

## Flood Strikes Duffy

by David MacKinnon

On the night of the 21st, the Physics labs and three offices were flooded when water pipes in the Biology Department froze and burst. The pipes froze when high winds that accompanied Saturday night's storm forced open the windows to the fourth floor Biology lab and filled the room with snow. The snow and cold air caused water in side the pipes to freeze and expand, bursting the pipes and covering the floor with water.

The water seeped down into the next floor and flooded the offices of professors Jammu, Wannacott, and Madan, as well as the Electricity and Magnetism lab. It then proceeded to flood the two classrooms directly below them and finally ended up in the first year Engineering room.

Professor Ed Johnson of the Biology Department was one of the first people on the scene. He arrived about 9:30 on Sunday morning to feed the animals and get things ready for Monday classes when he found the room flooded. "When I came up the stairs I could hear water running down the Physics stairs, and I didn't know what was going on."

He went to the lab expecting to find that some of the fish tanks might have flooded the lab. He arrived at the lab at the same time as Security Officer John McEntee and they went in to find out what had happened. When they entered the room, they found that all four of the window were open and the three pipes on top of the first and second benches had burst from the cold.

Meanwhile, Don Coles, Head of Maintenance, and

Bobby MacAuley, General Foreman, were passing by at about 11:00am on a routine inspection after the snow-clearing operations earlier that morning. As they passed Duffy, they saw the water coming out through the leakholes in the bricks. They went in to investigate and discovered somebody from Security was already there.

When they had the water shut off, they contacted President Eliot, Science Department Chairman Lawson Drake, and Business Manager Murray Stevenson who then contacted the Insurance Adjuster.

Both Mr. Coles and Mr. Johnson agreed that the problem was most likely

that the latches that hold the windows shut had become worn with use. In the storm, the wind would have caused the windows to vibrate enough to loosen the latches and allow the windows to fall open. It was later found that two more windows had opened on the third floor, probably for the same reason.

Mr. Coles told of a similar occurrence that took place three years ago, but that the latches had been tightened in since then. It appears that they had loosen again after that time. It was suggested by several people that the latches could be moved to the side so that in the event of a storm, the vibrations from the wind

would cause the locks to go on tighter.

They amount of damage did not seem to be great in terms of equipment lost. Harold Borstell, Lab Instructor for the Physics Department, indicated that most of the equipment had been repaired. Mr. Coles stated that the damage seemed to be confined to the ceiling tiles and electrical circuits.

It could have been worse. If the power had gone out, the circulating pump would have shut down and the water would have had time to freeze and break the pipes. This would have meant the building would have been without heat for at least the first day of classes. This had happened in the storm three years ago.

Most of the damage seemed to be suffered by the offices of professors Jammu, Wannacott, and Madan. Of

these three, Madan's had suffered the most damage. He had lost many notes that had to be rewritten or re-typed which would cost him a great deal in terms of time lost. He also suffered damage to his books and other materials. But, they said that much was saved through quick action. Plastic bags were thrown over furniture and books, and many things were moved out until the water had stopped dripping down from the ceiling and everything had been cleaned up.

On the floor below them, Don Gillis and his son helped to clean up the water that had gathered in the classrooms on the second floor and in the first year Engineering classroom. Thanks to their diligent efforts, many people were able to return to class on Monday morning without knowing that anything had taken place that weekend.

