

RESPONDING - REBUILDING - RESTORING

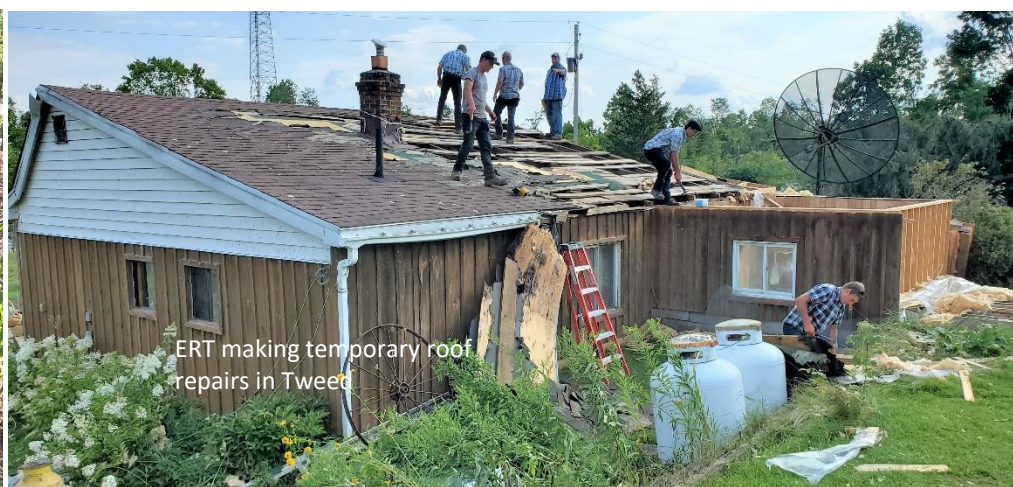


Early Response Team (ERT) Volunteers from Elmira responding to Tweed ON Tornado

MDS ONTARIO FALL NEWSLETTER



ERT volunteers assisting homeowner Laura James (center) with May windstorm clean-up

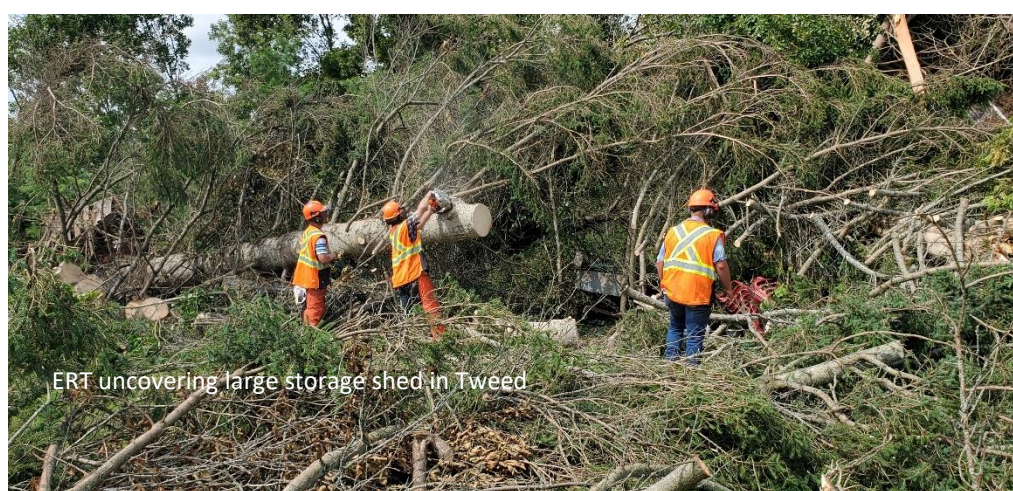


ERT making temporary roof repairs in Tweed

MDS ON Volunteers Respond to Damage from Multiple Windstorms

Strong winds and tornadoes were the disaster of choice this spring and summer, from central ON to Niagara to eastern ON. Our volunteers responded to a number of these storms including in Blackstock, east of Uxbridge where the EF-2 tornado struck in May, in Fonthill ON from the July windstorm and in Tweed ON from the July EF-2 tornado. Several other areas were investigated by MDS but due to the unavailability of volunteers, any of our local volunteers were directed to assist other volunteer groups in the various affected areas.

An EF-2 tornado has a maximum wind speed of 190 km/h. The May storm was the most widespread, across all southern ON, resulting in 9 fatalities. The July that hit Tweed was more intense over a longer and wider area, 56 km long and up to 1.5 km wide, but fortunately resulted in no fatalities. MDS partnered with Team Rubicon Canada and Christian Aid Ministries with the cleanup, with volunteers from Niagara, Lyndsay, Elmira and Beachburg.



ERT uncovering large storage shed in Tweed



MDS ON Unit Incoming Chair

The ON Unit has elected Osiah Horst from Cobden, ON to be the new ON Unit Chair, effective 1 Feb 2023, replacing Nick Hamm. Osiah has been very active in the work of MDS, especially in Eastern ON, since the 2017 Ottawa River flooding when he took on leading the local response as well as becoming a Church Contact Person for the Markham Waterloo Mennonite Church, representing the Beachburg Mennonite Church. Since then Osiah has been involved in numerous MDS responses, investigating, recruiting volunteers and advocating for survivors of disasters. Osiah is the "face of MDS" in Eastern ON. He continues to run his business Horst Business Services Inc. Osiah is married to Lovina. We welcome Osiah to his new role.



FALL 2022

HAY WEST 2021 – 2022 Completed

After one year, this MDS ON response of providing reasonably priced hay to beef and dairy farmers in Saskatchewan, hit by a severe drought last summer, has concluded. **MDS shipped 56 tractor trailer loads of hay, of which 29 loads were donated, resulting in 2.4 million pounds of hay distributed all over the province of Saskatchewan.** This includes 1 load from Alberta.

This response was a true partnership with the MDS SK Unit, which selected the recipient farmers and coordinated the deliveries, and the services of **Hutton Transport from Paisley ON** and one of the **major donors of hay, Martin Ritsma from Stratford ON.** Also there were the many other generous donors of both hay and funds.

A Note from Hutton Transport:

It was very gracious of your organization to recognize Lloyd Hutton Transport's part in the hay movement. It was a delight working with you and the organization. Our drivers were eager and thoroughly enjoyed transporting and interacting with the farmers. If there is ever a need in the future to have a product transported, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you for the MDS T-Shirts and hats, I will ensure the drivers receive them. Thanks
Connie Wolfe

Freight Dispatch Lloyd Hutton Transport

Barry's Bay Home Dedication – July 2022

Driving up the long driveway to the Jobin family farm, we were welcomed by colorful chickens, a highland cow and the very friendly family dog. We were attending the home dedication of a new house addition and celebration of the Jobin family finally being reunited after 3 years of having to live apart. The dream of this large family living off the land was suddenly halted as the birth of their 9th child was brain injured at birth. This resulted in the mother and baby having to live separately from the rest of the family as this new little girl, Marie-Ange, needed a sterile and temperature-controlled living space. The original farmhouse was old, heated with wood and just not suitable for this little one to survive. Marie-Ange needed life support equipment and the constant medical care. Her mother was able to learn how to care for her and for the last three years they lived about 15 minutes away from their family. The other 8 children, aged up to 22, lived with their father on the farm, with the oldest two daughters taking over all household tasks as well as homeschooling their younger siblings. It has been a very difficult time, especially during covid. Now, with the new addition to the old farmhouse, they have a home again. The bedroom for Marie-Ange has three bright windows and a large bathroom. It contains all the medical equipment needed and it shares a very large window with the next room. That next room is the family lifeline. The small dining room table is pushed against the window and connects the family together. The older family members can now be trained to help look after their little sister. Even though she is always laying in her bed, silently, on the respirator, being fed intravenously, she can sense the family presence. The frequent hospital visits required for necessary care in the local hospital is no longer available to her so they must now travel to Toronto. They know this beautiful little girl is God's gift to them and believe that as long as there is something they can do for her, they will do it.

This dream for the Jobin Family was the culmination of people that really care about their neighbours. The ones they knew, and the ones they didn't know. The Knights of Columbus and Mennonite Disaster Service worked together in building this addition and joined in a day of celebration with included bagpipes, the traditional gift of a quilt, several gift books, including The Hammer Rings Hope and a delicious BBQ. Marc and Carole Jobin shared their strong faith with us, and we could all feel the strong connection of God's family working together.

By Dorothy Hamm

South Niagara Life Ministries (SNLM) Project – Fort Erie

A COVID lesson for MDS ON has been to partner with like minded ministries, such as SNLM who respond to personal disasters. SNLM has had the opportunity to buy the adjacent building to theirs in Fort Erie. SNLM asked if MDS would help open the new office space to allow them larger meeting spaces for their growing local ministry, of helping individuals and families in LIFE altering crises, distress, and circumstances.



Volunteers Pete Kroeker, Martin Durksen and Chris Lepp in demo mode at SNLM



Marc Jobin signing off MDS Job Card with Osiah Horst at dining table outside Marie-Ange's new room



*That load of feed really helped us get cattle through to green grass!
Thank you from
The Strach family!*

Thank You Note from one hay recipient ... making a difference



Delmer Erb & Lester Weber, MDS ON Hay Response Coordinators presenting plaque to Connie Wolfe of Hutton Transport
(photo Hutton Transport)

Barry's Bay Home Dedication



Dedication bagpipe procession with MDS and Knights of Columbus representatives



Lovina Horst and Melinda Martin presenting quilt to Carole Jobin
Osiah Horst to left, Harvey Martin (Project Director) and Marc Jobin to right

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

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Keith Snyder – Vice Chair 519-570-8908
Lester Weber – Secretary 519-584-4171

Send feedback to – hammnicholas.mds@outlook.com

CHECK US OUT: <https://mds.org/unit/ontario/>