

RESPONDING – REBUILDING - RESTORING

... In Christian Love



MDS ONTARIO SPRING NEWSLETTER



New Addition on Jobin's Home

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

In late May 2021, Mennonite Disaster Service was invited by the Knights of Columbus to be a part of project to support a family with 9 children who was experiencing a challenge in their family's life. Their youngest child suffered brain damage during childbirth, requiring 24-hour care in a sterile environment, including temperature and air quality control. These could not be accommodated within their old family farmhouse, forcing them to rent a small house a short distance away as a place to care for their daughter.

The Knights of Columbus (KoC) from Ottawa planned to organize a Go Fund Me (Online Fundraiser) to raise funds to add an addition to their family home and invited MDS to assist in providing supervision and labor for this project. In July, with the help of a retired draftsman and an engineer, plans were developed and submitted to the Madawaska Valley Building Department for permit approval.

Construction including a new septic bed and a 22' x 26' two story building addition were started in mid- October, with the floors and walls (less windows) and the roof being completed and weather-tight by mid Dec.

After a 4 week break over the holidays, the windows arrived and were installed, allowing the exterior siding to be completed. Mechanical, plumbing & electrical rough-ins were done in the latter part of January in time for a crew of KoC volunteers to install the wall insulation on 29 Jan.



Marie-Ange Home At Last Mid March

The drywall taping and sanding followed quickly. By mid Feb, the walls, ceilings, doors and trim were painted in a series of painting bees, with the Beachburg Mennonite ladies devoting their energy to the walls and ceilings on the site, and the doors and trim painting achieved by a willing group of Waterloo Markham ladies at a Sat 'painting bee' in Hawkesville. The installation of interior trim, millwork, plumbing fixtures and flooring was completed by the first week of March, ready for occupancy.

We praise the Lord for the financial generosity and willing hands that made it possible to assist this family in bringing their family back together under the same roof, after 3-1/2 years!

By Earl Martin



Marc with his other 7 children



Painting Bee



THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

SPRING 2022

HAY WEST 2021 – ON and SK Units Continue Partnering

As Saskatchewan faced a bitterly cold winter, the need for more hay escalated. Beef cows were consuming as much as 20 percent more feed, just to survive. And the farmers watched as precious stock piles were diminishing quickly, and the situation became dire for some farmers. The call to Ontario was to keep hay moving as quickly as possible.

We are grateful for all the donors who have responded with hay donations. They have come from the Ottawa region, Niagara region, all the way west of London, and north to Owen Sound. In the Waterloo Region hay was gathered at Marhaven Agri, which was used as a depot until we had enough to fill a trailer. Their storage shed, and scale onsite made this an excellent facility to use a loading point. It was greatly appreciated.

Our struggle largely has been to find trucks to transport the hay west. Hutton Transport from Paisley ON has been very gracious and accommodating in helping make this mission possible, often giving us at least one truck, sometimes two, and the odd time 3 trucks per week. The struggle to find flatbed trucks to haul the round bales or the cost of these loads was substantially higher as there was an abundance of freight waiting to move west. Due to this, round bales could not be utilized.

As freight costs kept creeping higher, we also had a generous number of monetary donations to help offset these extra costs.

We are now entering the seventh month of our Hay West program stretching from September 2021 to now (April 2022). **To date we have shipped 48 tractor trailer loads, or almost two million pounds of hay that have been shipped all over the province of Saskatchewan.** This includes 1 load from Alberta.

Each one who has contributed, whether it was with hay, monetary donation, trucking, or otherwise facilitating has helped make this project a worthwhile undertaking. May God bless each one who has shared with those that were stricken with drought conditions. Who knows when the tables may be turned again, and hay may be trucked east as it was in 2012.

By Lester Weber

Donations are still being accepted (Select **Hay West 2021** from the drop-down menu of the MDSC website <https://mds.mennonite.net/donate/canada-donation-form/>) 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).

ON Volunteers - Consider Volunteering in BC

While the last few months MDS has been focusing on responding to the flooding in BC, we have not forgotten the devastation of last summer's wildfires. MDS is currently working on building permits and we hope to start building in the community of **Monte Lake, BC** (between Kelowna and Kamloops) in May. This small community lost a number of homes to the White Rock fire and MDS will be rebuilding at least four new homes. This project will last over the summer and into fall. Many volunteers will be needed to help make this project happen. Volunteers can sign up as individuals or as groups to serve 1-3 weeks at a time by contacting Clara Flores at cflores@mds.org. Volunteers interested in serving in leadership roles (4+ weeks) can contact Kelsey Friesen at kfriesen@mds.org. Volunteers can also be in touch with MDS by calling our office at 1-866-261-1274. With the support of our volunteers we look forward to bringing hope to those who have been waiting to return home.

Another opportunity in BC is for families to serve together and continue helping homeowners in **Princeton, BC** (south west of Kelowna) who experienced flooding this past fall. MDS Canada will be running a **Family Project** in Princeton from July 17-August 13. Families with children of all ages are invited to sign up for a week of service, we have room for 3-4 families each week. As MDS will be staying at a campground, families must have their own RV, tent trailer or tent to stay in. This project will include landscaping and building garden sheds for those impacted by the flooding last fall. For more information or to sign up you can contact Kelsey Friesen at 1-866-261-1274 or by email at kfriesen@mds.org.



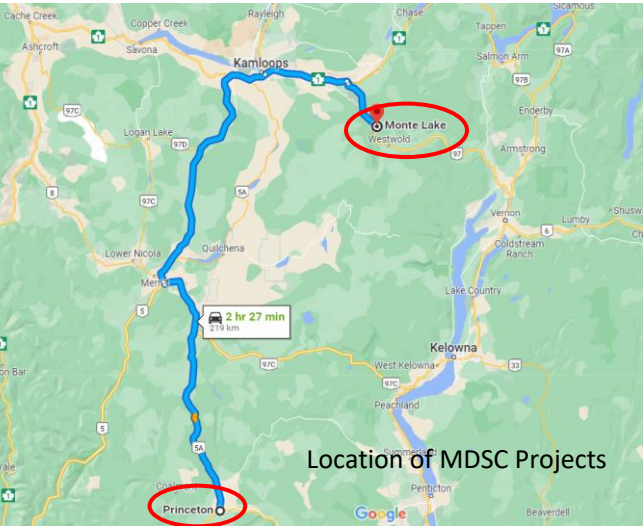
Photos from Dekkdale Farms



The Spirit of MDS Fund is Back

MDSC is offering the Spirit of MDS Fund as 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 <https://mds.mennonite.net/mds-canada-launches-new-round-of-spirit-of-mds-fund-grants/> or by calling **1-866-261-1274**.



Your MDS ON Unit Executive – if you need help investigating or for more info contact:

Nick Hamm – Chair	905-401-3990	Keith Snyder – Vice Chair	519-570-8908
Earl Martin– Treasurer	519-741-6320	Lester Weber – Secretary	519-584-4171

Send feedback to – hammnicholas.mds@outlook.com

CHECK US OUT: mds.mennonite.net/where-we-work/units/ontario-unit