

Advance Publicity for “Hurricane Hazel”

October 15, 1954 was the day that Toronto – and all of Southern Ontario – faced its greatest natural disaster, a massive hurricane that caused severe flooding and killed 81 people. We will look at how a hurricane forms, what Toronto was like in 1954 and then recall tales of tragedy, heroism and survival on a day that many people are still be able to vividly recall today. We’ll also look at the strong measures that have been taken since Hurricane Hazel to prevent a recurrence of the disaster.

Richard Jordan is a former President of the Etobicoke Historical Society and a former **Toronto Star** local history columnist. His feature articles on historical subjects have also appeared in the **Saturday Star** and the **Sunday Star**.

The photo below shows some Etobicoke residents on the roof of their house. Record rainfalls from Hurricane Hazel caused rivers to rise and sent a 20’ wall of water roaring down the Humber River leaving death and destruction in its wake.

