RESPONDING – REBUILDING - RESTORING







MDS ONTARIO FALL NEWSLETTER

MDS and Knights Of Columbus Partnering in Barry's Bay ON Project

MDS has been asked to assist a family in Barry's Bay ON, the Marc Jobin family. Marc and Carole have 9 children, the youngest is 3 years old, Marie-Ange, who experienced brain injury at birth. As a result, she and her mother Carole have had to rent a small apartment 15 min away from the family home so that she can live in a sterile, temperature-controlled space. Marie-Ange needs 24/7 care which has forced the mother to be by her side most of the time along with some additional health care assistance. MDS is partnering with the local Knights of Columbus (looking after the fundraising) to add a 572 SF, 2 story addition to their home so that the family can be finally united. The Jobin children are being home schooled, and this enterprising family raises crops and animals on their rural property. The following link explains the Jobin family story: https://www.gofundme.com/f/reuniteusunderoneroof.

MDS hopes to have the foundation in before freeze up so that construction can continue into the winter. MDS will be looking to some of the local Mennonite communities to provide the required leadership and volunteers due to COVID restrictions. If you are interested in assisting with this project, please contact Osiah Horst, ON Unit member at 613-281-1525.

MDS ON Early Response Team (ERT) Responds to Kingsbridge





Early Sep a supercell over Lake Huron generated a multi-vortex tornado, plus several weaker 'satellite' tornadoes and downbursts. As it came onshore it caused significant damage including in the area between Lucknow and Kingsbridge. Unit executive members, Lester Weber and Keith Snyder, investigated immediately, seeing a lot of cleanup already happening, except at one property with a lot of tree damage. After leaving their card, they soon received a call back from the couple



living there, who accepted the offer of help since they had no relatives or friends to help them. The MDS ON ERT responded the next day removing and trimming damaged trees on the property.

COVID-19 IMPACT On the Work of MDS

Due to the continued closure of the U.S. border and uncertainty about insurance coverage for COVID-19-related medical costs, MDS Canada (MDSC) is currently not sending or supporting volunteers serving in the U.S. MDSC continues to evaluate this situation and looks forward to the day when Canadians can again serve on U.S. projects.

At this point Unit and local responses in Canada are being encouraged. In ON, while the Roadmap to Reopening is being followed, MDS ON is also using MDS' guidelines of not responding if the cases are 20/100,000 or above in both the project location and/or volunteer location. Lockdown takes precedence.

HAY WEST 2021 – ON and SK Units Partnering



In 2012, farmers in SK sent hay to droughtstricken livestock producers in ON through MDSC. Now farmers in ON are preparing to repay their generosity the same way. Farmers in SK are really challenged this year, due to heat and drought. For them, the weather this year is a disaster as it was for ON farmers 9 years ago. Through Hay West 2021, MDSC hopes to send

50 truckloads of donated hay to SK this fall. ON trucking companies are being asked to transport the hay for free or at reduced costs. The first two trucks arrived in SK mid Sept. Beef and dairy farmers can apply online to qualify for the Hay West hay priced at competitive prices. Funds collected by the sale of the hay will be used to offset any transportation costs, along with donations.

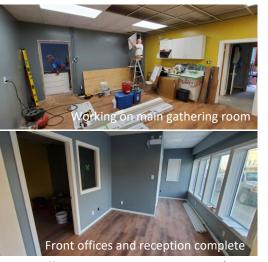
Farmers who want to donate hay can take it to Marhaven Agri Services in Alma, Ont. (7715 Wellington, Hwy. 8) to arrange for shipping, or call **519-584-4171** for more information and/or to arrange alternate direct trucking.

Non-farmers are also welcome to participate in the project by making a charitable donation towards the cost of transportation or for the purchase of ON hay. (Select **Hay West 2021** from the drop-down menu of the MDSC website <u>https://mds.mennonite.net/donate/canada-donation-form/</u>) Donations can also be mailed to MDS, 200-600 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg, MB R3P 2J1. Note **Hay West 2021** on the cheque.

ON contacts: Lester Weber (519-584-4171) or Delmer Erb (519-897-4330).

MDS and MCC Partnering in Timmins ON

The last 2 newsletters reported on the progress of this joint project with MCC in Timmins. MDS ON has wrapped up its involvement in renovating office space for the MCC Indigenous Neighbours Program in northern Ontario. Although the project was hampered by pandemic restrictions, most of the work was completed by mid-July. The remaining work will be completed by local contractors. Read more on the MDS website,



https://mds.mennonite.net/mds-mcc-complete-office-renovation-project-in-timmins/





1st load hay being loaded at Marhaven for SK Sep 2021



The Spirit of MDS Fund is Back

After a successful first two rounds of funding MDS Canada is once again offering its Spirit of MDS Fund to Canadian congregations. Created in response to the pandemic, the Fund provided a total of 81 grants worth \$206,900 in 2020-21 to help congregations and other organizations respond to needs in their communities due to COVID-19.

Now MDSC is offering the Fund again, this time making it a regular part of its program, a way for MDSC to partner with local congregations as they seek to be the hands and feet of Jesus in their communities. Grants may be used for construction or renovation projects to repair a home or make it more livable, to provide food or other needed resources for those in crisis, such as from the ongoing pandemic, for neighbourhood ministry projects, or for other creative ideas that fit with MDSC's two core values of faith in action and caring relationships.

For more information see <u>https://mds.mennonite.net/mds-canada-launches-new-round-of-spirit-of-mds-fund-grants/</u> or by calling **1-866-261-1274**.

MDS and MennoHomes Dedicate House in Kitchener – New Home to Refugee Family

The pandemic restrictions also affected the MDS ON project to renovate a derelict house obtained by MennoHomes from the Region of Waterloo. MennoHomes provides affordable rental housing in the Kitchener-Waterloo area. Work was slower due to limits on the number of volunteers who could work in the house each day. Under the able leadership of Bruce Weber, flexible volunteers and



through God's grace, the house was completed in time for the Altroudi family to move in at the end of Aug. A dedication was held to celebrate the event and to welcome this family to their new home. It is amazing to see God at work, even during a pandemic. Read more about it here: https://mds.mennonite.net/derelict-house-becomes-home-for-syrian-refugee-family/

Did you know that you can read current and past MDS ON Newsletters online? <u>https://mds.mennonite.net/where-we-work/units/ontario-unit/</u> This way you can read articles referenced in past newsletter issues.

Your MDS ON Unit Executive – if you need help investigating or for more info contact:Nick Hamm – Chair905-401-3990Keith Snyder – Vice Chair519-570-8908Earl Martin– Treasurer519-741-6320Lester Weber – Secretary519-584-4171

Send feedback to - hammnicholas.mds@outlook.com

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