

# RESPONDING – REBUILDING - RESTORING

... In Christian Love



On Volunteers responding to Windsor flooding in Nov 2016

## MDS ONTARIO SPRING NEWSLETTER

### MDS ON Responds to Windsor Flooding

**2016 – Final Report** On September 29, 1000's of basements were flooded in the Windsor-Essex area after 200 mm of rain in a 24 hour period. Many homeowners had no flood insurance or very limited coverage.

Samaritans Purse Canada (SPC) coordinated the initial 3 week cleanup, with assistance from MDS ON, responding to 150 work orders. MDS made itself available for any further cleanup requests and rebuilding in high need cases. Local MDS Church Contact Persons (CCPs), Lindy Fazekas from Windsor Mennonite Fellowship and Jim Konrad from the Leamington United Mennonite Church, became the local MDS contact persons, with leadership by Martin Durksen and Nick Hamm of the MDS ON Unit. The Windsor Mennonite Fellowship provided the base for MDS and its tool trailer to assist 6 homeowners in rebuilding their basements, needed for their families and their life situations. MDS volunteers responded from the local communities as well as a significant number from the St Jacobs, Elmira and Niagara areas, providing mid-week help, and mostly on Fridays and Saturdays. From late October to mid-December, in total approximately 56 MDS volunteers responded, contributing 110 volunteer days of work, assisting 6 homeowners, as well as providing some additional assistance. Thank you for your generous support.



Volunteer groups with homeowners

### How Important are CCPs in the Work of MDS?

MDS relies on its CCPs to be the visible presence of MDS in your church and community. **Your role is to communicate, recruit and respond.** The Unit members are there to assist you. This newsletter was a suggestion from a CCP workshop, as a way for CCPs to stay informed of MDS activities in ON. **Please let us know how we are doing? Is this newsletter helpful?** **What would you like to have included in future editions?** Please email your comments to [hammnicholas@hotmail.com](mailto:hammnicholas@hotmail.com) or call 905-401-3990.



SPRING  
2017

**MDS ON CCP Workshop – Sat 12 Nov 2016 was CANCELLED due to insufficient registrants – Stay tuned for more information on the next CCP Workshop this fall in the Niagara area.**

**2017 Ontario MDS Youth Project postponed until 2018 due to construction delays.** Our goal is to partner with MCCO and the Six Nations with some projects at the Woodland Cultural Center (Residential School) in Brantford.



### New ON Canopy and Trailer

Canopy (sides not shown) will help keep volunteers dry. Keith Snyder and Aaron Neufeld (to right) assembling shelves for smaller (6 x 12) MDS ON tool trailer to be used for quicker MDS responses.



### MDS Responding to Fort McMurray Fires

In May 2016 a fire destroyed 2400 homes in Fort McMurray Alberta. 88,000 residents were evacuated and 73,000 have returned. In one part of the city, 500 of 800 homes burned. In the past couple of years declining oil prices have resulted in many workers being laid off, and the lay offs continue.

MDS will attempt to help some families/individuals who have no insurance or little insurance. A gentleman we interviewed was caring for his dying mother in a Saskatchewan hospice so he had no knowledge his policy had lapsed.

Many people who lost their homes still carry a mortgage and must make payments on that mortgage even though the house is gone. Many are also paying rent until their homes are built. A family that needs three bedrooms could be paying \$2000-2500 per month as well as continuing to pay their mortgage, likely \$2000 or more. Some families are living out of the province while the wage earners continue to live in the oil camps. This makes life very difficult for many families.

One year after the fire MDS will begin building "Ready To Move" homes in Hague, SK, that will be moved onto foundations in Fort McMurray, also built by MDS volunteers. Because of the very high cost of materials this is the most cost effective method, and allows volunteers to engage in 2 locations.

*(By Esther Buck, who with husband Glenn have been doing Needs Assessments for potential MDS clients)*



The heat from the burning homes across the street melted the siding of this home



## To VOLUNTEER for Fort McMurray or on other MDS Projects

Call: (800) 241-8111 for Short Term or (866) 261-1274 for Long Term

[www.mds.mennonite.net](http://www.mds.mennonite.net)

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

Martin Durksen – Chair 905-736-1060  
Cornelius Reimer – Treasurer 519-550-1703

Henry Weber – Vice Chair 519-577-5970  
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**Send your feedback to Nick Hamm – [hammnicholas@hotmail.com](mailto:hammnicholas@hotmail.com)**