

tained for several years between the Canadian Search and Rescue Service and the U.S. Coast Guard came into play. Soon a Coast Guard helicopter was winging its way to the San Juan, where the residents of the flooded homes were watching with anxious eyes as a combination of flood and rising tide inched the swirling waters ever higher. Lt.-Cmdr. R. S. Drury, after setting his machine down at Renfrew and sizing up the situation, threaded his way between trees and power and telephone lines to the distressed area. The mechanical sling hoist was lowered and brought up one of the younger men, who was given instructions on attaching the apparatus to the less able persons. Lowered again he assisted in the successful evacuation of the whole group, who in three trips were taken to safety at Port Renfrew. Coincidentally, Lieutenant-Commander Drury and his engineer had been engaged in similar rescue work all the previous day in the Olympic Peninsula area of Washington State, and the errand of mercy performed for their Canadian neighbors earned them the heart-felt gratitude of the distressed residents.

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The Police on the eastern side of Vancouver Island also were kept busy. Members of Duncan and Chemainus Detachments served in the evacuation of many families as the rising waters invaded their homes.

In other areas on the lower mainland also, the deluge was wreaking havoc. Two constables of Port Coquitlam Detachment on flood patrol waded into the house of an elderly couple by the Coquitlam River and prepared to take them to safety; they were too late, and were barely able to reach the temporary refuge of a pile of logs with their charges. They held their post from 10 p.m. until daybreak, when a rescue party took them off by boat.

A few miles farther east, deeper trouble had been brewing. Just north of Haney, the two branches of the Alouette River

flow west into Pitt River, on their way to the Fraser. Tumbling from the rugged mountains of Garibaldi Park, the streams pass through low-lying land between banks high enough to contain them in any normal season.

Today was a different story; the massive mountainous region to the north was being deluged with the same torrential rainfall that was causing such havoc in North Vancouver. The Pitt and the Fraser, both tidal at this point, could not absorb the added flow fast enough, and at 5 a.m. the first distress calls from residents of the low areas of the Alouette began coming into the RCMP Haney Detachment office.

Arrangements were quickly made with the municipal works department for joint and co-ordinated efforts toward the immediate evacuation of persons in danger. It was none too soon. The glutted streams had overflowed their banks and the waters were in some places now several feet deep along stretches of the roads; many homes were entirely surrounded. For the next 24 hours, the six members of Haney Detachment were to have their hands full.

One of the early calls was from a resident who feared the foundations of his home would collapse. With a small boat provided by municipal officials, Cst. A. T. Millhouse and a civilian, Ken Bruce, set out to help. On reaching the house it was found impossible to hold the boat against the current until a rope was thrown and made fast to the house. The constable then began to pull himself on the rope toward the house, and had barely reached it when a sudden swift eddy capsized the small craft. Bruce escaped with nothing more than a ducking, but considerable time was lost in salvaging his boat. Further help was called, and another Policeman with members of the Fire Department arrived later with a second boat. Using ladders to the best advantage, the two occupants of the house, with Millhouse, were successfully evacuated.