
July 1997

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Ontario Federation of Agriculture president Ed Segsworth (second from right) maps out his swing through Eastern Ontario's storm-ravaged farming region Tuesday morning in Brockville. With him are, from left, OFA communications director Marian Smith, field representative Joanne High of Williamstown and OFA executive member Gary Davison. The group came prepared, bringing a load of batteries and candles with them from Toronto.

OFA hits the ground running

Continued from the front

Smith said donations are already being called in to a special fund set up to assist the region's hard-hit agricultural community and county federations in Western Ontario and the farm community in the western provinces are already pledging support to local federations and their members. Commodity groups are also pledging support for this region, Segsworth said.

Dairy farmers in Wisconsin wasted no time in responding to the disaster, Segsworth said. Generators were on their way from that dairy-producing state before the ice rain had even stopped falling in Eastern Ontario.

Smith said the decision to tour the region was prompted by the number of calls coming into the Toronto offices from those trying to contend with the aftermath of the storm and to publicize the devastation to urban residents "who think you can just pick up and go to a shelter".

"You can't do that on a farm. Farm animals need to be looked after and a lot of farmers have to stay where they are to look after their animals. They can't look after themselves."

The tour will also give the OFA the chance to meet face to face with those who can't be contacted by telephone so that can be brought up to date of the efforts the federation is making on their behalf.

The OFA will continue to "lobby hard" for disaster funding for the farm community from the federal and provincial governments and has set up a national fund to help those who have suffered the greatest loss. Smith said the calls to the Toronto offices were uniformly heart-rending. Some producers expressed concern that they would lose their farms if they didn't get help; one called to say that he had to resort to push snow into his barn with a front-end loader just so his cattle would have something to lick; a poultry producer called to say his generator had just been stolen, his hens would be dead within a few minutes and any assistance intended for him should be directed to someone else.

"That's the kind of spirit we've been seeing., He wasn't thinking about himself or his situation but wanted help to be sent to those who need it," Smith said.

The federation will be publicizing its national fund-raising effort starting with a series of press conferences this week.

The Ontario Rural Relief Fund, which will be set up across the country, will be administered by the Foundation for Rural Living, the only charitable organization directed exclusively at rural Canada. It can be reached 519-843-3656 (phone or fax). Donations can be mailed to the foundation care of executive director Cindy Lindsay, 150 Geddes St., Elora, Ont., N0B 1S0. The organizatyion can issue tax receipts for donations.

On Tueday the Ontario Wheat Prodiucers pledged $5,000 to the fund and had challenged its members and other commodity groups to match it, Lindsay said. A woman in Western Ontario called Tuesday to say she had a cheque for $1,000 and asked only who to make it out to, Lindsay said.

Segsworth and his staff visit Prescott-Russell, Lanark, Carleton and Frontenac Wednesday.

OPP urge caution in wake of ice storm's damage

While power has been restored in portions of the area served by the Upper Canada detachment of the OPP, the police are still asking for the co-operation of the public.

An additional 60 OPP officers were dispatched to eastern Ontario and are headquartered at the Long Sault Office of the Upper Canada detachment which is acting as a command post for the entire region affected by the storm.

The OPP are advising residents in rural areas which are still without hydro to exercise extreme caution if using alternative methods for power and heat. To avoid the possibility of carbon monoxide poisoning, residents are asked to ensure exhaust from generators and kerosene heaters is properly vented.

Regular inspections should be made to temporary electrical hook-ups to avoid the possibility of fires.

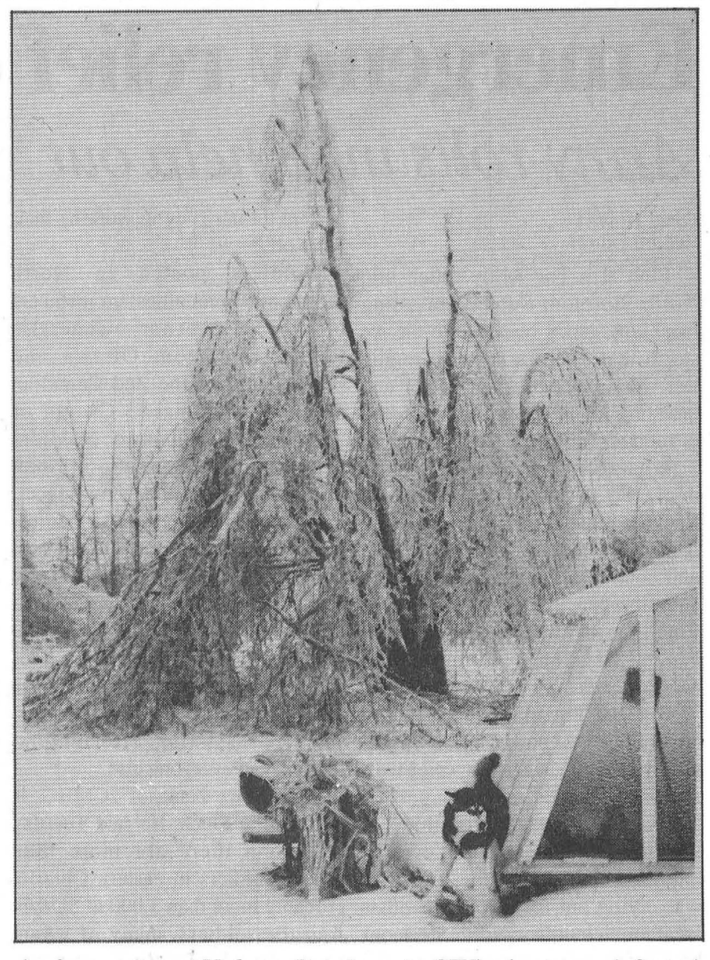
As power has been restored in some areas of the region, the OPP is advising residents to use extreme caution when walking to avoid hazards created by ice falling from trees, wires and buildings.

Residents should also use caution if trimming tree limbs from the area of hydro lines.

With a forecast of continued cold weather, OPP is advising residents in areas without power to consider utilizing one of the many shelters which have been set up throughout the region or finding accomodation with neighbors.

The primary concern of police continues to be the safety of residents and the protection of property.

Residents are urged to report any suspicious vehicles or activity in their area to the OPP at 1-888-310-1122.



An icy scene on Holmes Road west of Winchester, a defeated tree unable to bear the weight of seven centimetres of ice.



Lary Lindsay of Crysler took comfort at Ernie's Restaurant Saturday, reading up on the storm and listening to radio updates.

Everybody talks about the weather. Now you can do something about it.

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture has set up a rural relief fund to help Eastern Ontario's storm ravaged farm community.

OFA

Donations can be made to:

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Emergency relief effort continues in North Stormont

Army rolls in to help out

Greg Hewitt
Record Editor

FINCH – The Army rolled into North Stormont Sunday, boosting local emergency response to the ice storm that swept across the region last week, knocking out power and thrusting all of eastern Ontario into turmoil and crisis.

A state of emergency was declared in North Stormont by Reeve Archie Byers Thursday, and municipal leaders, staff, firefighters and countless volunteers organized and emergency command centre at FinchView Villa, and shelters in Finch, Crysler, Avonmore and Moose Creek.

But by Tuesday, despite the ongoing lack of power, the township was coping well in meeting residents' needs, said councillor Terry Ouderkirk. ``Everything is looking good," he said. But even as late as the weekend, the township was crying out for help. Like other local municipalities, North Stormont had difficulty in contacting the military to solicit its help.

On Saturday afternoon, North Stormont Reeve Archie Byers was found in a small room away from the busy lunch area in the North-Stor Seniors Support Centre in Finch, which doubled as the new township's emergency command centre. At the time, Byers, OPP Sr. Const. Louis Legault and Ouderkirk are huddled around the phone, in a desperate attempt to obtain generators, military personnel and other help as the four corners of the municipality cope with the crisis at hand. The phone is one of few links to the outside world.

Finally, Const. Legault finds himself on the phone with Emergency Measures Ontario, and Central Land Forces, Ontario's Canadian Forces Command. They ask him what they want the army to do in North Stormont.

Just outside the window of the North Stormont command centre, a hydro truck's boom is being used to prop up a buckling hydro pole on Nelson Street, while huge chunks of ice fall dangerously to the roadway below as the afternoon sunshine melts the ice that has caused so much damage. Byers, also warden of SD&G, admits he himself was hit in the head by a small piece of falling ice during the day, in warning the public to be careful of that and other hazards in the storm's wake. He urges people to take caution when using alternative heating sources, and Ouderkirk urges people to take advantage of the emergency shelters.

The military was deployed to eastern Ontario Friday, made contact with North Stormont Saturday and it was officially in the municipality Sunday. And Ouderkirk praises the efforts and abilities of military personnel, who he says are going out of their way to help in whatever way is necessary. "They've been a real excellent system for us. They're working their butts off."

Soldiers posted in North Stormont communities are members of the Governor General's Footguards, from Ottawa and Petawawa, and the 2nd Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group, or 2CMBG, in Petawawa. Soldiers from Nova Scotia are also in North Stormont. The military contingent, complete with engineers, medics, mechanics, technicians, electricians, plumbers, and heavy equipment, are performing a number of tasks, from delivering naptha and kerosene where needed, delivering wood, clearing brush, and "anything we ask them to do," Ouderkirk says. They're assisting firefighters, farmers and everyone else.

Maj. Steve Naik, of 2CMBG, is stationed in Finch. He said Tuesday afternoon there are more than 11,000 soldiers in eastern Ontario, probably more than 3,000 in SD&G. And the soldiers, many of whom have served tours in Bosnia and other countries, are pleased to be helping Canadians in a time of need.

"They're sympathetic," he says. "It's unfortunate we have to do this here, but if we have to be helping anybody, we're happy to be helping Canadians."

The big question for North Stormont is power. The electricity is expected to be back on in Berwick in a day or two, but Crysler may have to wait up to a week or longer before the lights come back on. Estimates range with regard to power restoration in rural areas of the township, as well as rumors. No reliable information has been received.

Generators in North Stormont have been secured from Emergency Measures Ontario, from Ottawa Hydro and even as far away as Minnesota, obtained with the help of Ottawa-Carleton.

No area of the township was spared from the merciless ice, not Berwick, not Crysler, not Finch, not Moose Creek, not Avonmore. But all agree that the response from all corners, from within the township and from far and wide, has been overwhelming.

One co-ordinator at the shelter in Finch Saturday, who declined to be singled out by name, said food donations were coming in from everywhere. People were making soup on woodstoves and bringing it in, others donating meat to shelters for meals.

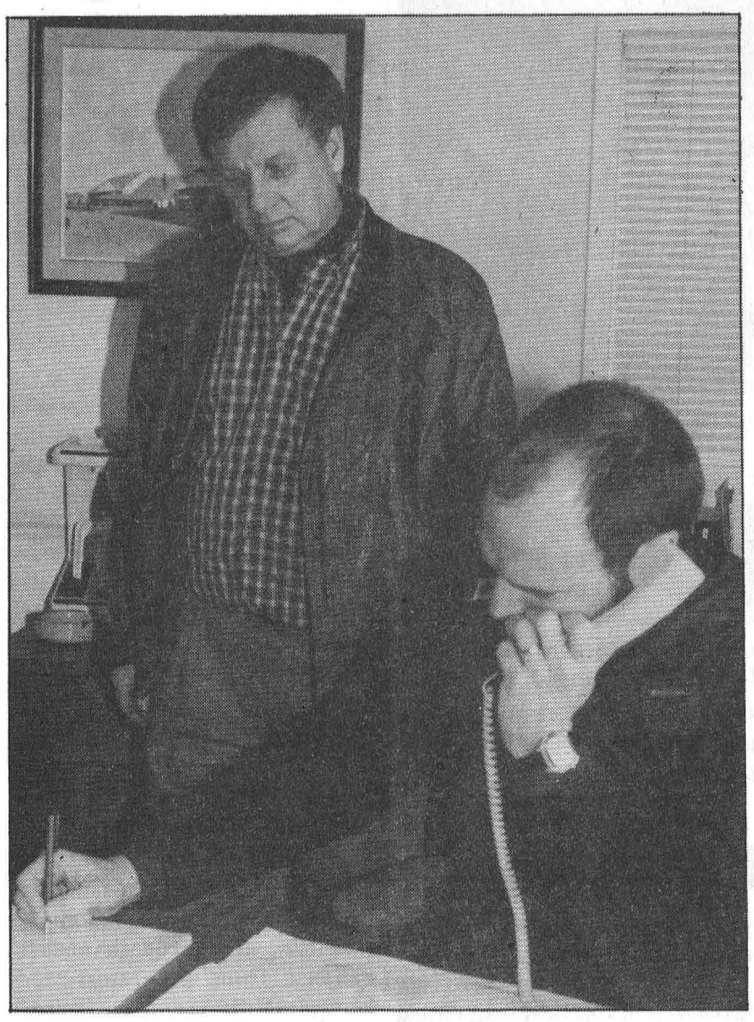
In Finch, people took shelter and received meals at FinchView Villa and took shelter at the arena. In Crysler, Ecole Notre Dame du St-Rosaire was used until Tuesday, when a generator large enough to power the Community Centre was located and hooked up. The Avonmore Community Centre served as a shelter, as did the Moose Creek Recreational Centre. An electrical fire there Tuesday afternoon was quickly controlled, and Army engineers quickly checked the generator system and declared it safe again. Ouderkirk says about 70 people are sleeping at the township's shelters, while meals are drawing 300 or more. "It's working quite well."

On Saturday evening, Fr. Claude Thibault was walking along the street in Crysler, an electrical cord wrapped around his shoulder. Mass at Notre Dame du St. Rosaire would be held, he said, Saturday night and Sunday, with the help of a generator.

Many people in the community had remained in their homes until Saturday, Fr. Thibault said, and many were staying with friends or relatives who had wood stoves. "But the morale is getting lower. People are starting to realize it's not a question of a few hours, it's a question of days and weeks," he said.

"We need patience and hope and pulling together. It's all we can do. I think compared to some (possible) situations, we"re still well off. We've got our lives, and we've got each other."

Across the street, a number of people have warmed up and been fed at Ernie's, a small restaurant blessed with a propane stove. It cooks food, and heats the building. Crysler resident Lary Lindsay is there, reading newspaper coverage of the storm and listening to her Walkman radio. "He deserves a lot of credit," she says of the restaurant's owner. "He put up elderly people overnight. And it's a good information place, because everyone stops in for coffee."





Above, North Stormont Reeve Archie Byers listens as Sr. Const. Louis Legault talks to Canadian Forces officials Saturday on the telephone from the township's command centre in Finch. To the right, the boom of a hydro truck was needed to prop up a hydro pole on Nelson Street in Finch.The Township of North Stormont was not spared from the destruction of last week's ice storm.



Volunteer Rhonda Guindon, left, and daughter Julia helped set up the emergency shelter at the Avonmore Community Centre Sunday afternoon. Shelters were set up in Finch, Crysler, Avonmore and Moose Creek, staffed by volunteers from al walks of life.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Family's relief efforts appreciated

To the editor:

Mother nature's early January 1998 assault on Eastern Ontario in general and the village of Chesterville in particular, resulted in a wide variety of emergency assistance, as you know. However, the help which was rendered was certainly not just of local origin. One private relief effort for Mark and Carol Chayer and their family of Froats Road is worthy of mention.

In response to long distance phone communications, a truck load arrived at their rural home well after dark on the evening of Saturday, the 10th. Being out of power like most others, the Chayers could make excellent use of many commodities, because by virtue of having a wood burning fireplace, they were providing temporary accommodation to two other families, beginning with that Wednesday.

Mark's father had driven his pickup all the way down from the North Bay area, a distance of more than 250 miles, bringing a variety of much appreciated materials, especially a small portable AC generator, two full drums of fuel to keep it going, and a barrel pump. As well, the cargo included all sorts of batteries, an extension cord and a length of garden hose, also two shipping trays containing twenty loaves of bread forming the package of close to a hundred pounds of basic groceries. There were cases of canned soft drinks and treats for five children. By then, of several adults sheltering in the Chayer home Carol's senior citizen parents among them, many were sleeping on mattresses on the floor or on couches. Of special interest as part of the goodies coming off the truck were a couple boxes of adult refreshments.

At first, Carol's food preparations had been difficult, pressing propane barbeque into service and the cooking surface of the fireplace was only marginally better. When the first visitors entered the scene, the facilities would have been totally inadequate except that they brought a portable naptha stove and lantern, both of which had an immediate beneficial impact. The little ones in the group had scant comprehension of the complexities of the situation and their demands were distracting. In the meanwhile, Mark had been running hither and thither with a little gasoline powered pump, repeatedly draining the sumps of three houses in addition to their own. Initially he had one able assistant, later two.

After the generator became available on Saturday evening and was hooked up and operating, there was power for heat and light. Moreover, the next day the unit proved to be strong enough to supply electricity to an adjacent house via a long cable across the hard snow, to keep the neighbor's threat of flooding at bay without the need of continuous monitoring.

But not waiting even for dawn on the 11th and with barely 10 hours of turnaround time, Mark's dad headed back to his own home, ignoring proper rest and any accompanying fatigue.

Submitted by a family member
(Name withheld by request)

For The BRIDE And GROOM

BRIDES 98

The Record's Annual Bridal Supplement
will be published **Wednesday, February 4th**. If you have been married or became engaged in the past year, please bring in a good quality photograph and a short caption to be included free of charge in this special keepsake issue. If you are mailing in a photograph, please include a Self-addressed, Stamped Envelope so that your photograph can be returned to you.

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