

Floods damage buildings, bridge

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By Tracey Doerr

A combination of warmer temperatures and rain last week wreaked havoc on area roads and at least one business.

Turner's Bridge on the 4th of Saugeen Township was closed Friday and will remain that way until engineers have a chance to look at the situation today.

"It could be closed permanently, we won't know until they have a chance to look at it," said Ron McNeil, member of the Paisley Works Department.

McNeil inspected the bridge Saturday for the Bruce County Highway Department. Most road engineers were away at a roads convention in Toronto until today.

McNeil said the west end of the bridge shifted five inches to the north when high ice levels reached the bottom of the bridge. There is normally at least 20 feet between the bridge base and the Saugeen River.

"The ice is touching the deck and it's moving it," said county roads office supervisor Gary Garland.

The situation is one that McNeil has never seen before, but it is improving.

"Now the waters are going down so it should be alright," he said.



photos by Tracey Doerr

Turner's Bridge on the 4th concession of Saugeen Township is closed after flooding caused ice levels to rise some 20 feet. Below, Bill Karcher, of Paisley walked onto the bridge Monday morning to take a look. The ice was level with the base of the bridge.

Flooding has also caused the closure of Lakeshore Recreation in Port Elgin.

Friday, ice that was piled high on the field behind the center melted and caused water to seep indoors. About four inches of water rests on the racketball court's hardwood floors. Carpet and drywall have also been damaged. The only items that have survived are freezers, weight room equipment and compressors.

"There's no insurance because it's a flood. We can't get one red cent," said Penny Collins, hospitality supervisor.

Collins is hoping cold weather will freeze the water

and the snow piles will be carted away. They are also hoping members and volunteers will lend a hand.

Any events or activities planned to take place at the center have been postponed until further notice.

In Southampton, flooding of the pond on Chippewa's golf course caused water to seep into homes on Tyendinaga Road.

Resident Wendy Grava said the drain pipe belonging to the pond was plugged by ice which caused the road and many driveways to be flooded.

"The flooding just got higher and higher until it finally broke over the road. We were ankle deep in water in our driveway and in the 14 years we've been here, that's never happened," said Grava.

Grava was away when the flooding first occurred. When she returned Saturday, some of the basement's carpet was sopping wet.

Area children helped the situation by digging trenches in the snow which allowed much of the water to escape.



Stedman's V & S Atoms: Back from left, Jamie Strong, Doug Stemmler (coach). Middle, Sam Smith, Tyler McAllister, Dieter Stemmler, Bryan Kinsman, Louis Tam, Kevin Diotte, Brett Underwood, Kory McBride, Cameron O'Malley. Front, Jeff Strong, Garrett Binnendyk, Kyle Hillis, Kyle Petronski, Barry Moss, Craig Langridge, Thomas Penkala.



Southport Optimist Bantams: back from the left, Dave Dodds, Ross Lamont, Barry Cumming, Coach Olaf Scongack; third row Jimmy Lavigne, Paul Shular, Jimmy Fawcett, Allan Lavigne, Paul Stewart; second row Jamie Scongack, Mike Cumming, Bryan Borden, Jason Arnold, Jamie Reynolds, Cris Craft; front Peter Lamont, Joey York, Danny Rackley, Curtis Dodds and Mike McDonald.