

THE ICE STORM OF DECEMBER---1959.

Hydro and Telephone Lines down in Districts worst Ice Storm in 50 Years.

Christmas Day 1959 was very mild but cloudy, and previous to this the wind had blown raw and cold from the East for three days. The day following Christmas (which was Saturday) rain started and continued and by Sunday morning ice was building up on trees and wires. It continued to rain and freeze all day Sunday and by about four o'clock the ice formation was so heavy trees and wires started to break, causing the first Hydro break. This blacked out part of the village of Nobleton and surrounding district. By eight-thirty in the evening the second break occurred, causing total black-out for all of the town and surrounding area. Telephone communications were also disrupted.

The thickness of the ice was the width of a broom handle. Many beautiful trees were split and broken. The temperature stayed around 30, with very little wind; this saved the situation to a great extent.

The Hydro black-out lasted for about five days, with short periods of power in some parts of the district. Telephone communications were out much longer.

Many of the new homes in our sub-divisions have no means of heat other than oil furnaces operated by hydro. Those with fire places made good use of them. Most of the mothers with small children left to stay with relatives out of this district until the breaks were repaired.

Our local farmers used every means of power they could assemble to prepare the food and pump the water for their animals. Carl Boynton, who milks forty cows had a busy time generating power to run the milking machines. Others down the highway in difficulties were Mactaggarts, Goodfellows and Taylors. Much of the milk had to be thrown out as there was no means of cooling it properly.

Donald Kaake's General Store sold twenty dozen candles, four dozen lanterns, flash lights, batteries, gallons of coal-oil and their supplies were soon sold out. People stood in line to buy stove-pipes. People who had old stoves not in use, gave or loaned them to others in need of heat. Families were seen standing out in the snow cooking food or boiling water on out door barbecues.

Our local post-office, operated by Lorne and Mary Goodfellow, was without heat but they had to stay at the office to keep it open. This writer went to pick up the mail and Lorne, with a big overcoat on, a candle in hand, wearing a very cold blue expression, handed out my mail. I asked how Mary was standing the cold. And Lorne said, "Oh, I sent her over to Harold Westbrook's to get thawed out, and when she comes back it will be my turn." I invited them up for the evening, as we had a stove in our basement.

The Community Hall was opened and a good fire lit in the large cook stove; so mothers could make up formulas and prepare warm food for their meals such as soup, etc.

Seventeen outside hydro crews were brought in to assist the local Woodbridge Hydro men, some coming as far away as Timmins. They were to be commended for their faithful service. They worked around the clock until hydro was restored.

The local electricians, Lyman Davis, Thos. Kelly, Donald Kaake, and Harry Matson gave all the assistance in their power to get the people who had breaks in their power lines connected back on to the main lines again.

This is now the middle of January and most of the ice is gone, except on ornamental shrubs and cedars, which are still heavily coated and bent to the ground. Power has been restored but some of the telephone communications are still out.

Mrs. Lyman Davis.



WATER TOWER



LARGE ELM TREE

(L.C. DAVIS STANDING)