

Essential Services Must Be Maintained

By WALTER MacINTYRE
When a severe winter storm hits the Island, most of the population finds a warm place indoors to wait it out. That is, unless you are an employee of one of the organizations responsible for maintaining essential utilities or keeping highways clear.

The maintenance crews of Maritime Electric, and Island Telephone and the operators of snow removal equipment for the Department of Highways expect to be in for long, difficult hours when a storm threatens.

A Maritime Electric company spokesman said, "we can't always guarantee a supply of electricity to everyone during a storm, but we can ensure that men will be working on the lines 24 hours a day if this is necessary, to get the power flowing."

FOUR MAIN LINES

There are 2,400 miles of lines on the Island, including transmission and service lines. Four main transmission lines run from the generating plant in Charlottetown; two east and two west.

The switching station for the lines going west is at Sherbrooke and the station for lines going east is at Lorne Valley.

Should trouble arise in one of the two main lines going east to Lorne Valley or in one of the two going west to Sherbrooke, a crew reports to the switching station and makes an adjustment so that maximum possible supply can be maintained. After the switch-over is made, crews then proceed to repair the fault.

Beyond the switching stations where the single lines extend, crews must tackle power breaks at the scene because switching action cannot be taken.

Line crews usually consist of a foreman and two or three men depending on the seriousness of the trouble. These men are alerted for action as soon as a storm is expected and may be called from the comfort of their homes at any hour.

Line work during normal, fair weather, with all the climbing, moving of lines and equipment, it involves, requires a great deal of physical effort. Working on a power line or replacing a section of one during difficult weather conditions involves even more effort and the hazards are of course multiplied.

There are 40 line trucks on the island and 30 linemen. Crews are located in O'Leary, Alberton, Summerside, Charlottetown, Souris and Montserrat.

Trucks are equipped with 2-way radios to ensure rapid dispatch of crews when power failure occurs.

The Maritime Electric has four over-snow vehicles for use in winter line work. A supply of snowshoes is also on hand.

"Most of our customers understand that an all out effort is being made to keep power flowing at all times and don't complain during a storm. The company realizes the hardship a power cutoff can cause in these days of electric milkers, pumps, furnaces and many other necessities in the home and on the farm, and remedial action is always taken as swiftly as possible."

The maintenance crews at Island Telephone are another group hoping that the weather holds off until after the holiday season.

There is no method of foretelling where a storm will cause a break in the telephone line, but during a severe winter storm, crews are on standby in Charlottetown, Summerside, Montserrat and Alberton.

Telephone men like those of the electric company must expect to be dispatched at any hour during a storm.

Island Telephone has no switching facilities to assist them when a failure occurs, but they can cut back into another line in certain areas. Radio relay circuits are not as likely to be interrupted during a storm and these assist the telephone men to keep communications open.

Men who operate snow removal equipment are probably sitting on a fence, wishing for some snow so that they can get out and earn a living, and hoping it won't all come at once.

LONG HOURS

These men, when a storm blows in, will be working around the clock to ensure that roads are kept clear.

The electric company, telephone company, doctors, firemen and the people all of these serve, depend on the snow equipment men to maintain clear lifelines.



FATAL CHRISTMAS PRESENT

The sheeted body of Gary Prud'homme, 14, who was struck and killed Christmas night that struck him. Crumpled remains of the Christmas bike are in the foreground. (AP Wirephoto)

True Beauty Easily Seen

The true beauty of Christmas is easily seen in a color photo from the Holy Land showing the lovely Shepherd's Field. The picture was received recently from a former Island girl. Venice Gaudet, of Egmont Bay, who is working in Washington and is on assignment with the World Bank in Paris.

In a letter home she said "My last mission was to Iran. On my way back to Paris I stopped in Jerusalem and saw Jericho River Jordan where Christ was baptized, the Dead Sea, Bethlehem and the Nativity Grotto, Hebron the town of Abraham and the garden where Sa-

rah saw the angels. On Friday I joined a public way of the Cross along the Via Dolorosa and it was the nicest part of my visit."

ON THE JOB

A Montreal policeman walks his lonely beat Christmas Day during a storm that left more than a foot of drifting snow in the Montreal area. The snowstorm, the first major one to strike Montreal this winter, caused drifting snow which blocked streets and highways.

Thanksgiving Service To Be Held At Confederation Centre Sunday

One of the greatest single events ever staged on a Sunday in Charlottetown will be seen on New Year's Day when the city starts its celebration of Canada's Centennial with a Thanksgiving service in Confederation Centre.

Thousands of people from all over the Island are expected to visit the Centre for the service which will be brought to the expected overflow crowd through a closed circuit television setup in the Centre foyer where those unable to get into the theatre itself will still be able to be part of the proceedings.

The famous P. E. I. Regiment (Recce) Band will give a concert and this will be followed by an organ prelude and then the Processional Hymn, "O God, Our Help in Ages Past," and "O Canada."

As the notes of our national song die away Rev. Malcolm F. Herliow, president of the Charlottetown Ministerial Association, will be heard as he gives the invocation.

The part this city will take in the Centennial and the reason for the Thanksgiving Service will be briefly outlined by Mayor Walter J. Cox in his introductory remarks dealing with the occasion. The next item in the program will be the reading of the Scripture lesson (Psalm 46) by His Honor Lieutenant Governor W. J. MacDonald, and immediately after the Confederation Choir will be heard singing the anthem "The old year now away is fled."

Centering the program and pointing to the whole purpose of it will be the Prayer of Thanksgiving given by Most Reverend Malcolm A. MacEachern, Bishop of Charlottetown, and it will be followed by the Thanksgiving Hymn "Now thank we all our God." The Scripture lesson, taken from Isaiah (Chapter 66, verses one to five), will be read by Hon. Alexander Campbell, Premier of Prince Edward Island.

Focal point of the service will be the principal address to be delivered by Rev. Dr. John Sutherland Bonnell, former Chancellor who is now president of the New York Theological Seminary.

Singing of the anthem "Once to every man and nation" and God Save the Queen by the Confederation Choir. The closing prayer will be given and Benediction pronounced by Archdeacon J. R. Davies followed by the Recessional Hymn "Faith of Our Fathers." An organ postlude will conclude the services.

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Something more than mooring lines held the Georgetown trawlers to their wharves. The vessels are immobilized by the red tape of legal steps by creditors seeking to get paid for their goods or services.

Meetings started Monday and continued yesterday in which the provincial cabinet, the Fisheries Loan Board the P. E. I. Industrial Corporation are trying to untangle the snarl so that the boats can put to sea perhaps today.

When the provincial government last week took over some of the trawlers the hope was expressed that they could get to sea and the fishing grounds by Dec. 28. That is today.

Talks were in progress in Summerside yesterday, and will continue at the provincial government offices here today forenoon in the expectation that arrangements can be completed possibly early in the afternoon.

Although Gulf Garden Foods plant at Georgetown is closed down temporarily, Premier Campbell explained last week that the provincial government would take over the fishing fleet and put it into operation through the winter, partly in order to keep the crews together and partly in an effort to earn some revenue from the vessels which would otherwise be piling up insurance and maintenance costs at the Georgetown wharf.

When the trawlers do put to sea, complete with missing gear and equipment purchased and installed by the government, they will fish out of Georgetown for as long as the Gulf ice permits.

Later, it is planned they will fish for the rest of the winter out of Nova Scotia ports. The fish the crews catch will be disposed of initially to Island fish packers at dockside, and when the move to Nova Scotia waters is made the catch will be sold wherever a market offers in Nova Scotia harbors.

Summerside Man Pleads Guilty

SUMMERSIDE — A Summerside man, Frank Gallant, pleaded guilty to care and control of a motor vehicle when he appeared before Magistrate R.E. Hinton, QC, in Town Police Court yesterday.

Court was told that Gallant was involved in a slight accident when the car he was driving collided with a parked vehicle. He was fined \$50 and costs, or seven days.

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City Man Is Remanded

Robert E. Morris, 143 Great George St., appeared before Magistrate A.J. Haslam, QC, in City Police Court yesterday on a break, entry and theft charge. He was remanded until Saturday, December 31 for sentencing. The charge arose from a break at Worth's Drug Store on Prince Street.

Donald Brehaut faced an impaired-driving charge and was remanded on bail until Dec. 29. Convicted of speeding, Keith Henry Blanchard, was fined \$15 and costs or five days in jail.

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