



Ingersoll

FLOOD & FRESHETS

T I M E L I N E

11 APRIL, 1856

Immense quantities of snow melt cause pond waters to rise three feet. Bridges on King, Charles and Canterbury Streets were destroyed.

24 FEBRUARY, 1860

Massive ice floes cause damage to King Street bridge.

10 JUNE, 1869

A defective sluice gate at Smith's Pond results in water overflowing the dam and banks. The large outflow resulted in damage to many homes and businesses.

25 AUGUST, 1870

Heavy rains result in creek water rising twelve feet. Mills dams broke away and bridges on King, Charles and Canterbury Streets, destroyed. An estimate loss of \$10,000.

7 APRIL, 1887

Failure of the dam at King's Mills resulted in a mighty rush of water, carrying away a large building, train tracks and the tragic death of five people. A dramatic rescue by a citizen bystander saved the life of one woman and an elderly gent floated free of the wreckage, still in his bed.

16 APRIL, 1891

Days of spring rain result in the undermining of James McIntyre's business bordering King Street and the mill race. McIntyre loses coffins and furniture to the deluge. Caskets were seen miles downstream.

4 APRIL, 1901

The dam at Manchester Mill was swept away on this day, causing damage to sidewalks, bridges and railway tracks.

5 APRIL, 1903

Continuous rain melted snow causing high water in the Thames River. Ice floes blocking the dam were removed by concerned citizens.

6 MAY, 1909

A late snow fall resulted in melt water undermining the bank of the dam at Stuart's pond. The turbulent waters affected the bridge at Canterbury Street.

26 FEBRUARY 1918

Heavy rains caused high water in many creeks, and swelling the Thames River until it touched the bottom of the Thames Street bridge. The deluge caused the failure of the dam at Smith's Pond.

26 APRIL 1937

Nearly six inches of rain fell on Southwestern Ontario in five days and the resulting flood was the highest ever recorded on the Thames River. Three bridges were swept away in the onslaught. Ingersoll Doctor J. D. MacDonald was killed rushing to aid victims of a train that derailed because of the flood. Two CN employees were also fatally wounded in the washout.

10 MARCH 1976

Spring rains and melting snow resulted in the failure of the Smith's Pond dam. The deluge of water gushed into Memorial Park and proceeded to flood many businesses and homes on King Street East.