

Some without power for 5 days after fierce, winter storm

Thursday, Feb. 9 Hydro One informed the media that only about 450 homes were without power in the Peninsula and Owen Sound areas, five days after a winter storm swept over southwestern Ontario. The storm that started as wet snow brought in freezing temperatures and was soon freezing on trees and power lines.

In Wiarton the snow started shortly after 2 p.m. Saturday(Feb. 4th), during the groundhog festival parade and most of the power outages started that night.

The weather station at the Wiarton - Keppel Airport reported that close to 60 cms. of snow fell in the Wiarton area Saturday and Sunday.

Some Groundhog Festival events had to be cancelled Saturday night

and other Sunday events were cancelled as well. Schools throughout the Grey Bruce area were closed on Monday and Tuesday and some, like the Cape Croker school remained closed for four days because of hydro problems.

While many were affected by the power outages on Saturday night, it was not until Sunday morning that people began to realize the extent of the storm damage. Trees, large branches, power lines, poles, telephone lines, were down all over the Peninsula and Owen Sound area.

At the peak there were about 25,000 people in the Grey Bruce area without power and about 100,000 province wide.

On Tuesday, a news release from Ontario Hydro said there were 60 workers

in the Peninsula and Owen Sound area working to restore power with heli-

copters being utilized in restoration efforts.

A release on Wednesday,

said there were approximately 550 Hydro One and

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Despite the damage caused by the storm, it also created some outstanding winter beauty.

other utility staff on the job, including that Penetang and Midland areas.

South Bruce Peninsula opened the Sauble Community Centre and Wiarton arena for anyone who wanted to get warm.

Mayor Carl Noble said that the roads crew and volunteer firemen were out with chainsaws to help clear trees that were down.