

THE BRADFORD WITNESS

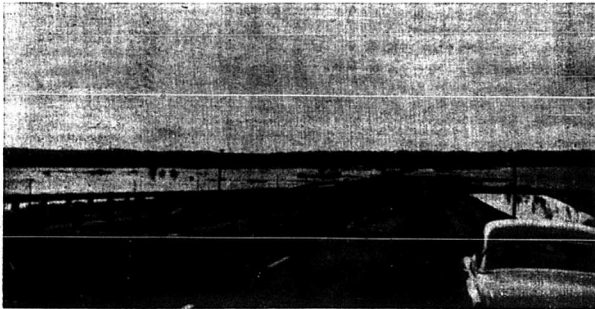
AND SOUTH SIMCOE NEWS

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S. S. McKENZIE, Proprietor

FLOOD DISASTER STRIKES HOLLAND MARSH



LOOKING SOUTH FROM NORTH BRIDGE ON HIGHWAY 400

The Office Window

Friday night's disaster, during which our community was struck a blow so colossal that most of us do not yet fully comprehend its magnitude, is beyond editorial comment.

The good, industrious people of the Holland Marsh gardens should be the victims of such an overwhelming disaster is beyond explanation. At a time such as this it would seem that the words of the young minister, who, with his wife and little children, escaped from the flood waters leaving behind all worldly possessions but the clothes they wore, and who on Sunday stood in the pulpit of a strange church, garbed in these clothes, changed only to a clean shirt—a gray plaid, the gift of a local store—and thanked God that though the world was gone the spiritual remained, is the finest we can pass on to our readers. . . . It may be that a few years hence we will see why this disaster occurred. Now, it is not understandable. But it has proved that people can be wonderful. The bravery, the sympathy, and the unselfishness at this time have proven that. . . . The bravery of our marsh residents is wonderful. Cold and wet they fled for their lives from the rising water, leaving behind every worldly possession. Some had time to pack a few clothes but many got out with nothing but what they wore. Beautiful, new, modern homes, furnished with everything new, modern and lovely, and with clothing hanging on the racks in spacious closets are now many feet under dirty, muddy water. Their late crops are there too, as is their expensive gardening equipment. Yet they are thankful to be alive and are confident that they can build a better marsh gardening area. . . . And the people of the township and Bradford! Never can they be charged with coldness or indifference. A wonderful welcome was awaiting as the word spread around town that the dike had broken and that the marsh people were coming to town. Homes were thrown open to them. Assistance came from everywhere. Within a few hours the organization in handling the situation could not have been in more excellent order if it had been planned for days in advance. . . . And the unselfishness! The west end of the marshland suffered by far the greatest loss. It was in this part that the deep water submerged homes. Yet the owners of these submerged, and formerly beautiful, homes joined untiringly in the work of trying to hold the flood waters in their area so as to save the homes of their neighbours from a similar destruction. . . . The cost of this disaster in dollars can only be guessed, but man's humanity to man (and woman's to woman) when friends are needed was proven beyond doubt last Friday night and during the days which followed. In disaster this community has certainly shared the burdens. . . . And the municipalities, their officials, and the provincial and federal government heads have shown marvellous co-operation. Refugees, and being refugees, is a new experience to the people here but tribulation has surely

Ont. Premier Frost Pays Second Visit To Bradford

After visiting the scene of the marshland flood here on Monday, attending an organization meeting and promising \$100,000 to start the work of clearing and rebuilding, the Premier returned again yesterday, this time accompanied by Ontario Minister of Agriculture Thomas George Horlings, chairman of the Central Committee, presided for the meeting and estimated the flood loss on the Holland Marsh at between \$10 and \$12 million dollars. He explained that by 10 o'clock Monday night the culvert on Highway 400 had been practically stopped and by stopping this water it was hoped that four-fifths of the marsh gardens might be cleared of water quickly and thus be ready for gardening next year.

Peter Verkaik, chairman of the Pump Committee, reported that they then were pumping 70,000 gallons per minute but more and larger pumps were expected to be in operation before night doubling that gallonage. Without cutting off the east end of the marsh he estimated pumping time to clear the marsh at about 100 days.

Hon. Earl Rowe urged that everything possible be done to speed up the pumping, by bringing in more and larger pumps, lest cold weather set in and the land not be ready for next year.

Premier Frost commented that he was most impressed with the committee and the work already accomplished.

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TRAILER TOWN TO BE ESTABLISHED HERE

To help solve the housing problem for the thousand or more people made homeless by the flood a trailer town is being planned.

Bradford Rotary Club members are in charge of this project and the objective is 100 trailer cabins to be located on the ball grounds. It is proposed to install showers and toilet facilities to serve this big trailer camp.

The search for a sufficient number of trailers is already underway.

bound the bonds of friendship closer. . . . And now we feel we must inform our readers of a more personal matter. We have developed eye trouble and must undergo eye surgery.

Because of the disaster here we delayed our trip to hospital from the first of this week until Friday when we enter Toronto's new Eye Surgery Hospital, located at St. Clair Avenue and Warren Road. During our absence the column may appear—depends upon the length of the absence. Principal Wood of B.D.H.S. has assured that his students will assist with the publication of The Witness during our absence and we feel sure our correspondents, advertisers and other friends will be most co-operative while we are a "minus" on the office staff. We thank you all in anticipation for your co-operation during the next few weeks.

FLOOD NOTES

"Cast your bread upon the waters, etc." A year ago last February this community led all Canada in assistance to the Netherlands when that country was devastated by floods. On Monday the ambassador from Holland, Mr. Ravensloot, and another representative of that land, visited Bradford bringing assurance that this hour of great need their country did not forget their friends here and that assistance is coming from them.

Premier Leslie Frost and Attorney General Dana Porter of Ontario visited Bradford on Monday. Premier Frost authorized credit for \$100,000 on that day for immediate expenditure for the first needs.

There were no boundaries for municipalities during the rescue work on the marsh on Friday and Saturday, nor during the organizing and planning to endeavour to handle everything in the most advantageous manner. Reeves and councils of the townships and the reeve and council of Bradford, worked as one unit.

By blocking off the water west of highway 400 it is hoped that four-fifths of the marsh land may be pumped clear of water within a couple of weeks.

Organizations swung into action in the crisis with amazing efficiency. Bradford groups assumed the various responsibilities and carried on untiringly until the neighboring centres lent assistance. Red Cross was wonderful. A canteen was set up here early Saturday. Truck loads of new clothing arrived on Saturday for the

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WATER MUST BE BOILED

All water must be boiled. To kill bacteria in water requires 10 minutes of boiling. NOT just bringing to a boil. Boil all water used for TEN minutes and avoid sickness.

HOLLAND MARSH FLOOD RELIEF FUND

On Sunday a Holland Marsh Flood Relief Fund was organized, with "Brad" Walker as chairman.

Money is needed immediately. Many of the flood refugees are homeless. Their homes and everything in them are lost. Their crops, which are their livelihood, are lost.

Send cheques, payable to the Holland Marsh Flood Relief Fund, addressed to the Canadian Bank of Commerce, Bradford. Cash donations will also be accepted at the bank or at the town hall.

Remember—All cheques should be made payable to Holland Marsh Flood Relief Fund.

Mobile Houses Offered In Telegram To Witness

TORONTO—The Canadian Mobile Home Association has announced an offer to provide more than two hundred mobile homes at cost price to victims of the Ontario flood.

The C.M.H.A. has pulled its dealers from Winnipeg to Quebec City. Mobile homes can be made available on twenty-four hours' notice and hauled immediately to the stricken areas.

The following is the telegram received.

"The Canadian Mobile Home Association would like to express our sincere sympathy for the hundreds of families in your municipality who lost relatives and homes in the flood."

"The board of directors of the C.M.H.A. has met to see what we can do to be of greatest assistance and as a result we are prepared to place at the disposal of the Ontario Relief Fund and the Canadian Red Cross Society two hundred mobile homes for the use of flood victims. The mobile home manufacturers by agreement with their dealers, will supply the homes at cost."

"It is expected that the mobile homes, which are completely modern on wheels, will be chargeable to the Ontario Relief Fund."

"These homes are completely furnished and include livingroom, dinette, kitchen, bathroom and one or more bedrooms. They will comfortably house four persons, the larger homes will accommodate six."

"The mobile homes are to be located with dealers in various places and hauled to the flood stricken areas in a matter of hours."

Editor's Note—"Brad" Walker is in Toronto today checking this and other sources for units.

HOLLAND MARSH EMERGENCY RELIEF COMMITTEE FORMED

Central Committee
Geo. Horlings (chairman), Arthur Evans, Herbert Hughes, Elton Armstrong, Chas. Evans, Ben Steers, Stewart McKenzie, Ken Wood, B. Bardaville, R. Osadchuk, Hon. Earl Rowe, Peter Verkaik, Bill Watson, Wm. Hodgins, Charlie Davis, J. Wist, W. Matthews, P. Prantzen, S. Gajdos, J. Van Dyke, Tony Cathers, Jack Smith, M.P., Py Turner, George Carson, Bob Veale, Ken Tupling.

Finance Committee
Chas. Evans (chairman), A. L. Veale, Elton Armstrong, Chas. Davis.

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HURRICANE RELIEF FUND MAKES FIRST CONTRIBUTION OF \$150,000

The Hurricane Relief Fund for Ontario has made its first contribution to the Holland Marsh of \$150,000. This is for rehabilitation purposes.

Just as Premier Leslie Frost's pledge of \$100,000 was just a start to get the great task on dikes and land on the marsh started, so too is the Relief Fund's \$150,000 a start on rehabilitation.

Rich Garden Lands Flooded When Water Overflows Dikes

ONTARIO PREMIER AUTHORIZES \$100,000 CREDIT FOR MARSH

Immediate credit, to the extent of \$100,000 by the Provincial Government, was promised by Premier Leslie Frost within a matter of minutes after his arrival by car to attend a meeting with the Holland Marsh Emergency Relief Committee, held in the Township of West Gwillimbury municipal office on Monday. The Premier, who was accompanied by Hon. Dana Porter, had previously received a close-up view of the flooded Marsh gardens and had been able to form some conception of the havoc wrought through the loss of homes, storages, valuable machinery and vegetable crops. George Horlings, head of the Central or Main Committee, was chairman for the occasion and no time was lost in getting down to business.

Premier Frost stated that he understood that there is a strong committee in charge already in Toronto for the relief and rehabilitation of the flood-stricken areas of the province. Referring to the local situation, he got in touch by telephone with the proper authorities in regard to the lowering of the water level in Lake Simcoe to aid the Drainage Commission in their efforts to drain the water from the marsh.

On behalf of the committee, of which he is a member, Hon. Earl Rowe laid the facts of the marsh situation before the Premier, informing him that while there is no suffering among the flood refugees for the want of clothing or lack of food, there is a vital and immediate need for money to bring in heavy machinery, pumps, etc., which are absolutely necessary to get the water off the land in as short a time as possible. Someone, he said, must pay the bills, and the municipalities concerned can not possibly do so without assistance.

Prompt financial aid, it was stressed, would probably save four-fifths of the Marsh and allow the gardens to be cropped again next spring.

Without further ado, Premier Frost came to the rescue with his statement that the Province of Ontario would give \$100,000 credit at once to the stricken Marsh area and instructed Manager A. L. Veale of Bradford branch of the Canadian Bank of Commerce and Mr. McCurry of the head office of this bank, both of whom were present, to that effect. The Premier also assured the committee that immediately after his arrival back in Toronto he would contact the necessary people to secure additional large pumps and extra hydro to allow use of same.

English Classes To Begin Next Monday

English classes for new Canadians will begin at Bradford District High

Holland Marsh residents and everyone living in this district will always remember "Hurricane Hazel" and the worst storm in Ontario's history, a storm which inundated the rich Holland Marsh gardens, ruining all crops yet to be harvested, sweeping buildings away in the water currents, and submerging some of the most beautiful homes of the district under feet of dirty water.

Following a week of rain, this area, on the fringe of the hurricane, received a deluge of rain on Friday which developed into cloudburst proportions during late afternoon and at night.

Ever conscious of the threat of flood on their dike-protected land, much concern was felt among marsh residents and especially among those who are expert on dikes. The rain continued to come down as in a cloudburst and by 8 o'clock it was known that nothing more could be done to hold back the rising water.

The rain continued to fall as in a cloudburst and before 10 o'clock the people of Springdale were seeing to higher ground for their lives. Others, who realized too late what was occurring sought safety in the upstairs of buildings and even in windowless attics. That all of these were saved is miraculous and the stories of the rescues are almost beyond comprehension.

The heart of Springdale village is the Verkaik settlement—a group of beautiful homes which would be a proud contribution in the finest section of a big city. Of the Verkaik homes, all are on marsh land but that of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Verkaik, who built on the hill flanking the Marsh. Their home was the first refuge for seventy people who spent Friday night there. These were the fortunate of the Springdale area because many of their neighbours spent the night huddled under the roof of their home with the waves lapping within inches of them.

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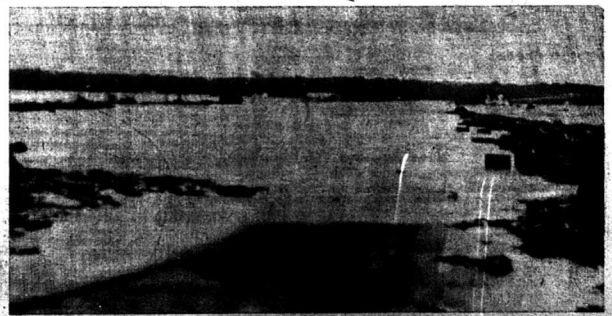
A STATEMENT REGARDING MARSH GARDEN PRODUCE

Jacob Verkaik, chairman of the Salvage Committee, has published a statement of policy regarding vegetables elsewhere in this newspaper.

Holland Marsh vegetables have NOT been condemned by the Department of Health as was stated in a Toronto newspaper. But the movement, sale, or offering for sale, of any produce which has been submerged in flood waters is forbidden. This order will be rigidly enforced by the Provincial Police.

However there are quantities of Holland Marsh vegetables in dry storages and packing houses. These, of course, have not been touched by flood waters and may be shipped in the customary manner subject to inspection by Dominion and Provincial Inspection Services.

School on Monday, October 25, at 8 p.m.



LOOKING SOUTH FROM WHERE HIGHWAY 400 DISAPPEARS UNDER WATER