

HISTORY OF DISASTER AT LOVE CANAL

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

The name, Love Canal, became a household word in western New York in 1978, but the idea for the place that was to carry that name originated in 1836 - only 60 years after this country adopted a constitution and became a nation.

Just as the first thoughts of the place that came to be known as Love Canal began many years ago -- so, undoubtedly, the memory of that place will linger. Many fear that the chemicals buried in Love Canal will continue to produce a bitter harvest for years into the future.

The Ecumenical Task Force of the Niagara Frontier was formed to serve as an advocate for the relief of the physical, psycho/social, and economic distress of persons living near Love Canal, the first residential area in the U.S. afflicted by a non-natural disaster.

- 1836 - A U.S. government engineer surveyed Niagara County to determine the best site for a canal connecting Lakes Erie and Ontario. An area between the upper Niagara River and Lewiston was chosen primarily because the 300 foot escarpment on the Lewiston side could be used to generate electrical power. At the time, electricity could not be generated over long distances.
- 1837 - An economic depression and a series of other events postponed construction of the Canal.
- 1892 - William T. Love, a colorful entrepreneur, decided to revive the idea of a canal connecting the upper Niagara River with Lewiston. The canal was to be the focus of an industrial city of 600,000 people.
- 1894 - William T. Love's idea failed because of the great depression of 1894 and the invention of alternating current which meant that electrical power could now be transmitted inexpensively over long distances.
- 1920 - Hooker Chemical used the canal as a dump site for toxic wastes.
to
1953
- 1953 - Hooker Chemical sold the canal to the Niagara Falls Board of Education. The agreement reportedly included a disclaimer releasing Hooker of responsibility.
- 1953 - 1970 The Board of Education built a school on the land and homes were built adjacent to the Canal.

- 1970 - 1978 Several reports were made from the residents of the Love Canal area to the County Health Commissioner of noxious odors and black sludge oozing from the ground.
- January, 1978 The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) urged city officials to investigate the dump site.
- April 25, 1978 NYS Department of Health declared Love Canal "an extremely serious threat to the health and welfare of residents".
- August, 1978 Local, state and federal officials have been aware, at least since this time, that millions of pounds of toxic chemical wastes with carcinogenic or teratogenic potential are buried in former Love Canal.
- NYS began health tests in area by taking more than 2,800 blood samples.
- Plan for remedial construction at canal in attempt to contain toxic leachate developed.
- NYS Love Canal On-Site Interagency Task Force appointed to deal with Love Canal problems.
- Visit to Love Canal by William Wilcox, Federal Disaster Assistance Administration Director.
- United Way provided for temporary relocation of several families whose physicians indicated that illnesses could be aggravated by living in Love Canal area. These families not included in NYS relocation.
- August 2, 1978 NYSDOH declared State of Emergency at Love Canal. Two rings (rows) of homes closest to canal declared "imminent health hazard". Pregnant women and children under two years of age ordered evacuated and 99th Street School located a few yards from canal ordered closed.
- August 7, 1978 NYS Governor Hugh Carey offered permanent relocation of 239 families in homes "most immediately adjacent" to canal proper.
- President Jimmy Carter declared a Federal Emergency for same area (97th - 99th Streets).
- October, 1978 Remedial construction begun at Love Canal toxic waste dumpsite.
- November 21, 1978 NYSDOH confirmed contamination outside first two rings of homes.
- December 9, 1978 NYSDOH confirmed finding of dioxin, most toxic substance synthesized by man, in Love Canal area soil.

- December 11, 1978 Six residents arrested for disorderly conduct after forming informational picket to warn construction workers of possible dangers of exposure to dioxin.
- December 12, 1978 Additional residents arrested.
- Construction workers hospitalized to determine cause of body rashes. Dioxin can cause chloracne—a serious skin rash.
- February 8, 1979 NYSDOH reported "small but significant increase in the risk of miscarriages and birth defects" (twice the usual risk), and recommended temporary relocation of pregnant women and children under two years of age from wider area (93rd to 103rd Streets).
- February 20, 1979 Dr. Beverly Paigen, Roswell Park Memorial Institute, Buffalo, and consultant to Love Canal Homeowners' Association challenged NYSDOH report re miscarriages and birth defects. Her studies revealed significantly higher incidences of both than NYSDOH claimed.
- February, 1979 Concerns expressed by 2 members of First Presbyterian, Lewiston, N.Y. that churches should be doing something to help Love Canal families resulted in letter calling religious community to informational meeting (see Appendix).
- March 13, 1979 Meeting for "Religious Community Concerned for Love Canal" at Wesley United Methodist in canal neighborhood.
- More than 230 attended including H. McKinley Coffmann, representing office of CWS Domestic Disaster Coordinator.
- Following informational presentation, the Rt. Rev. Harold B. Robinson, Bishop of Episcopal Diocese of WNY, suggested formation of Ecumenical Task Force and was supported by ranking representatives of each denomination present. Motion was unanimously supported by all others present.
- March 20, 1979 First meeting of Ecumenical Task Force to Address the Love Canal Disaster at Wesley United Methodist.
- Rev. Dr. Paul L. Moore and Donna H. Ogg, organizers of previous informational meeting, appointed chairman and secretary pro-tem. Also, Task Force membership defined, name chosen, goals adopted:
1. To provide direct aid to residents.
 2. To assume the advocate role in applying political pressure.
 3. To gather and interpret appropriate data.
 4. To seek reconciliation through justice.
 5. To advocate for complete neutralization of toxic wastes.

- March 22, 1979 Dr. Beverly Paigen recommended further evacuations of families living on or near "wet areas" where they appear to be more susceptible to medical problems.
- April 6, 1979 Report by NYS Interagency Task Force on Hazardous Wastes revealed that compounds produced for U.S. Army may have been dumped at Love Canal.
- April 23, 1979 ETF membership elected officers:
- Dr. Paul L. Moore, Chairman
 Rev. James Brewster, Vice Chairman
 Mr. Roger Cook, Secretary
 Mr. John Lynch, CSW, Treasurer
- and additional Executive Board members:
- Mrs. Therese Mudd
 Rt. Rev. Msgr. Richard Graeber
 Rev. Andrew Kennedy
 Rev. Charles Lamb
 Mr. Alvin C. Ogg
- April 27, 1979 ETF Executive Board meeting with Niagara Falls Mayor Michael O'Laughlin to discuss concerns re residents of Love Canal.
- May, 1979 New dioxin results showed 6.7 ppb in yard near canal.
- Residents told there would be no further permanent relocation.
- May, 1979 Paul L. Moore and Donna H. Ogg presented statements to N.Y.S. hearings sponsored by Legislative Committee on Toxic Wastes and Interagency Task Force on Hazardous Wastes at Niagara Falls' International Convention Center calling officials to responsible action re Love Canal residents.
- Executive Board interviewed Sister Margeen Hoffmann, O.S.F., for position of ETF Executive Director. Board offered job; Sister Margeen accepted, to begin late in July.
- Added Donna Ogg to Executive Board with administrative responsibilities until arrival of director - salary an in-kind contribution of Lewiston Presbyterian.
- Located ETF office for 3 months at Lewiston Presbyterian - rental an in-kind contribution of the church.
- Hired Elizabeth Watts as part-time secretary.

May, 1979

ETF letter to Superintendent of Niagara Falls Schools appealed for careful thought re considered closing of Cleveland Avenue School which would necessitate another school transfer for Love Canal children.

ETF invited to become ad hoc member of Governor's Love Canal On-Site Interagency Task Force.

ETF report and proposal for funding prepared and submitted to CWS and denominational judicatories.

ETF accepted invitation of United Way Executive Director to serve on United Way Advisory Committee re \$200,000. N.Y.S. Love Canal grant.

June, 1979

Residents express fears that toxic fumes during remedial construction may be dangerous to health.

Reports of contaminated leachate overflowing or bypassing containment facilities continue.

Residents attempt to stop remedial work via court order until "adequate" safety plan is developed.

N.Y.S. Supreme Court Justice Norman A. Stiller orders one week temporary evacuation (renewable weekly) for residents suffering adverse health effects which could be causally related to remedial construction if the causality were confirmed by physician.

Day Care center and day camps for Love Canal area children opened to remove children from neighborhood during hours of remedial construction when escaping toxic fumes may be more severe.

Accepted offer of Wesley United Methodist Administrative Board to locate ETF permanent office there -- no rental charge.

ETF sponsored Walk of Concern thru Love Canal neighborhood.

Executive Board met with representatives of NYS agencies and elected state officials.

ETF accepted invitation to become member of Love Canal On-Site Task Force.

Encouraged letter writing campaign to government officials to inform them of the ETF's existence and goals.

Established communications with residents, helping agencies and as many WNY congregations as possible.

Conducted several bus tours of Love Canal neighborhood for out-of-state church groups.

July, 1979

N.Y. Governor Carey gave final approval to bills allowing partial property tax exemptions for Love Canal area property owners.

Remedial construction's tile drainage system became blocked preventing free flow of leachate through system for detoxification at on-site treatment facility.

Panel of federal experts including representatives of HEW (HHS) and EPA concluded that the "population in the Love Canal area has suffered certain adverse health effects as a consequence of exposure to a chemically contaminated environment."

July, 1979

ETF provided counseling and aid to residents - sometimes by referral, sometimes directly.

ETF received contributions totalling \$6,775. from local and national sources. Also recorded \$5,450. in local in-kind contributions through first half of month.

We welcomed Sister Margeen on July 23, and introduced her to community the next evening where the speaker was the Rev. Dr. Paul McCleary, CWS Executive Director.

August, 1979

Additional blockage occurred in tile drainage system around canal.

Dioxin confirmed in southern section of canal and reportedly present in Black Creek (north of canal's northern terminus).

Late in month, residents began to leave neighborhood because of severe chemical fumes in area. Under provisions established by court, N.Y.S. was required to pay food and lodging for 48 hours for family if any member's illness was believed causally linked to remedial construction. At end of 48 hours, family was expected to provide N.Y.S. with verification from physician that illness could be causally related to canal work to receive continued payment. Family then was permitted to remain away from home for one week. However, physician statements were rejected in virtually all cases because physicians' wording was unacceptable to N.Y.S.

Ultimately, 130 families evacuated.

Dr. James Dunlop, Niagara Falls School physician, recommended closing 93rd Street School (second area School) as a precaution against exposing children to chemicals determined to be present on and near school property; Board of Education accepted Dr. Dunlop's recommendation.

August, 1979

ETF moved into permanent office at Wesley United Methodist in Love Canal neighborhood, one year after declaration of state and federal emergency.

Staff hired:

Barbara Hanna, Receptionist
Elizabeth Watts, Executive Secretary
Donna Ogg, Administrative Assistant

Executive Board accepted Donna Ogg's resignation from Board and Rev. Bruce Stearns, Pastor of Wesley United Methodist, added to ETF Executive Board.

ETF staff and volunteers began to spend many hours counseling temporarily evacuated residents at motels when longer term evacuation caused its own set of problems.

August 29, 1979

ETF received request from N.Y.S. On-Site Coordinator to find housing for temporarily relocated residents for Labor Day weekend, since local motels had previous registrations to honor. ETF also requested to counsel residents in motels to "keep the lid on."

ETF secured temporary housing to accommodate up to 300 residents for Labor Day weekend.

Residents staying at motel informed ETF they would go to Stella Niagara Education Park (a Sisters' of St. Francis provincialate and elementary school in nearby Lewiston, N.Y.) for weekend, provided they were assured of returning to motels rather than being forced to return to contaminated neighborhood. On-Site Coordinator agreed to put assurance in writing to ETF at residents' request.

August 31, 1979

N.Y.S. employees left town for holiday weekend. Red Cross, United Way counselors and ETF left behind to facilitate residents' registration and all weekend questions and problems at Stella Niagara.

September 3, 1979

ETF sponsored picnic for Love Canal residents at Stella Niagara.

September 4, 1979

Former N.Y.S. On-Site Coordinator recalled to Love Canal to assist with mounting temporary relocation problems.

N.Y.S. Senator John Daly and Assemblyman Matthew Murphy, representing Love Canal area, urged governor to purchase at full market value the home of any resident wishing to leave canal area. Also challenged Federal government for "callous disregard" for residents and asked that Federal government relocate residents of LaSalle

September 4, 1979 Development, a Federal housing project in the
Cond't.

Approximately 200 persons relocated to Stella
Niagara and elsewhere during holiday weekend.

N.Y.S. relocation officials insisted upon receipt
of medical statements from residents to continue
temporary relocation, but no medical form
acceptable to N.Y.S. was available.

September 4, 1979 *ETF requested 2 week extension of temporary
relocation to have time to develop medical form
acceptable to both N.Y.S. and local physicians.*

*ETF Board officially adopted stance calling for
N.Y.S. permanent relocation of Love Canal homes
which are believed to be contaminated.*

September 5, 1979 *ETF Board and Staff negotiated for more than
10 hours with N.Y.S. officials to:*

- 1. Return Love Canal residents to motels, as
promised, and to permit school to be at
Stella Niagara.*
- 2. Work with ETF to develop medical forms.*
- 3. Consider physical and mental health of
residents in all decisions and to cease
subjecting them to intense suffering through
bureaucratic ineptitude.*

September 6, 1979 *Just past midnight, N.Y.S. began to process Love
Canal residents' registrations to allow them to
return to motels from Stella Niagara, with no
N.Y.S. decision about how long they could remain
at motels.*

*Small children were included in group of people
who awaited that decision. Two women collapsed
and were taken by ambulance to hospital for
treatment. Another had required medical treat-
ment during previous afternoon and numerous other
individuals had become extremely upset emotionally.*

September 6, 1979 *ETF received N.Y.S. agreement to work on medical
form.*

September 7, 1979 *ETF received medical form agreed to be acceptable
to N.Y.S. and local physicians. By now (Friday)
119 families had left canal area. Extension was
granted by N.Y.S. until Tuesday, 11:00 A.M., to
secure signed medical statements allowing residents
to remain away from canal area.*

- September 9, 1979 ETF Board and Staff worked through weekend to find physicians willing to go to motels to examine residents to verify continued illness.
- A Buffalo psychiatrist began examination of residents at motels, free of charge. ETF provided assistance to him. By late that evening approximately 80 persons had received signed medical forms - agreed to be acceptable to N.Y.S. two days earlier.
- September 10, 1979 ETF Staff found note tucked under office door indicating that N.Y.S.D.O.H. had decided medical forms were not acceptable and supplying alternate form.
- Deadline for submission of forms remained September 11 at 11:00 A.M.
- Two Buffalo psychiatrists began examining and re-examining residents in attempt to comply with September 11 deadline only to discover error in N.Y.S. form which permitted relocation of "illness" rather than "person". One physician gave up in disgust. The other continued to work until 112 families had received certification of illness.
- September 11, 1979 ETF presented 113 medical forms to N.Y.S. officials 2½ hours before deadline. All requirements of Spring court order had been fulfilled.
- ETF Board accepted resignation of Rev. Dr. Andrew Kennedy, Unitarian Universalist, because of transfer.
- ETF Board added Rev. Joseph Power, O.S.F.S., Stella Niagara Center of Renewal and Mr. G. Thomas Martin, Unitarian Universalist representative, to Board.
- At 4:00 P.M., ETF was advised that N.Y.S.D.O.H. had rejected 112 medical forms (all describing illness as "acute depression"), because N.Y.S. had never had a mental health epidemic. (See June, 1980)
- At the same time, Dr. David Axelrod, Commissioner of Health for N.Y.S., accused ETF and physicians of having acted in bad faith.
- September 11, 1979 Residents in motels were told they would be required to return to Love Canal homes on September 12.
- September 12, 1979 Residents refused to return to homes.
- September 13, 1979 ETF and United Way counselors assisted Red Cross who established "disaster headquarters" at St. Paul's United Methodist, Niagara Falls, to house again uprooted Love Canal victims.

- September 12, 1979 Mid-evening N.Y.S. announcement of compliance with court order secured by Love Canal Homeowners' Association to allow residents to return to motels. Justice Stiller also allowed one week for residents to secure another medical form.
- Also in
September, 1979 Burglaries occurred at vacated Love Canal homes raising fears of some who remained in canal area about wisdom of temporarily relocating.
- Team of federal doctors indicated readiness to assist with health examinations to verify illness and possible causal relationship to remedial construction. Dr. David Axelrod indicated that N.Y.S. would not accept signatures unless physicians were certified by N.Y.S.
- Local physicians began to sign medical forms for their temporarily relocated patients now that such form existed.
- October 10, 1979 Remedial construction completed on southern sector of canal.
- October 12, 1979 Dr. Janette Sherman, EPA Toxic Substances Advisory Committee, "strongly urged" relocation of Love Canal residents "as soon as possible".
- October 14, 1979 U.S. House Commerce Sub-Committee on Oversight and Investigation report criticized N.Y.S.'s handling of canal matters and supported Dr. Paigen's suggestion that additional families be moved.
- October 25, 1979 *Public Policy Committee of N.Y.S. Catholic Conference appealed to Governor Carey at ETF behest.*
- October 26, 1979 State officials announced plans to purchase homes in Love Canal neighborhood at Fair Market Value and indicated that option to leave would be open to anyone in neighborhood desiring to do so.
- November 1, 1979 N.Y.S. Legislature passed Murphy/Daly bill providing \$5 million for "stabilization and revitalization" of Love Canal area. Bill included provision for establishment of an "authority" to purchase homes and design future use of the neighborhood.
- Note: N.Y.S. Council of Churches lobbied for passage of bill at ETF request.*
- November 7, 1979 Remedial construction on central and northern sectors of canal completed. N.Y.S. indicated that funds for temporary relocation would stop on November 8.

- November 8, 1979 Many families evicted from motels assisted by ETF in securing alternate housing, but many others returned to homes. Food and counselling provided by ETF at Wesley United Methodist for evicted persons.
- November 10, 1979 N.Y.S. confirmed presence of dioxin in Black Creek.
- November 14, 1979 EPA air sampling in Love Canal area begun.
- November 14, 1979 ETF office moved from Love Canal area because of "responsibility to protect staff and volunteers from any adverse health effects caused by unnecessary proximity to Love Canal". New office located in Madonna building of Niagara Catholic High School - no rental charge.
- November 17, 1979 Niagara Falls' Mayor Michael O'Laughlin named to chair task force to establish the "stabilization and revitalization authority."
- November 28, 1979 EPA scientists returned to Love Canal to re-sample ambient air in homes.
- November 30, 1979 First meeting of Stabilization and Revitalization Task Force chaired by Mayor O'Laughlin Group will ask for appraisal of Love Canal homes.
- Also in November, 1979 ETF formally designates Attorney Barbara Morrison as legal counsel to task force.
- ETF assisted Alfred University's School of Allied Health Services, Dean Robert Love, in arranging for university taping of documentary entitled "Love Canal: A Community Under Stress".
- Various resolutions adopted by religious organizations supporting ETF's call for permanent relocation of Love Canal residents.
- Ecumenical Task Force of the Niagara Frontier (note change of name) adopts By-Laws.
- Additional persons added to ETF Executive Board included Rev. Robert Grimm (Buffalo and N.Y.S. Council of Churches), Rev. Donald Lawrence (American Baptist Churches of Niagara Frontier), Rev. Guy Peek (Episcopal Diocese of W.N.Y.).
- ETF representatives continued to provide presentations re Love Canal at request of congregations.
- ETF continued to advocate for renters lest they be overlooked in negotiations and decisions.

- November 1979
Cont'd. ETF arranged for N.Y.S. Senator John Daly to meet with residents who wish to remain in neighborhood for purpose of answering their questions - meeting chaired by Rev. Dr. Moore at Wesley United Methodist Church.
- December, 1979 U.S. Justice Department suit for \$197.5 million against Hooker Chemical and Plastics Corporation filed.
- Appraisals of Love Canal homes to be conducted in January.
- Nearly 450 homeowners requested appraisals.
- December, 1979 ETF received grant proposal request from Environmental Defense Fund for health testing to be conducted on Love Canal residents.
- ETF attempted to secure apartment buildings for long term temporary relocation for residents who cannot return to homes while awaiting state action on permanent relocation.
- ETF established close communications with Stabilization and Revitalization Task Force.
- ETF sent letter to Dr. Axelrod requesting information re charges of N.Y.S. harassment of Dr. Paigen for her Love Canal activities.
- January, 1980 Home appraisals begun.
- January, 1980 Letter sent to Roswell Park Board of Visitors indicating ETF opinion that Dr. Paigen's assistance at Love Canal has been valuable public service.
- ETF gave tentative endorsement to EDF grant proposal and sent on to CWS for possible funding.
- February, 1980 ETF sponsored Public Forum to attempt to answer residents' questions re stabilization and revitalization.
- Added Sister Joan Malone, O.S.F. to Board.
- ETF responded to public request from Stabilization and Revitalization Task Force for priority list of residents who should have homes bought. After lists were submitted to ETF by residents' groups, ETF sent priority list to Mayor and Task Force.

March, 1980

N.Y.S. indicated unwillingness to be part of "authority" to purchase Love Canal homes and consider neighborhood revitalization.

County of Niagara also indicated hesitation to join "authority".

These actions stalled forward movement on purchase of Love Canal homes.

March, 1980

Sister Margeen, Roger Cook, Sister Joan, Barbara Morrison of ETF and representatives of Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility met with Occidental Petroleum attorneys in New York City.

ETF Board had day-long evaluation with H. McKinley Coffman, CWS consultant to ETF, assisting in process.

ETF continued presentations to church groups and visiting denominational representatives.

ETF began development of volunteer advocate program.

ETF continued to express concern to all government officials for suffering of people.

Technical advisory group to ETF will be established comprising both locally and nationally recognized experts.

April, 1980

ETF advocated very strongly and in great depth for Niagara County Legislature's participation on Stabilization and Revitalization Authority.

We received major assistance in this from the Very Rev. Edward D. Head, Bishop of Diocese of Buffalo.

ETF representatives attended meeting with Peace and Justice Commission, Diocese of Buffalo.

ETF Volunteer Advocate Training provided by Nancy Freye, CRWRC.

Presentations by ETF to church groups continued.

April 29, 1980

Niagara County Legislature reached decision not to participate on Stabilization and Revitalization Agency, thereby potentially impairing that group's ability to function.

[Note: ETF advocacy had positive though insufficient impact on final decision.]

May 1, 1980

Sister Margeen attended World Council of Churches consultation at Gallneukirchen, Austria. She was one of only 25 persons from 17 different countries invited to attend.

Sister Margeen returned from Gallneukirchen with a Statement of Solidarity [see Appendix] signed by all but one participant to the WCC Consultation. The single individual who did not sign statement could not do so for political reasons.

ETF Annual Meeting included election of officers, approval of 1980-1981 budget, and decision to continue ETF response for another year, since serious need for interfaith response continues.

ETF sponsored Conference on Toxic Wastes for interfaith community called "What Is the Moral Thing To Do?" Keynote speaker for the conference was Father William O'Connell, CWS consultant to the ETF. Other representatives from industry, the interfaith community, the field of science, and government officials participated.

May 17, 1980

The EPA released during simultaneous press conferences in Niagara Falls and Washington, D.C., chromosome study contracted by EPA to Dr. Dante Picciano, Biogenics Laboratory, Houston, Texas. The results released that day indicated significant damage to the chromosomes in the blood of a number of Love Canal residents.

That announcement catapulted the Love Canal story into the front pages and TV screens of America once again. Picciano study's validity challenged later by other government experts.

May 17, 1980

Telegram sent from ETF to President Jimmy Carter requesting federal disaster declaration in view of EPA announcement of "chromosomal aberrations" among 11 of 36 residents tested.

May 19, 1980

ETF again contacted President Carter and Governor Carey requesting that they take whatever steps necessary to produce a federal declaration of disaster due to the "unbearable anguish and emotional strain" on residents caused by the continuing "inhuman response" of government.

The EPA announcement's adverse impact on the mental health of residents was area of major concern to ETF. ETF sent professional pastoral counselors, social workers and volunteer advocates to assist residents in meeting the crisis.

ETF received request via U.S. Congressman LaFalce's office from Gene Eidenberg, White House aide, to submit a plan for coordinating expected relocation effort among local social service agencies.

- May 19, 1980 Members of Love Canal Homeowners' Association held 2 federal EPA officials hostage at Association office in Love Canal neighborhood for several hours.
- May 19, 1980 Homeowners' Association requested ETF to send clergy to counsel residents in extremely distraught frames of mind earlier that day. Board members remained available throughout day in and near Association office.
- May 21, 1980 President Jimmy Carter declared the area between 93rd. and 103rd. Streets and Bergholtz Creek, and Buffalo Avenue, Niagara Falls, a Federal Emergency area.
- Residents of the area were offered temporary relocation with federal funds to be administered by N.Y.S. officials.
- May, 1980 The ETF cooperated with the United Way Outreach counselors in offering referral, counseling and rumor-control services to residents.
- Rev. Douglas Behm representing Niagara Council of Churches added to ETF Board.
- ETF, Catholic Charities and 4 residents' groups objected to elements of EPA proposed health testing and indicated that none would encourage residents to participate unless major changes occurred in protocol for testing and until permanent relocation became possible.
- June, 1980 Sister Margeen appeared with Hillis and Sandonato families, residents of Love Canal, on nationally televised "Good Morning, America" program for discussion of severe psychological problems associated with stress upon residents and their families.
- Sister Margeen, Mayor O'Laughlin and leaders of several residents' groups invited to EPA/federal agencies meeting in Washington.
- ETF representatives began attending Federal Coordinating Officer and State Coordinating Officer meetings weekly.
- Sister Margeen assisted in producing a 10 minute segment for NBC Nightly News detailing the problems faced by one woman suffering severe mental anguish in conjunction with stresses of living in a chemically contaminated neighborhood.

June, 1980

ETF arranged meeting with federal personnel and local Board of Realtors and continued to host meetings of local service agencies to discuss problems, concerns, and responses to the crisis.

ETF supported "Right to Know" legislation with WVN Council on Occupational Safety and Health pending in N.Y. Senate and Assembly with letters to 41 daily newspapers and all legislators. Bill was passed before Legislature adjourned.

June, 1980

N.Y. Legislature passed bill creating Industrial Development Agency to replace proposed Stabilization and Revitalization Task Force. Still only \$5 million available to them with additional \$15 - \$20 projected need.

N.Y. Governor Carey submitted plan including permanent relocation to White House.

The Governor and Dr. Axelrod are in agreement that a 'mental health emergency' now exists in the Love Canal area.

June, 1980

ETF remained in daily contact with many residents, service agencies, and government officials.

ETF received notice of incorporation after lengthy delay reportedly stemming from advocacy nature of ETF activities.

Father William O'Connell, in brief visit, indicated that ETF should:

1. Clearly define its relationship to CWS to insure ongoing assistance and consultation.
2. Provide for debriefing of Board and Staff.
3. Indicate in writing the purpose of Board and manner in which it can remain viable rather than becoming entangled merely in responding to inaction of government agencies.

July, 1980

Federal Relocation Task Force has been established to prepare "package" of available programs for Love Canal residents.

Plans for environmental and health tests performed by/for federal government continue to be made and discussed.

July, 1980
Cont'd.

Agency for Stabilization and Revitalization
named 3 persons to represent residents:

Rev. Leotis Belk
Mr. John Lynch, CSW
Mr. William Waggoner

and have chosen Mayor Michael O'Laughlin as chairman.

[Note: Mr. Lynch is Niagara County Director of Catholic Charities and Treasurer of the ETF.]

Center for Disease Control, Atlanta, Georgia held educational meeting re chromosome study for Love Canal residents. Intense stress of residents showed in unorderly, vocal displays at meeting.

Javits/Moynihan Amendment to Supplemental Appropriations Bill approved by Congress. Entire bill signed by President Carter. The amendment allows the President as much leeway as necessary to implement permanent relocation of residents. (As this goes to press, there is no indication about whether President does or does not intend to implement.)

July, 1980

Betty Watts assumes full-time secretarial position and Barbara Hanna accepts part-time administrative assistant position for ETF.

ETF advocated in depth and at length for full use of FEMA authority. It is ETF contention that "regulations" can and must be changed to address problems associated with Love Canal.

Experts continued to respond positively to ETF invitations to form our Scientific Advisory Board.

ETF strongly supports Presidential implementation of Javits/Moynihan Amendment.

ETF assisted, as possible, N.Y. Assembly Task Force investigating alleged Army dumping at Love Canal.

ETF and United Way Outreach counselors staff a Drop-In Center daily at Wesley United Methodist.

Rev. Donald S. Brown added to ETF Board.

ETF Report from March, 1979 through July, 1980 prepared and readied for distribution to members, funding sources, friends.

HISTORY OF DISASTER AT LOVE CANAL

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS - PART II

Events integral to the problems of chemical and hazardous wastes in the Ecumenical Task Force service area and ETF's response are highlighted in the following chronology. "A History of Disaster - Chronology of Events" from 1836 to July 31, 1980 is summarized in the 1980 Progress Report of the ETF.

August 1, 1980

United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that 20 organic chemicals and several toxic metals were detected in the blood of some Love Canal residents. Blood tests were a companion to an earlier chromosome study. Although 20 of the chemicals and all of the metals were found in the blood of some of the residents, the levels "are below those values at which acute toxic effects occur", according to an E.P.A. statement. "It is not possible to state what potential the Love Canal residents tested have for experiencing oncogenic (cancer) teratogenic (birth defects) or reproductive effects", the EPA statement said.

August 1, 1980

A \$50,000 grant announced this week to the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) will allow for completion of a study started in June on growth and maturation rates among Love Canal children.

August 1, 1980

Dioxin identified in sewers leading from the Love Canal directly into the Niagara River. State officials said they took 6 samples in the sewer lines south of Read Ave. and found 3 with levels of dioxin under 29 parts per billion, 2 with levels of 120 parts per billion (ppb) and one with 312 ppb. That compares with samples from Black Creek with a level of 31 ppb.

August 5, 1980

State officials formally told Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that the offer of a \$15,000,000, 30-year loan to resettle Love Canal families was unacceptable.

August 5, 1980 Love Canal Area Revitalization Agency (LCARA) appointed earlier to purchase Love Canal homes with federal and state funds and provide for revitalization of the neighborhood, established a "priorities committee to determine the order in which families will be relocated".

LCARA authorized Mayor O'Laughlin to choose an Acting Director, set up an office in the Love Canal neighborhood and set an October deadline for appointment of a permanent director. LCARA asked the State of New York to have a property acquisition team ready to move in when State and Federal officials agree on funding.

August 5, 1980 Center for Disease Control (CDC), Atlanta, Georgia sends team on-site to begin its two-level health testing. Telephone contacts to set up interviews.

August 6, 1980 *ETF presentation to St. James Lutheran Church in Bergholtz, "On-Going Needs at Love Canal".*

August 6, 1980 The first 10 of approximately 175 Love Canal families being housed and fed in area motels notified that their benefits have been terminated because of their failure to seek more permanent housing in apartments

August 6, 1980 State authorities discovered abnormal quantities of radioactive Cesium-137 in 99th St. School yard soil.

August 12, 1980 *ETF accepted a request for an internship for social work student, Edward Smith, from Niagara University during 1980-81 academic year.*

August 14, 1980 Love Canal residents picket Democratic Convention in New York City.

August 17, 1980 United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to make 150 Section 8 certificates available to renters of low income housing units (LaSalle Development) who want to leave Love Canal neighborhood.

August 18, 1980 EPA testing of air, soil and water started in Love Canal.

August 22, 1980 State and Federal officials reach accord in relocation funding.

August 24, 1980 Hooker Chemicals and Plastics Corp. holds Open House for community in attempt to offset adverse publicity.

- August 24, 1980 Dr. Barry Commoner, biologist and presidential candidate for Liberal Party visits Love Canal
- August 27, 1980 LCARA voted to give residents three years to sell their homes. LCARA voted to seek "clarification" from State Task Force Director, William C. Hennessey, on the availability of 3% mortgages to help residents buy new homes. LCARA moved to contract with New York State Department of Transportation (DOT) to handle Love Canal home acquisitions.
- LCARA approved 12-member priorities committee. LCARA appointed Richard Morris, a career DOT official, as temporary Executive Director of the Agency.
- LCARA set up office at 1003-98th St., across Colvin Boulevard from the northern end of the canal proper.
- September 1, 1980 *Diane Sheley joined the staff of ETF as Family and Neighborhood Services Coordinator after serving as volunteer social worker for ETF for three months.*
- September 7, 1980 Niagara County District Attorney's office orders probe into contracts awarded for the first phase of Love Canal remedial work.
- September 8, 1980 State Assembly Task Force hearings held in Buffalo to investigate reported United States military chemical/radioactive waste dumping in Love Canal.
- September 10, 1980 Federal Judge ordered that N.Y. State be made a plaintiff, rather than a defendant in the Federal Government's \$124 million suit against Hooker Chemicals and Plastic Corp. and others.
- September 13, 1980 Annual city audit revealed today that Love Canal lawsuit claims against the city government have grown from \$3 billion to \$16 billion during the last year.
- September 15, 1980 The U.S. House of Representatives begins debate this week on legislation designed to establish a \$1.2 billion "Superfund" to clean up abandoned hazardous chemical dumps such as Love Canal.
- September 17, 1980 *Sisters Margeen, Joan Malone, and Rosalie Bertell present program at D'Youville College entitled, "Religious Women Involved in the Human Concerns, Problems of Love Canal and West Valley".*
- ETF presentation to Fayetteville United Methodist Church regarding Love Canal.*

- September 19, 1980 The House of Representatives voted to establish two \$375 million "superfunds" over the next five years to deal with oil and chemical spills into the nation's waterways.
- September 20, 1980 *Members of ETF attend initial meeting of "Oxy" Shadow Board in New York City.*
- September 22, 1980 *ETF presentation at National Conference of Catholic Charities in Rochester, N.Y. Presenters: Rev. Wm. J. O'Connell, John A. Lynch, Sister Margeen.*
- September 23, 1980 House of Representatives passes \$1.2 billion "Superfund" to finance the nationwide cleanup of abandoned toxic waste sites.
- September 23, 1980 *Donna Ogg presented an opening statement on behalf of the ETF at the CECOS Hearings. Text of the statement gave the theological basis for our concern for human life, as well as protection of our soil, water and air.*
- September 25, 1980 *Eleanor Conmy of the Sabre Park Peoples' Association attended ETF Executive Board Meeting to enlighten the Board on the Chemical and Environmental Conservation Systems (CECOS) problem. ETF voted to cooperate with the Sabre Park Association.*
- September 30, 1980 *Gibson Roberts Zimba of Zambia, the Zambian Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, along with journalists from the Dominican Republic, Nepal and government officials from Sierra Leone, Egypt and Swaziland visit Love Canal.*
- October 1, 1980 *President Carter and Governor Carey sign the State/Federal relocation agreement at Niagara Falls International Convention Center. Sr. Margeen, ETF Executive Director, attends.*
- The Niagara Falls Board of Education approved a measure allowing the Federal Government to use a portion of the 93rd St. School property for environmental testing at the Love Canal.
- October 3, 1980 *Residents of LaSalle Development, low income housing at Love Canal, angered over being left out of \$20 million State and Federal Agreement.*
- Report by Stephen Lester of Clement Associates, Inc., consulting firm hired by NYS to advise Love Canal Homeowners' Association, stated that workers taking part in the remedial program at Love Canal site were sometimes needlessly exposed to danger, and government response to the chemical contamination problem was not adequate.*

- October 5, 1980 *ETF presentation at St. Peter's Church in Lockport.*
- October 6, 1980 *Residents of LaSalle Development notified ETF of possible riot ensuing over residents being left out of \$20 million State/Federal agreement. ETF in turn contacted New York State Assemblyman Arthur Eve and requested his help in negotiations with State and Federal officials. Assemblyman Eve met with residents and members of ETF Executive Board and staff until 1:30 AM and were successful in averting a riot. Subsequent action by Assemblyman Eve guaranteed \$500,000 being allocated for moving expenses of residents.*
- October 7, 1980 *An investigation into remedial work at the southern end of the Love Canal has apparently prompted the Federal Government to hold up payment of \$4 million in project reimbursements to the City of Niagara Falls.*
- October 7, 1980 *ETF Executive Board voted to go on record as being opposed to further expansion of any hazardous waste chemical and radioactive dumpsites in the Niagara Frontier.*
- October 8, 1980 *Sister Margeen presented a prepared statement for the record at CECOS hearings expressing concern for emotional and psychological trauma that could result from the proposed expansion of this NYS licensed toxic waste "secure landfill". This is the first time that Permit Hearings of N.Y. Department of Environmental Conservation have admitted testimony concerning emotional and psychological effects on persons.*
- October 9, 1980 *Four African Journalists toured Niagara County's hazardous waste disposal firms and voiced the hope their countries will be able to learn from America's problems when they begin to industrialize.*
- October 9, 1980 *The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) refused today to offer special low-interest mortgage loans to Love Canal families to buy replacement houses elsewhere.*
- SCA Chemical Waste Services, the second NYS licensed toxic waste operation in NYS - both of which are located in Niagara County - received its court-ordered permit for construction of its 5-mile waste pipeline to the Niagara River.*
- A Blue Ribbon Panel of physicians appointed by Governor Carey leveled severe criticism at bungling of Love Canal health and environment studies and said there is no conclusive evidence of adverse health effects there.*

- October 10, 1980 *ETF Executive Board and Staff played host to members of the United Methodist National Church Agencies. The purpose of the consultation was to provide an on-site evaluation of the problems at Love Canal and other environmental hazards in Niagara County. As a result of this day, the ETF received a further grant of \$10,000. to be used for Direct Aid to Love Canal residents.*
- October 13, 1980 *ETF staff members met with Assemblyman Eve, New York State officials and representatives of LaSalle Development residents at the State Office Building in Buffalo, N.Y. Purpose of the meeting was to discuss special problems experienced by the residents in trying to locate adequate housing. As a result of this meeting, New York State entered into a 30month contract with Housing Opportunities Made Equal (HOME) and Housing Assistance Center (HAC) to provide an on-site office with personnel available on a daily basis to assist the residents.*
- October 23, 1980 *The Executive Board of the Ecumenical Task Force in recognizing the dichotomies which exist between residents of the Love Canal requested the Executive Director to prepare a statement expressing the need for the Love Canal Revitalization Agency to address the issue of the future use of the Love Canal neighborhood. This statement was presented by Sister Margeen at the LCARA public meeting offering ETF assistance in carrying out responsible action in the future in whatever way most appropriate.*
- October 24, 1980 *President Carter announced he would ask Congress for a special \$3.8 million appropriation to fund health studies of Love Canal residents, which will be carried out by the State University of Buffalo Medical School and Center for Disease Control.*
- Lockport, N.Y., Landfill found to be leaking toxins into area groundwater.*
- October 28, 1981 *ETF Board toured CECOS Landfill Facility.*
- ETF Executive Board accepted with regret the resignation of Rev. Charles Lamb.*
- ETF accepted with pleasure, Rev. Richard Donoughue, representative of the Lutheran Church in America, as member of Executive Board.*

- October 30, 1980 Vice-Presidential candidate, Patrick Lucey, met with ETF Board members, staff, and volunteers for briefing on Love Canal work of ETF. He was given a tour of the Love Canal area by John Lynch and Donna Ogg, and met with residents at Wesley United Methodist Church in Love Canal.
- November 5, 1980 Federal environmental officials stated that the Love Canal treatment facility is "satisfactorily filtering out chemical contaminants contained in the leachate" from Love Canal. Sludge stored in holding tanks, however, reveals Dioxin (TCDD) in the low parts-per billion range.
- November 14, 1980 First two homes in Love Canal boundary area purchased by LCARA.
- November 18, 1980 ETF presentation at Holy Ghost Lutheran PTA meeting in Bergholtz.
- November 19, 1980 New federal regulations in effect today to monitor toxic material handling from "cradle to grave" in "properly suited" approved landfill or disposal site. (Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA))
- N.Y.S. charges that chemical wastes at the S-Area Landfill and the 102nd. Street ~~deposits~~ are two of the four landfills in Niagara County for which Hooker is charged in lawsuit by U.S. Justice Department and New York State.
- November 20, 1980 Canada's Parliament is considering a request today that the government seek a full-scale inquiry by the United States into toxic contamination of the Niagara River.
- N.Y.S. legislative aides stated this week that a search of old federal records indicates that TNT wastes may still be under thousands of acres at the Lake Ontario Ordinance Works (LOOW) in Lewiston. This announcement led both Canadian and U.S. lawyers to demand the reopening of the SCA Chemical Waste Services, Inc. Permit Hearings to expand a toxic disposal site. The attorneys claim the site overlies the pipes containing TNT.
- November 21, 1980 ETF presentation to UPCUSA Synod of the Northeast and tour of Love Canal.
- November 22, 1980 Lois Gibbs announced Love Canal Homeowners Association will end their five-month boycott of health studies.
- November 24, 1980 Senate approved a \$1.6 billion hazardous waste cleanup, "Superfund", which will do nothing to compensate individual victims.

- November 25, 1980 NYS DEC ordered to prove it was not in error when it determined last July that CECOS had properly completed its application for permits to construct and operate two new hazardous waste landfills in the Town of Niagara.
- Town of Niagara Board passed a new ordinance to control landfill operations.
- ETF accepted with pleasure, Mrs. Joann Breitsman, as Presbyterian representative on the Executive Board.*
- December 3, 1980 U.S. House of Representatives today approved a \$1.6 billion "Superfund" bill to cover the cost of cleaning up abandoned hazardous chemical waste dumpsites and spills that get into navigable water or ground water.
- The approved bill does not call for the payment of any medical expenses or lost earnings suffered by victims of hazardous waste.
- December 3, 1980 Toronto Ontario Globe and Mail carried an article stating, "The Niagara Falls area is the most environmentally contaminated in North America, and scientists now believe they have found its toxic wastes as far away as Toronto and Kingston (Ontario, Canada) "
- December 4, 1980 Niagara Falls Board of Education passed a resolution to ask E.P.A. and the N.Y.S. Health Department to investigate allegations of contamination in sewer system running under LaSalle Senior High School.
- Article in Niagara Gazette revealed how Hooker Chemical was given permission by NYS DEC to temporarily exceed its State Air Quality permit limitations from its incinerator over a four-month period in 1979. During this period, Hooker incinerated dioxin tainted leachate from Love Canal and later from another Hooker dump, the Hyde Park Landfill.
- December 10, 1980 *Ecumenical Task Force provided a Christmas Open House for residents of Love Canal. Approximately 70 children attended and visited with Santa and Mrs. Claus.*
- A representative from Citizens Against Dumping visited the ETF office seeking advice on how to prevent the development of a disposal site in Amherst, N.Y.*

- December 12, 1981 Niagara Falls Waste Water Treatment Plant begins processing sewage for the first time in more than two years. (Activated carbon beds ruptured at the plant more than two years ago, forcing the city to pump millions of gallons of partially treated sewage into the river which has 60% of the chemicals removed with the help and cooperation of the pretreatment done by the chemical plants in the city.)
- December 12, 1980 Love Canal Homeowners' Association announced today that they will close their present office on January 15th., hoping to re-establish at a later date elsewhere.
- December 17, 1980 Congress refused to pass \$3.8 million health study bill.
- Richard Morris named permanent Executive Director of Love Canal Area Revitalization Agency (LCARA).
- ETF Executive Assistant, Donna Ogg, attended Hazardous Waste Management Conference, Albany, N.Y. - a conference designed to encourage conversation between government, industry, environmentalists. (Question: Should not "church" be a participant in future conferences of this sort in order to present theological perspective?)*
- December 18, 1980 Niagara Falls Community Development Department filed a supplemental grant application for \$6.5 million in Federal money for continued Love Canal land acquisition and support.
- Sister Margeen gave presentation on Love Canal to the National Catholic Disaster Relief Committee at the O'Hare Inn, Chicago, Illinois.*
- December 19, 1980 1980 Editorial in Niagara Gazette revealed testimony to the House Commerce Oversight and Investigations Committee in Washington this week which alleged that organized crime is becoming involved in the waste-disposal business.
- December 20, 1980 1980 State Department of Environmental Conservation announced plans to close down the Niagara County Landfill in the Town of Lockport in one year. The 27.5 acre landfill has been found to be leaking toxic chemicals into the water table.
- Hooker Chemical has applied for a Federal permit to burn 200 tons a year of hazardous chemicals from the Hyde Park Landfill at its Niagara Falls incinerator.

- December 21, 1980 Editorial in Niagara Gazette revealed that N.Y.S. Health Department and Department of Environmental Conservation have promised to look into charges that leachate from the CECOS International, Inc. site at 56th. St. and Pine Avenue poses a health threat to students at various Niagara Falls schools.
- December 22, 1980 The Niagara Falls City Council has urged to press Niagara County and NYS officials for the creation of an "oversight committee" to stop the continued importation of hazardous and toxic wastes into the area.
- January 5, 1981 Niagara Falls City Council informally agreed to city participation in an "environmental oversight committee" that would be formed by local governments and environmental groups in the area.
- January 6, 1981 EPA revealed today they will not issue a statement as to habitability of Love Canal neighborhood. Test results as promised January 1st. will not be revealed until mid-March.
- January 6, 1981 *Eight Notre Dame University students visited ETF office for orientation to Love Canal as part of their experiential learning program during their semester break. They expressed amazement at the problems faced by persons in neighborhoods potentially exposed to toxic/hazardous waste disposal. One student, who will enter medical school in the Fall, has volunteered to work for the ETF this Summer.*
- January 7, 1981 The Environmental Protection Agency issued new rules requiring every hazardous-waste storage treatment and disposal facility, regardless of size, to buy liability insurance, establish trust funds or bonds, and otherwise guarantee their sites can both be closed down safely and then regularly inspected for 30 years after closure. The rules go into effect in six months.
- January 8, 1981 NYS Environmental Commissioner, Robert F. Flacke, suspends SCA Chemical Waste Services' toxic and hazardous waste disposal operating permits.
- January 9, 1981 Federal Judge John T. Elfrin issued a temporary restraining order overruling the State Department of Environmental Conservation's decision to shut down operations of SCA Chemical Waste Services, Inc.
- January 12, 1981 *ETF Executive Board members and staff held the first of a two-day Annual Evaluation at the Niagara Institute on Niagara-On-The-Lake, Ontario.*

- January 13, 1981 The New York State Environmental Board has voted to require all owners of hazardous-waste dump sites to post bonds as insurance that harmful substances will not leak into the air and ground water after the dumps are permanently closed. Operators of toxic disposal sites also will be required to post bonds against accidental leakage from operating sites, and companies that transport hazardous wastes to the dumps will have to post bond to insure against leaks along the way to disposal site.
- January 13, 1981 LCARA today approved a program to aid renters moving from the Love Canal area that includes relocation expenses and purchase of appliances.
- January 15, 1981 *Love Canal Area Revitalization Agency (LCARA) devoted time at its work session meeting to discuss the long-range future of the Love Canal area. They expressed a desire to review data available from the members of the ETF Scientific/Technical Advisory Board, in order to assess whether ETF's advisors could help LCARA in interpreting test data and making decisions on future use and habitability of the area.*
- ETF accepted second internship for social work student, Ann Druck, from Niagara University during 1980-81 academic year.*
- January 20, 1981 Governor Hugh Carey in his budget message recommended cutting more than \$1.5 million from last year's appropriations to deal with chemical contamination at Love Canal. He also asked for an \$80,000 reduction in State assistance to Niagara Falls.
- January 21, 1981 City Council declined to take part in environmental oversight committee, as previously agreed on January 5, 1981. Reason given was that the Council feared the committee might favor programs the city would object to.
- Russell Hartzler, Chairman Michigan Interfaith Disaster Relief Committee, and member of the Church of The Brethren, visited the ETF office. ETF staff gave him an orientation on the work of the ETF and a tour of the Love Canal area.*

January 31, 1981 NYS Assembly Task Force report reiterates:

- (1) The U.S. Army pumped 37 million gallons of radioactive chemical wastes into the aquifer beneath the Town of Tonawanda, during work on the World War II Manhattan Project.
- (2) Wastes from the Army's TNT plant at the Lake Ontario Ordnance Works in Niagara County were never fully decontaminated, creating the possibility of an explosion on the site. Property now owned by SCA Chemical Wastes Services, Inc.
- (3) The disposal of hazardous waste from Army and government-related chemical production contributed significantly to the contamination of Love Canal.

February 1, 1981 *ETF Executive Board authorized a letter be sent to Dr. Healy, Superintendent of Lewiston-Porter School Board offering our assistance in averting panic among parents and students.*

ETF Executive Board authorized telegrams to be sent to our legislators, Governor Carey, Commissioner Flacke, Lieutenant Governor Cuomo, and Attorney General Abrams indicating that ETF supports halting all new construction at SCA until potential TNT dangers can be evaluated.

ETF Executive Board authorized telegrams to be sent to Department of Energy and all Federal agencies to take immediate appropriate action to determine whether or not TNT is present and follow up with immediate appropriate action if it is present at the former Lake Ontario Ordnance Works site.

February 3, 1981 Five families refused to send their children to classes at Lewiston-Porter School because of their fear of the potential hazard of explosion at the former LOOW site.

ETF Executive Board accepted with regret the resignation of Mrs. Donna Ogg from staff. Donna will continue on voluntary basis to assist ETF with talks and research.

February 7, 1981 Rev. James Brewster, ETF Chairman, introduced a statement at the public hearing on the Hyde Park Landfill/Bloody Run Agreement, on behalf of the ETF, supporting the residents in their claim for health studies.

- February 9, 1981 Lewiston Councilman, Alvin Ogg, requested a re-vote on the Town's resolution accepting the proposed settlement on the Hyde Park Landfill/Bloody Run Agreement.
- The Town of Porter Board passed a resolution supporting a State proposed concept to develop high technology hazardous waste treatment facilities in the State outside Niagara and Erie counties.
- February 11, 1981 *LCARA voted to seek the advice of the ETF's Scientific Advisory Board members in determining habitability of the Love Canal community.*
- Sister Margeen Hoffmann and Mrs. Barbara Hanna gave a presentation at LeMoyne College in Syracuse, N.Y.*
- February 12, 1981 The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released today that funds for a \$1 million project to scour deadly dioxin from sewer lines in and around Love Canal have been withdrawn by the U.S. Coast Guard.
- Court of Appeals ruled today that SCA Chemical Waste Services, Inc. may discharge treated chemical wastes into the Niagara River through a five-mile pipeline across the Town of Porter. Discharge is not to begin, however, until April 15th. and is subject to State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) water quality checks.
- February 14, 1981 EPA announced today that environmental test results from Love Canal will be delayed until the end of March.
- February 23, 1981 *ETF Executive Board held the second of its two-day evaluation at the Niagara Institute on Niagara-On-The-Lake, Ontario.*
- February 28, 1981 DEC announced today that close monitoring of toxic chemicals in the Niagara River will begin this Spring.
- March 6, 1981 EPA announced a further delay in test results. Results now expected in mid-April.

March 6, 1981

ETF today received Amicus Curiae (Friend of The Court) status for the forthcoming hearings of the United States of America versus Hooker Chemical and Plastic Corporation, Hooker Chemical Corporation, Occidental Petroleum Investment Corporation, and Occidental Petroleum Corporation.

This Amicus Curiae status is a landmark in the work of an Interfaith Task Force and could be the beginning of our bringing issues of liability, responsibility and justice to bear for the first time in our courts, on the issue of hazardous wastes. It will allow us to bring pertinent information to the Judge and appraise him of issues, and also raise questions that might not otherwise be introduced.

Father Jack Keiffer, S.J., D.Sc., P.E., joined the ETF as a consultant. He will also serve as coordinator of the ETF Scientific/Technical Advisory Board and their work for the Love Canal Area Revitalization Agency.

March 11, 1981

The Reagan Administration's revised budget for fiscal 1982 provides about 20% less money for the cleanup of hazardous wastes sites (Superfund) than had been proposed by the Carter Administration in January.

March 12, 1981

Due to an error in Superfund writing, New York State will not receive credit for the \$25 to \$30 million it has spent on the Love Canal cleanup. As a result, New York will only be able to apply this credit to future work in Love Canal.

March 13, 1981

Through the Direct Aid program of the ETF, in response to the Renters' Association at LaSalle Development, a city-wide problem of utility overages in public housing was uncovered. This led to our advocacy with the Niagara Falls Housing Authority for leniency in payment for renters in public housing and further pursuance of payment for overages through H.E.A.P. (Heat & Energy Assistance Program) grant payment to the Niagara Falls Housing Authority. (As of this date, H.E.A.P. funds have not been paid to the Housing Authority.)

ETF attorney, Barbara Morrison, asked Judge Curtin on behalf of the ETF to turn down the draft now before him for a \$16.5 million-plus contract running 35 to 38 years on the Hyde Park Landfill/Bloody Run.

President Reagan announced the dismissal of EPA Regional Administrator, Charles S. Warren, head of the New York City office.

- March 14, 1981 Center for Disease Control (CDC) ordered the State University of Buffalo Medical School to close its Niagara Falls office on March 31st and mothball the records (see August 5, 1980 entry) because it is becoming increasingly unlikely Congress will release \$3.8 million for planned Love Canal health studies.
- Environmental Conservation Commissioner, Robert F. Flacke, announced that New York State will put a team of inspectors in the Buffalo area starting in July to oversee transportation of hazardous waste into the Niagara Frontier.
- March 19, 1981 *Robin Miller Productions of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, spent the day with ETF staff filming in Love Canal area for the Presbyterian Synod of the Northeast.*
- March 20, 1981 New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner, Robert Flacke, today denied a request by CECOS to build two more Niagara County landfills, but he allowed the company to expand an existing one. CECOS was given permission, however, to reapply for the permits and would be required to submit a 10-year plan.
- March 24, 1981 Officials for CECOS International, Inc. requested permission from the Town of Niagara Board to expand a present landfill.
- March 31, 1981 *Sister Margeen made a presentation to members of Operation Clean on how a health study could be developed.*
- March 29, 1981 Mr. John F. Riordan was named today as successor to Bruce Davis as President of the Industrial Chemicals Group of the Hooker Chemical Co., Niagara Falls.
- Lois Gibbs, President of Love Canal Homeowners Association, took up residence in Washington, D.C.
- April 15, 1981 Niagara Gazette reported that the Federal Government apparently plans to reject the City of Niagara Falls application for \$6.5 million to finance eight steps in revitalizing Love Canal area. (See December 18, 1980 entry).

April 22, 1981

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner, Robert Flacke, denied an expansion permit for SCA Chemical Waste Services. Commissioner Flacke said that before the State grants any new landfill permits, companies are going to have to submit 10-year plans showing how they will shift from the burial of contaminants to high-technology destruction.

April 23, 1981

Mr. Masai of Asaki (main newspaper publication of Japan) and Aileen M. Smith, co-author and photographer of Minimata visited ETF office and met with staff and residents re Love Canal and Hyde Park / Bloody Run situation.

April 25, 1981

Sister Margeen and Barbara Hanna made a presentation to the Western New York Conference of the American Lutheran Church in Medina, New York.

April 28, 1981

Sister Margeen and Barbara Hanna made a presentation to the University of Buffalo School of Social Work and also a presentation to the Niagara Deanery at St. John's Episcopal Church, Youngstown, New York.

April 30, 1981

Mrs. Janet Osborn and Ms. Fia Scheyer of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, Boston, Mass, visited the ETF's office and met with members of the Board and Staff regarding the ETF's objectives and the problems of toxic and hazardous chemical wastes in Niagara and Erie County.

The State Power Authority sold 48.7 acres of land to the City of Niagara Falls for a sludge burial site. Sale is contingent upon approval from the Federal Environmental Protection Agency and the State Department of Environmental Conservation for the city to bury the sludge from its wastewater treatment plant in a 28 acre landfill on the southern end of that property. Public hearings will be held.

May 1, 1981

Niagara Falls Mayor Michael O'Laughlin and other city leaders visited Washington today to meet with HUD leaders to push for special aid to renew Love Canal area. (See April 15, 1981 entry).

HUD agreed to allow the city to rework and refine their proposal, cutting the dollar amount and number of priorities.

May 1, 1981

The Mayor also will have a chance to redefine and strengthen his argument that Love Canal qualifies as a disaster area.

May 4, 1981

Sister Margeen made a presentation to Lutheran Council in the U.S.A. in Cincinnati.

May 6, 1981

The Federal and State Governments filed a joint lawsuit against the City of Niagara Falls to repair its wastewater treatment plant and to stop discharging polluted wastewater into the Niagara River.

New York State Senate passed a bill which will allow municipalities to hire their own expert to monitor local chemical dumps or treatment centers at the cost of those using the facility.

May 7, 1981

Vandalism discovered today to SCA Chemical Waste Services, Inc.'s 5-mile waste-discharge pipeline which was to begin tomorrow to discharge the first of some 7 million gallons of detoxified chemical wastes into the Niagara River. Damage estimated at \$50,000 caused by holes punched in the pipeline.

May 11, 1981

Arson is blamed for two fires at two vacated Love Canal homes.

May 13, 1981

CECOS International Inc. and Rochester Gas and Electric Co. announced plans to build a sprawling chemical-waste disposal and treatment complex on the shores of Lake Ontario between Rochester and Syracuse.

May 14, 1981

The LCARA voted to call on the state to remove the green fence that surrounds the Love Canal site and to demolish the first two rings of homes:

In what was described as a "vote of confidence for the area", the Executive Director of the Love Canal Area Revitalization Agency (LCARA), Richard Morris, announced plans to purchase a home in the Love Canal neighborhood.

May 15, 1981

Contract was signed between ETF and LCARA for consulting services by ETF Scientific/Technical Advisory Board on EPA test results.

- May 17, 1981 *Sister Margeen with Stan Wirsig, Environmental Management Council, gave a presentation in the Emmanuel United Methodist Church, Lockport concerning "The Human Aspects of Environmental Problems".*
- May 19, 1981 *The Niagara County Legislature agreed to ask State and Niagara Falls officials to include homeowners on Deuro Drive, Mueller Court and Brookhaven Drive in state legislation that awarded others in the designated Love Canal area county, city and school tax rebates. Their motion also asks the Niagara Falls City Assessor to review property assessments on the three streets on the northeastern edge of the Love Canal. (The three streets were excluded in the Emergency Declaration)*
- ETF Executive Board voted to send a communication to Richard Morris, Executive Director of Love Canal Area Revitalization Agency, advising him that his intended move into the Love Canal neighborhood was thought to be premature until habitability is established. At this point, adequate data is not available to declare the neighborhood habitable.*
- May 20, 1981 *United Cerebral Palsy Association and the Association for Retarded Children announced plans to enter into a joint contract to do lawn cutting and maintenance in the Love Canal neighborhood for LCARA.*
- May 22, 1981 *Sister Margeen attended a Press Conference at Oil and Chemical Workers Union where Assemblyman Joseph Pillittere distributed the "Right-to-Know Bill"*
- May 27, 1981 *Sister Margeen, Roger Cook, Diane Sheley, met with Mr. Tom Glair of Association for Retarded Children and Mr. Joseph Mineo of the United Cerebral Palsy Association re the advisability of accepting a contract for lawn maintenance at Love Canal.*
- May 29, 1981 *City of Niagara Falls submitted a revised proposal to HUD for aid for Love Canal in the amount of \$780,000. (See May 1, 1981 entry).*

June 2, 1981

ETF sent an urgent telegram to Governor Hugh Carey, Senator Daniel Moynihan, Senator Alfonse D'Amato, Congressman John LaFalce, Senator John Daly, Assemblyman Matthew Murphy and Assemblyman Joseph T. Pillittere, requesting an immediate release of the EPA air, soil and ground water testing of Love Canal.

Sister Margeen and Sister Joan Malone taped a television program for Person to Person, Channel 29.

June 3, 1981

Love Canal residents temporarily located at Falcon Manor were notified by the Love Canal Area Revitalization Agency that they must vacate the premises by June 30, 1981.

June 5, 1981

Rev. James Brewster and Sister Margeen met with Mayor Michael O'Laughlin, as directed by the Executive Board, to discuss the lack of adequate low income housing available for tenants of Love Canal.

June 6, 1981

Congress has voted to approve \$950,000 to carry out an abridged version of the \$3.8 million Love Canal health study.

Richard Morris, Executive Director of the Love Canal Area Revitalization Agency, announced plans to move into a house in Love Canal on July 1, 1981.

A General Meeting of the ETF was held at First United Methodist Church in Niagara Falls.

ETF Executive Board accepts with regret the resignation of Rev. Bruce Stearns.

June 9, 1981

An apparent second act of sabotage on the SCA Chemical Wastes Services Inc. pipeline was discovered today. (See May 7, 1981 entry).

June 10, 1981

Mr. Paul Argenti and Ms. Eva Lind Schetector of Amos Tuck Business School, Dartmouth, Hanover, New Hampshire, visited the ETF office for orientation on Love Canal and Hyde Park/Bloody Run. Mr. Argenti will prepare a case study for the Business School.

June 11, 1981

The CBS News Magazine, "60 Minutes", came to the Niagara Falls area to do a program on pollution in the Niagara River.

- June 11, 1981 State Health Officials released results of a study they conducted at the Love Canal which shows that residents there faced a higher occurrence of lung cancer than in average neighborhoods nationally.
- June 12, 1981 *The Western New York Conference of the United Methodist Church voted today to abandon the Wesley United Methodist Church in Love Canal as of July 1, 1981.*
- June 15, 1981 Almost three years after the first applications were filed, SCA Chemical Services Inc. opened the valves today, releasing the first liquids through its controversial chemical waste pipeline.
- The Canadian research ship, the Advent, was in the lower Niagara River to monitor the river discharge.
- Of special concern to Canadians is the ability of wastes to dilute with river water before reaching drinking water intakes at Niagara-On-The-Lake, Ontario.
- Aquatic biologists from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation were also on hand with a mobile laboratory to monitor the toxicity of the discharge.
- June 18, 1981 Congressman John LaFalce replied to ETF telegram asking for EPA test results in Love Canal. (See June 2, 1981 entry). "... It now appears as if the environmental assessment will not be released until mid-summer at the earliest. I consider the long delay in releasing their report unconscionable."
- June 22, 1981 *At the request of Mayor Michael O'Laughlin, and responding to the relocation needs of the large low-income families in Love Canal, the ETF presented a housing study to the Niagara Falls City Council. The impact of this study was acceptance of twelve substantially rehabilitated units of scattered site housing. His housing will allow large families, who now feel trapped at Love Canal to relocate.*
- June 23, 1981 *ETF Board member, Sister Joan Malone, OSF, was keynote speaker and Barbara Hanna, ETF Administrative Assistant, participated on a panel discussion for the General Assembly of the Sisters of Saint Joseph in Buffalo, New York.*

- June 26, 1981 City of Niagara Falls application for federal money to help renovate the Love Canal area, under HUD's community development program, was denied. (See April 15, 1981 entry).
- June 28, 1981 *ETF Board members and Staff attended the closing "celebration" service at Wesley United Methodist Church. Wesley members "celebrated" the past opportunity of their ministry and the on-going ministry of their members as they join other churches in the area. (See June 12, 1981 entry).*
- July 1, 1981 *The ETF filed a joint Amici Curiae brief with Pollution Probe of Toronto, Ontario and Operation Clean-Niagara, with Federal Judge John T. Curtin, stating the proposed settlement agreement for Hyde Park Landfill is fundamentally defective and unable to accomplish its intended purpose of providing protection for human health and environment. (See March 6, 1981 entry).*
- July 2, 1981 The State Department of Environmental Conservation applied for a \$1 million grant from the U.S. EPA to build a pilot plant, possibly on the Niagara Frontier, to treat wastes from Love Canal.
- July 4, 1981 Three citizen representatives on the Love Canal Area Revitalization Agency protest move by Richard Morris into Love Canal house. They contend Morris should have waited until EPA test results were made public.
- July 8, 1981 Local industry accidentally discharges large quantities of Phenol into the Niagara River.
- July 9, 1981 *ETF issues press release stating its support of the position that neither the LCARA agency director nor anyone else should move into the Love Canal neighborhood until scientific and technical evidence indicates such a move does not jeopardize health, safety or welfare of individuals.*
- July 11, 1981 Results of DEC testing at LaSalle Senior High School shows no particular problem (see December 4, 1980 entry).
- July 16, 1981 The EPA announced it will spend \$4 million in "Superfund" money for a major sewer and creek cleanup project at Love Canal.

July 16, 1981

Members of ETF Executive Board attend meeting at John's Hotel Niagara held by New York State Attorney General's office relative to negotiation proceedings between the United States of America and the State of New York against Hooker Chemicals & Plastics Corp., Hooker Chemical Corporation, Occidental Petroleum Investment Corporation, Occidental Petroleum Corporation, and the City of Niagara Falls, New York, dealing with the S-Area Landfill. Marsha Cleveland of the Attorney General's office stated that, "Western New York is designated as a sacrifice area for corporate health".

July 17, 1981

CECOS International Inc. given permission by DEC to proceed with construction of two new landfill sites for toxic chemical wastes at its 100-acre Town of Niagara site. (See March 20, 1981 entry).

July 21, 1981

ETF played host to 12 college students and 3 professors from St. Lawrence University in Canton, N.Y. Five former Love Canal residents assisted Sr. Margeen in relating the Love Canal events.

July 25, 1981

Sister Margeen presented statement at OSHA/Clean Air Coalition press conference at Tiffit Farms supporting Clean Air Act.

July 28, 1981

In response to Amici Brief of ETF (see July 1, 1981 entry), Hooker Chemicals & Plastics Corporation stated in a Brief filed with Judge Curtin: "That plan cannot be taken seriously, and Hooker will not be voluntarily associated with any remedial effort which includes such a plan."

August 5, 1981

Niagara Gazette article quotes Mayor O'Laughlin, Chairman of Love Canal Area Revitalization Agency, as saying ICARA can no longer wait for the federal government to release its long-delayed report on environmental conditions in the Love Canal area and will begin its renewal planning this month. Mr. O'Laughlin said he envisions the Love Canal area eventually returning to its previous status, a generally residential area consisting mainly of single-family homes.

August 6, 1981

Federal Judge John Curtin announced his decision to schedule a public hearing to air the terms of a proposed settlement in the Hyde Park Landfill lawsuits.

August 6, 1981

The State University of Buffalo Medical School sought \$1 million from the federal government to maintain a long-term watch on the health of Love Canal residents, but it disclosed today that the bid was rejected.

EPA representatives, Kenneth Stoeller and Dr. John Deegan, announced at a Love Canal Area Revitalization Agency meeting that a \$4 million Superfund-sponsored clean-up of sanitary and storm sewers, Black Creek and Bergholtz Creek, in the Love Canal area will begin in the spring of 1982. The entire program will take two to three years to complete. (See July 16, 1981 entry).

August 8, 1981

Niagara Gazette reported that excavation inside a building at TAM Ceramics, Inc. has led to the discovery of chemical migration from Hyde Park Landfill to the north. Robert Matthews, City Utilities Director, theorized that wastes from the landfill were entering the city sewers through the TAM sewer system.

August 23-25, 1981

Sister Margeen participated in the North Smithfield Ecology Festival in North Smithfield, Rhode Island.

ETF Executive Board votes to assume Intervenor Status in the S-Area suit.

August 29, 1981

DEC announced that faced with legislative and federal aid cutbacks it has scrapped its program to clean up scores of abandoned toxic waste sites in Erie and Niagara counties. Dropping of the hazardous-waste program comes at a time when the state has identified 150 sites within 3 miles of the Niagara River which potentially could be contributing to toxic contamination of the international waterway.

September 3, 1981

Ms. Ann Druck and Mr. Vincent Scherber, students in the Niagara University School of Social Work, began their field placement with ETF.

September 4, 1981

Niagara Gazette reports seven tons of formaldehyde was accidentally discharged into the Niagara River by an area industry. Formaldehyde, usually sold in liquid form blended with methanol - is considered a "moderately dangerous" fungicide that is suspected carcinogenic according to industry experts.

September 8, 1981

ETF accepted with pleasure, Father Joseph Levesque, Dean of Studies at Niagara University, as an at-large member of the ETF Executive Board.

September 9, 1981 Hearings commenced in Federal Court on the proposed agreement between the U.S. Justice Department and Hooker Chemicals and Plastics Corp., relative to Hyde Park Landfill/Bloody Run (See August 6, 1981 entry).

September 15, 1981 As we go to press:

The hearings on the proposed settlement agreement between U.S. Justice Department and Hooker Chemicals and Plastic Corporation will continue October 1, 2, 5 and 6th. in U.S. District Court before Judge Curtin.

The EPA test results in the Love Canal area are still not available.

"In adopting SEQR (State Environmental Quality Review Act), it was the Legislature's intention that all agencies conduct their affairs with an awareness that they are stewards of the air, water, land, and living resources, and that they have an obligation to protect the environment for the use and enjoyment of this and all future generations."

Part 617, Adopted Sept. 1, 1978

SEQR Amendment, Dec. 12, 1978

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Chronology

1981-1984

*So if we sell our land,
love it as we've loved it.
Care for it as we've cared for it.
Hold in your mind*

*the memory of the land as it is when you take it.
And with all your strength, with all your mind,
with all your heart, preserve it for your children
and love it---as God loves us all.*

Chief Seattle -1854

At a tribal assembly
in western Washington
where Indian and government
representatives were preparing
to sign land treaties.

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS - PART III

Events integral to the problems of chemical and hazardous wastes in the Ecumenical Task Force service area and the ETF's response are highlighted in the following chronology. "A History of Disaster - Chronology of Events" from 1836 to September 15, 1981 is summarized in the 1980 and 1981 Progress Reports of the ETF.

- September 17, 1981 Sister Margeen and Barbara Hanna gave a presentation to the Contemporary Environmental Issues class at Niagara County Community College.
- September 21, 1981 The federal government announced it will conduct a limited study of present and former Love Canal residents in an effort to determine whether the landfill had an adverse effect on the residents' health. Budget cutbacks prohibit the much more comprehensive study promised 18 months ago.
- September 23, 1981 Five students from Sweden visited the ETF office for orientation and discussion of the hazardous and toxic chemical environmental problems on the Niagara Frontier.
- September 27, 1981-
September 29, 1981 ETF sponsored a National Consultation, "Perspectives On A Long-Term Disaster." Attendees were national Judicatory/Diocesan personnel.
- September 29, 1981 The Love Canal area Revitalization Agency (LCARA) named six members of a proposed 12-member advisory committee that will recommend what improvements should be made to the Love Canal neighborhood if the area is determined to be safe.

October 5, 1981

E. Grant Anderson presented testimony for Amici at Hyde Park hearings. Mr. Anderson, a hydrogeologist, stated that chemicals from the landfill had leaked through the gorge wall (approximately 2,000 feet from the landfill) into the Niagara River. This conflicts with other witnesses presented by state and federal attorneys, who insisted there was no evidence of contamination along the gorge wall.

October 6, 1981

Final day of testimony in the Hyde Park Hearings.

October 12, 1981

New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) released a report entitled "The Ravaged River" in which it charged that state and federal agencies are permitting industries and municipalities to dump 500 million gallons of toxic chemicals into the Niagara River daily, posing a "serious threat to public health."

October 16, 1981

ETF Attorney, Barbara Morrison, petitioned Judge Curtin to force the Hooker Chemical and Plastic Corp. to trial in the Hyde Park landfill case even if it means five or six years of litigation. Morrison contended that the settlement agreement as it stands would free Hooker from future suit in return for a cleanup that would not reach the dangerous toxics that are entering the Niagara River 150 feet below the rock strata where Hooker can end its tests.

State and Federal attorneys promised to begin an immediate testing program in the Niagara River gorge below the Hyde Park landfill. (See February 28, 1982 entry.)

March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation has issued suggested guidelines for studies of health problems associated with disasters like those at Love Canal. The book is dedicated to "the residents, past and present, of the Love Canal of New York State," and is entitled, Lest You Think It Was In Vain.

October 21, 1981

Sister Margeen gave a presentation at a Niagara University School of Social Work Seminar.

October 27, 1981 Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta announced it will conduct a \$400,000 study on a small number of Love Canal residents and former residents to see if exposure to chemicals can be linked to genetic damage.

October 28, 1981 Two employees of New York Telephone filed grievances when they refused to work at Love Canal. Both employees stated they got headaches, their eyes became irritated and they developed rashes while working in the eight-foot-deep trench immediately outside the fenced-in portion of Love Canal between 97th. and 99th. Streets along Frontier Avenue.

November 9, 1981 Niagara Gazette revealed that the Executive Director of the Love Canal Area Revitalization Agency signed a legal document which removes the right of the Morris Family to sue the agency for any health problems or property loss "which may arise because of chemical contamination."

November 10, 1981 ETF Executive Board and Staff participated in a full day planning session to develop goals and objectives for 1982.

November 11, 1981 The first progress report on the review of available Love Canal documents by the ETF, under terms of their contract with the Love Canal Area Revitalization Agency, was presented to members of LCARA.

November 17, 1981 Sister Margeen gave presentation to Southshore Rotary Club, Blasdell, N.Y.

November 19, 1981 Rev. James Brewster, Sister Margeen, and Barbara Hanna gave a presentation to the Board of Buffalo Area Metropolitan Ministries (BAMM).

November 20, 1981 The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency plans to construct an impermeable concrete wall around the Love Canal.

November 30, 1981 ETF Executive Board accepted the resignation of Elizabeth Watts as Executive Secretary. Elizabeth and her husband, Admiral, will take up residence in Reynoldsburg, Ohio.

December 12, 1981

It was disclosed today that David Twedell, EPA witness, testifying on hydrogeology and the effects of ground-water flow, misrepresented his academic credentials to the court in the Hyde Park hearings. In an affidavit submitted to the court, Twedell stated he had a Bachelor of Science degree and Doctoral degree in geology from the University of Houston in Clear Lake, Texas; whereas official records of the University indicate that he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in physical science only.

Attorneys for the Department of Justice and the EPA requested that the testimony of David Twedell be withdrawn from consideration because "Twedell's testimony was not essential to approval of the agreement." ETF attorney, Barbara Morrison, objected to the motion since Twedell was the only witness on hydrogeology for the government.

Patricia Brown joined the staff of ETF as Executive Secretary.

G. Thomas Martin read an ETF Executive Board statement at the opening of SCA public hearings in Youngstown, N.Y.

December 2, 1981

The Rev. Guy Peek, Sister Margeen, and Barbara Hanna met with the funding committee of the Episcopal Ventures In Faith fund at the Diocesan House in Buffalo, N.Y. As a result of the meeting, Ventures in Faith granted \$6,000 in support of ETF endeavors.

December 3, 1981

Courier Express reported that David Twedell, a governmental witness under federal investigation for allegedly falsifying his academic credentials is the same man who supervised the installation of 20 to 30 percent of the environmental monitoring wells at Love Canal.

December 6, 1981

Students from a Norwegian Folk School visited the ETF office. They stayed in the area for approximately two weeks and visited ETF several times as they sought data on the hazardous and toxic chemical environmental problems of the area.

December 22, 1981

Niagara Gazette reported that Mirex has been detected in dust collected at the Tam Ceramics Inc. building adjacent to the Hyde Park landfill. Also, Tam has been required to carefully monitor and clean its sewer lines because the system has been infiltrated by migrating Hooker chemicals. Those chemicals cannot be properly treated at the city's ailing sewage treatment plant.

Sister Margeen gave a presentation to Immaculata High School students in Hamburg, New York.

January 13, 1982

Mrs. Terri Mudd, Sister Margeen, Barbara Hanna, and Pat Brown gave a presentation to the St. Catherines Diocesan Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada at St. Thomas More Roman Catholic Church in Niagara Falls, Ontario.

January 22, 1982

Rev. James Brewster, Father Jack Kieffer, and Sister Margeen met with Mayor O'Laughlin, Chairman of the Love Canal Area Revitalization Agency, to discuss timeframes and procedures for evaluation of EPA Love Canal Environmental Monitoring Study when it is released.

January 29, 1982

Attorney General Abrams today filed a \$200 million suit against Hookerd Chemical and Plastics Corp. charging "that the mishandling of toxic chemicals at the Buffalo Avenue chemical plant has contaminated the Niagara River."

February 17, 1982

Lois Gibbs movie aired in our area, entitled: "Lois Gibbs and the Love Canal".

February 18, 1982

Sister Margeen, Barbara Hanna, and Vince Scherber gave a presentation at Niagara County Community College.

February 28, 1982

U.S. Justice Department confirmed the presence of chemical contamination in the Niagara River gorge below the Hyde Park landfill. Testing was done on October 16, 1981 as promised during the hearings in federal court before Judge Curtin. Contamination was also detected 7,000 feet north of the landfill.

March 1, 1982 Niagara Gazette reports that New York State attorneys have agreed to begin negotiations aimed at settling the S-Area \$200 million suit filed January 29, 1981 against the Hooker Chemicals and Plastics Corp.

March 2, 1982 "Team Building" retreat was held by ETF Board and Staff at Stella Niagara.

March 18, 1982 General Task Force meeting was held at ETF office.

March 30, 1982 U.S. District Judge John T. Curtin approved the cleanup plan for the Hyde Park landfill.

April 13, 1982 Barbara Hanna, Pat Brown, and Roger Cook gave a presentation to St. Paul's Chippawa United Church women in Niagara Falls, Ont.

April 20, 1982 Sister Margeen and Barbara Hanna attended workshop in Cleveland, Ohio sponsored by Great Lakes Tomorrow.

April 21, 1982 Sister Margeen, Barbara Hanna, and Pat Brown gave presentation to class from Niagara County Community College at Lockport Senior High School.

April 22, 1982 ETF received a telephone call from Mrs. Colleen Zybala requesting help for the citizens living near the Hooker Durez plant in North Tonawanda. Dioxin had been discovered in a storm sewer just outside the plant property and is suspected to be leaching from the plant site. Mrs. Zybala also reported a March 1982 chlorobenzene spill in the area.

April 23, 1982

Sister Margeen, Barbara Hanna, and Vincent Scherber of ETF visited the Zybala home and met with several residents and Mayor Betty Hoffman of North Tonawanda. ETF offered to the groups: organizing assistance, help with sampling and/or technical advice, legal advice if the citizens wanted to invite the ETF attorney to help them, clergy presence and a place to meet in a church in the North Tonawanda area, and clergy and other professional counseling when needed.

An evening meeting was held with concerned residents of North Tonawanda, Sister Margeen, Barbara Hanna, Rev. Dr. James Brewster, President of ETF Board of Directors, and ETF attorney Barbara Morrison. As a result of this meeting, the residents formed the Durez Area Residents Association (DARA) and planned to set up a temporary office at the ETF facility.

April 28, 1982

ETF Board Members and Staff participated in Western New York Conference American Lutheran Church DSMA at Stella Niagara.

May 1, 1982

ETF Board Members and Staff gave presentation at American Lutheran Church convention at the Niagara Falls International Convention Center.

May 6, 1982

Hooker agrees to purchase the nine homes surrounding the Hyde Park landfill. Purchase offers will be made within 120 days and property owners will have 60 days to decide on the offer, with the closing to take place within 90 days after acceptance. Hooker said the purchase offer "plus 10 percent for contingencies" would be based on a Fair Market Value to be established by independent appraisers. The company said there would be no reduction in values simply because the homes are near the landfill.

May 8, 1982

ETF Board Members and Staff attended a public forum, arranged by the Durez Area Residents Association, with Federal, State, and local officials on what has been and will be done to remedy the potential danger to the safety and health of the Durez area of North Tonawanda.

May 21, 1982

Hooker (Durez) refused to sign a consent order for testing with New York State because they felt that a stipulation inserted by Health Commissioner Axelrod was "premature and unwarranted". That stipulation would have required Hooker to engage a consultant to prepare a plan to collect information that would identify any possible exposure, risks of health effects resulting from off-site migration of chemicals.

DEC Commissioner Flacke ordered an enforcement hearing to compel Hooker to sign the consent order.

Hooker contended that dioxin found in storm sewers did not come from Hooker Durez waste dumps but from flyash storage sites.

May 26, 1982

Sister Margeen addressed the St. Catharines Diocesan Council, the Catholic Women's League of Canada, in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada.

June 7, 1982

Rev. Richard Donoughue made presentation at Lutheran Church of America Convention, Cazanovia, N.Y.

Antioch College students from Ohio visited ETF office.

June 17, 1982

The first of 227 Love Canal homes is demolished. The bulldozers piled the debris in its basement and then the hole was covered with a clay cap.

Sister Margeen and Barbara Hanna gave presentation to 5th. grade students at Errick Road School, Town of Wheatfield, New York.

June 21, 1982

Nine families near the Hyde Park landfill received an offer for appraisal and purchase of their homes from Hooker Chemicals and Plastics Corp. In their letter, Hooker stated, "The (purchase) offer will provide, if accepted, that you release any claims against Hooker for any property loss or damage relating to the Hyde Park landfill."

July 9, 1982

Nine Sisters of St. Francis from Rochester, Minnesota, visited the ETF office.

The DEC found dioxin at levels of 71 parts per trillion in a storm sewer on Wilson Ave. north of the Durez plant site. DEC was surprised to find dioxin north, since it believed water flowed in a southerly direction from plant property. Hooker contended the DEC consultant's dioxin analysis had been done improperly.

July 12, 1982

A total of eight workers involved in the cleanup of the Love Canal suffered skin disorders, according to an internal State Health Department document obtained by the Niagara Gazette.

New York State Attorney General Robert Abrams revealed state test results of two now vacant Love Canal homes (inner ring). These tests revealed the first documented proof that dioxin had migrated into canal area homes. Dioxin was detected at 17.2 parts per million. In addition to dioxin, scientists discovered other dangerous chemicals, including C-56, lindane and trichlorophenol in soil and water samples collected throughout the neighborhood.

July 14, 1982

EPA report on Love Canal released. The report concluded:

Habitability: Most of the Love Canal neighborhood beyond the first two rings of homes is free of significant contamination and can be revitalized with little fear for safety of residents.

Extent of Migration: Test confirmed high dioxin levels in inner ring homes on 97th. and 99th. Streets, but there is no contamination in outer ring area.

Effectiveness of Remedial Efforts: The 1978-79 remedial program to seal the dump with clay cap and trap leaking chemicals in a drainage system has effectively stopped chemical migration.

Future Remedial Work: The EPA has announced plans to clean area sewers and the Black and Bergholtz Creeks as recommended in the report to ensure safety. Federal "superfund" money will be used for the cleanup.

July 28, 1982

St. Lawrence University students visited ETF office.

August 18, 1982

The EPA noted Durez is among 1 of 15 major dischargers along the Niagara River and that Durez discharges are above acceptable levels. The EPA is assisting the New York State DEC in developing permits to control liquid discharges.

September 15, 1982

ETF made a presentation to the Love Canal Area Revitalization Agency calling for more independent scientific review of the EPA report and requested the agency to open public hearings and acknowledge clearly its responsibility. Short of that, the ETF announced it had no other recourse but to advise church members in Western New York not to move into the Love Canal area.

Charging that the Love Canal Area Revitalization Agency Board had been illegally reorganized to prevent citizens' representatives from objecting to policies, William Waggoner resigned from the Board.

September 16, 1982

The Niagara Falls Board of Education voted to deny the state permission to demolish the 99th. Street School. Niagara Gazette reports that according to a resolution passed by the Board of Education, "the Board cannot justify granting permission to demolish the school without adequate compensation."

September 30, 1982

It was announced that the NYS Attorney General plans to file a multimillion-dollar lawsuit against Hooker Chemicals and Plastics Corporation to force a toxic chemical cleanup and containment project at its Durez Division plant.

October 4, 1982

Sister Margeen talked to Governor Carey's aide, Henry Williams, to inquire about Carey's position on the Durez situation. Mr. Williams indicated he was unaware of any problems at Durez.

New York State Attorney General Robert Abrams told Governor Carey today that the state should not adopt a policy encouraging "revitalization" of the Love Canal area, for fear of contributing to a "second Love Canal at Love Canal."

October 7, 1982

The first phase of work under the Hyde Park Settlement Agreement commenced.

October 16, 1982

Dr. James Dunlop blames remedial activity at the Hyde Park landfill as cause of 14-year-old girl's medical problems. In a letter to Attorney Lewis Steel, Dr. Dunlop stated, "It appears to me that (her) symptoms are caused by chemical fumes emanating from the Hyde Park landfill."

Colleen Zybala of DARA and an ETF Board Member Roger Cook spoke at New York State Sociological Association meetings on the Durez situation.

October 17, 1982

Attorney Lewis Steele requests the State Health Department to begin air monitoring in the area of the Hyde Park landfill immediately because of reported resident health problems.

October 20, 1982

Sister Margeen, Barbara Hanna, and Pat Brown attend Conference on Health Hazards of Synthetics in Albany, N. Y.

- October 22, 1982 Colleen Zybala of DARA and an ETF Board Member spoke briefly to Dr. Barry Commoner about the Durez problem, in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.
- October 25, 1982 The DEC and DOH held a meeting in Buffalo with Durez Area Residents. A number of residents had complained that strong, often irritating, odors (attributed to the Durez facility) were frequently present in the neighborhood, especially early in the morning. State officials said they would try to make air monitoring tubes available.
- October 28, 1982 As reported in the Niagara Gazette, New York State has acquired a temporary land easement which allows access to the area of the Love Canal where the 99th. Street School is located, so workers can execute a chemical cleanup plan. The cleanup includes demolition of the school.
- October 29, 1982 Sister Margeen gave presentation to Episcopal Convention, St. Paul's Cathedral, Buffalo.
- November 3, 1982 The Love Canal Area Revitalization Agency voted to ask the City Housing Authority and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to rehabilitate the LaSalle Development housing area. Mayor O'Laughlin, Chairman of the Agency, estimated the cost would be approximately \$2 million to renovate the housing units which have been vacant for about two years.
- November 6, 1982 Sister Margeen, Rev. Brewster, and Roger Cook gave presentation and bus tour to United Church of Christ Board for Homeland Ministries.

November 11, 1982

About 25 Durez residents and ETF members attended a meeting with Niagara County health officials. Residents were given jars of phenol and formaldehyde to smell in order to be able to pinpoint odors they had been detecting in the neighborhood. A health official stated that the real problems in the neighborhood occurred in past years when air was highly contaminated and those problems would be manifested in the future (especially in children). He also indicated that the Niagara County Health Department ceased monitoring ambient air in the area in 1980 (due to lack of funds) even though DEC found evidence of highly toxic and carcinogenic chemical stack emissions from Durez in 1978 and 1979.

November 12, 1982

The United Church of Christ Board of Homeland Ministries urged all religious groups to join them in urging the State to conduct full and complete hearings on habitability of Love Canal.

November 14, 1982

Mr. Karl Sturtevant, a 64 year old Love Canal resident and retired engineer, has been appointed to fill the vacancy created by William Waggoner on the Love Canal Area Revitalization Agency.

November 15, 1982

Residents of Deuro Drive and Mueller Court immediately adjacent to the Love Canal Declaration Area were awarded a 25% reduction in 1982 tax assessments.

November 17, 1982

DARA members and their attorney met with Attorney General Robert Abrams who stated his office was giving full attention to the Durez case.

Hooker officials held a meeting with Durez residents, ETF members, and local officials, at which they denied any responsibility for dioxin found off site of plant property. Company officials would not indicate how much dioxin is on site (it's part of the public record") and criticized the attorney General for taking an adversarial position.

November 18, 1982 Sister Margeen, Barbara Hanna, and Pat Brown gave presentation to St. Peter's Home and School Association, Lewiston, New York, on Lake Ontario Ordinance Works site.

November 27, 1982 Federal Judge John T. Curtin ruled that Hooker Chemicals and Plastics Corp. may continue to drill wells to trace possible leaks from the Hyde Park landfill without starting air tests for toxic releases.

December 7, 1982 Colleen Zybala of DARA and an ETF representative met with Mr. Walter Hang from NYPIRG (New York Public Interest Research Group).

December 16, 1982 Buffalo News reports that State Attorney General Robert Abrams has advised the Love Canal Area Revitalization Agency to conduct public hearings and a full study of the environmental impact of resettling homes around Love Canal.

Ecumenical Task Force also called for an independent peer review of data and conclusions of the EPA Love Canal report and public hearings to be held in Niagara Falls.

December 20, 1982 College Heights Homeowners Association filed a motion in Federal Court to force Hooker to purchase their properties without restrictions on further legal action. (See June 21, 1982 entry.)

December 21, 1982 Maurice D. Hinchey, Chairman of the New York State Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee announced he will conduct hearings on the Love Canal EPA report on February 17, 1983.

January 3, 1983 Members of the Ecumenical Task Force, via special invitation, attended the inauguration of New York State Attorney General Robert Abrams.

January 5, 1983

Buffalo News reports that Senators Alfonse D'Amato and Daniel Patrick Moynihan have requested the Office of Technology Assessment to comment on the validity of earlier administration reports on the habitability issue of Love Canal. The Senators also asked the Office to determine whether remedial work at Love Canal is being done properly. This report is expected to be released in May.

January 11, 1983

ETF Board and Staff held an Evaluation Day to determine policy and objectives for coming year, at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Niagara Falls.

January 15, 1983

Niagara Gazette reports discovery of migrating underground chemicals 2,000 feet south of the Hyde Park landfill.

January 26, 1983

Officials of the State Health Department, the State Department of Environmental Conservation and the Federal Environmental Protection Agency met at Niagara University to discuss the cleanup project at the Hyde Park landfill with residents and students.

February 17, 1983

Maurice D. Hinchey, Chairman of the Assembly Committee on Environmental Conservation said the 400 vacant homes at Love Canal "should be condemned and no one allowed to move back into the area".

Testimony of Dr. Richard Cook, ETF Scientific Advisory Board Member, countered that of Dr. Richard T. Dewling, EPA Deputy Administrator. Dr. Dewling proposed that resettlement of Love Canal could start immediately on a limited basis, with the caution that work proceed quickly on remedial action and long-term monitoring to ensure the health and safety of new residents. Dr. Cook, an Associate Professor of Chemistry at Kalamazoo College, stated that a study of the EPA report convinced him that no conclusions about the long-term migration of chemicals into the outer rings can be made on the basis of the study and that no conclusions can be drawn about health effects.

February 22, 1983 Mr. David Lees, a reporter from Quest Magazine, Toronto, Ontario, spent two days in the ETF office to gather information, speak with residents, and visit the sites.

February 24, 1983 Mr. Allen Levy, a reporter from St. Louis, Missouri, visited the ETF office to become acquainted with the Love Canal situation and compare it to the recently discovered site in Times Beach, Missouri.

March 3, 1983 As a result of noxious vapors escaping from drilling well near the Hyde Park Landfill, the College Heights Homeowners Association again appealed for a full-time air monitoring program. DEC officials said that studies indicate that "any odors that are present have diminished within a reasonable distance from the snow fence."

March 9, 1983 Niagara Gazette reports an unanimous decision by Love Canal Area Revitalization Agency members to extend the deadline for families living in the Love Canal Declaration Area, thus giving owner occupants until October 1, 1984 to make a decision whether or not to sell their homes to LCARA.

March 11, 1983 ETF members and DARA representatives met with the new DEC Commissioner, Henry Williams, to apprise him of the Durez situation and request his aid in coming to a solution.

March 20, 1983 Rev. Norman Timmermann and Mrs. Therese Mudd, members of ETF Board of Directors, left today to spend two days in Times Beach, Missouri area to assess the situation and to speak to the clergy of the area about the possibility of forming their own ecumenical response.

March 21, 1983 ETF, Pollution Probe and Operation CLEAN Niagara of Canada, petitioned jointly to intervene in the federal-state suit against the Occidental Chemical Corp. and the City of Niagara Falls over the proposed settlement agreement for the clean up of the S-Area Landfill site.

March 28, 1983 Sister Margeen gave a presentation to the Department of Church and Society, United Church of Christ, Connecticut Conference in Hartford, Connecticut.

April 11, 1983 Students from the University of Western Ontario at London, Ontario, visited the ETF office.

April 13, 1983 Niagara Gazette reports that Senators Alfonse D'Amato and Daniel Patrick Moynihan and Congressman John J. LaFalce have asked the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to release all documents relating to the preparation and release of a controversial study on the Love Canal neighborhood.

April 15, 1983 Colleen Zybala of DARA and her family moved today from the Durez area after taking a substantial loss on their home.

April 21, 1983 Sister Margeen, Roger cook, Pat Brown, and Barbara Hanna attended the New York State Council of Churches Impact Briefing/Legislative Seminar in Albany, New York, where Sister Margeen gave a presentation.

April 23, 1983 Mrs. Therese Mudd and Mrs. Pat Brown gave a presentation at "Environmental Information - How To find", in Warren, Pennsylvania.

April 30, 1983 The environmental Defense Fund of Washington, D.C. released a three-year study involving 563 children living in the Declaration Area of Love Canal during 1980. This study revealed that the growth of children living in this area was stunted due to exposure to toxic chemicals. Dr. Beverly Paigen, co-author of the study, says the study establishes a link between six commonly reported illnesses and where the child resided.

May 17, 1983

The Centers for Disease Control, Atlanta, released a report stating, "Residents or former residents of Love Canal are no more likely to have chromosomal damage than other residents of Niagara Falls." Scientists reached this conclusion after comparing blood samples of 46 Love Canal residents with those taken from 50 people living in other areas of Niagara Falls. The results were not compared with residents in other parts of the country.

May 25, 1983

State Attorney General Robert Abrams filed a \$30 million lawsuit against Occidental Chemical Corp. charging irresponsible chemical disposal practices at its Durez plant in North Tonawanda.

June 3, 1983

Ecumenical Task Force received 501(c)3 Federal Tax Exemption status from the Internal Revenue Service.

Supreme Court Justice Joseph P. Kuszynski dismissed 54 Love Canal lawsuits. 25 of the suits were dismissed because Love Canal residents moved from the area more than 3 years before the personal injury claims were filed. 12 other wrongful death claims were dismissed because the suits were not filed with a two-year time limit.

June 6, 1983

Sister Margeen, Pat Brown, and Barbara Hanna gave a presentation to Lutheran Church In America Convention in Cazenovia, New York.

June 7, 1983

The Love Canal Area Revitalization Agency voted to oppose proposed state legislation that would require another agency to certify the safety of the Love Canal area before any resettlement or other major rehabilitative move takes place.

June 8, 1983

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation demolished the 99th. Street School in the Love Canal.

June 23, 1983

A report released today by a bipartisan technical agency of Congress, Office of Technology Assessment, said the EPA report on Love Canal cannot be relied upon to justify immediate rehabilitation of the area.

A bill to extend, through 1989, a 25 percent property tax exemption for homeowners living near the Love Canal was passed by the State Senate.

Ms. Jane Ressler, Attorney At Law, visited the ETF office from Cannonsburg, Pennsylvania. Ms. Ressler is representing the residents of Cannonsburg in lawsuits arising from a nuclear waste dump site.

Sister Margeen and John Lynch appeared on AM Buffalo television to respond to the report released by the Office of Technology Assessment re the EPA Love Canal report.

Members of the ETF at its Annual Meeting voted unanimously to ask the New York State legislature to enact a five year moratorium on repopulation of the Love Canal neighborhood while additional studies are undertaken to find out whether the area is habitable.

July 7, 1983

ETF sponsored a public information meeting on the report by the Office of Technology Assessment on the EPA Love Canal report. Dr. Joel S. Hirschhorn, chief author and project director of the Love Canal Case Study for the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment, addressed the public and answered questions.

Sister Margeen attended and gave a presentation at a Hazards Workshop, sponsored by the University of Colorado at Boulder, Co.

July 22, 1983

Construction of an underground containment wall around the Love Canal was suspended today. Tests revealed chemicals had migrated past the proposed location of the wall.

- August 1, 1983 ETF moved into its new "home" at St. Mary of the Cataract Rectory, 259 Fourth Street, Niagara Falls, New York.
- August 10, 1983 David B. Twedell, the government's expert geologist in the Hyde Park landfill case, has been indicted by a federal grand jury on 14 counts of perjury and fraud for allegedly posing as an expert "hydrologist". (see December 1, 1981 entry).
- August 25, 1983 Occidental tests at the Hyde Park Landfill reveal that chemicals in groundwater have migrated southwest, northeast - toward the Niagara River - and east from the disposal site.
- September 6, 1983 A four year study by Dr. John H. Christian, a professor of population biology at the State University of New York in Binghamton reveals: Field mice living near the Love Canal have reduced lifespans and show signs of chemical poisonings.
- September 9, 1983 Several members of the ETF Board of Directors and Staff met with Mr. Charles Caccia, Minister of the Environment for Canada, to discuss the toxic waste pollution problems along the Niagara River and Lake Ontario.
- September 27, 1983 The United States Environmental Protection Agency admitted its 1982 Love Canal report was seriously flawed and has proposed doing an entirely new habitability study. Decisions about whether the homes are safe to live in will be delayed between 1.5 and 4.5 more years under a proposal EPA has made to state officials.
- Sister Margeen and Barbara Hanna visited Times Beach, Missouri as consultants to the Ecumenical Dioxin Response Task Force in their response to the victims of toxic waste in that area.

September 29, 1983 ETF Board Member, Sr. Joan Malone, O.S.F., debated the head of the EPA Waste Management Division on ABC-TV's Good Morning America on behalf of the victims of Love Canal.

September 30, 1983 Dr. John Deegan Jr., former Director of the 1982 Environmental Protection Agency's Habitability Study revealed he had warned top level EPA officials repeatedly of the inadequacies of the \$8 million study.

October 10, 1983 Sister Margeen spoke at a public information meeting on potential hazards at the Hyde Park Landfill, at the invitation of the College Heights Property Owners Association.

 Lawyers representing 1,345 people from Love Canal and the Occidental Petroleum Corporation have reached a tentative out-of-court settlement in suits over contamination. Occidental Petroleum Corporation has agreed to pay \$20 million. Homeowners and other families sought a total of \$15 billion.

October 12, 1983 Occidental Petroleum Corporation said insurance carriers for the Niagara Falls School Board, the City and Niagara County will pay a share of the proposed \$20 million out-of-court Love Canal settlement.

October 30, 1983 The consulting firm of Malcolm Pirnie Inc. recommended to the Department of Environmental Conservation that \$2.4 million in remedial work be authorized to remove chemical contamination of Black and Bergholtz Creeks in the Love Canal Emergency Declaration Area.

November 1, 1983 Occidental Chemical Corp. requested permission from the Town of Niagara to build a temporary storage facility at the Hyde Park dump to hold chemical wastes leaking from the site. Town officials declined to act on the request until they are given more information about the proposed storage.

November 16, 1983

ETF Board Members, Staff, and local citizens testified at joint public hearings conducted in Buffalo, New York by the Assembly Committee on Health and the Assembly Committee on Environmental Conservation.

December 8, 1983

The United States Justice Department filed a lawsuit to recover \$45 million in federal money spent to clean up Love Canal and relocate residents. Acting for the United States Environmental Protection Agency, government attorneys also asked the court to hold Occidental Chemical Corporation liable for all future expenditures in containing toxic and hazardous wastes that have migrated from the canal area into nearby homes.

December 8, 1983

Agreement is reached between attorneys for the U.S. government and Occidental Chemical Corp. in clean-up plan for S-Area landfill. Approval must now be sought from the City of Niagara Falls, the State Departments of Health and Environmental Engineering and the Federal Environmental Protection Agency.

December 9, 1983

The City Council of Niagara Falls unanimously approved the out-of-court settlement agreement of the S-Area lawsuit.

December 13, 1983

A public meeting was held at Love Canal to explain a new hazardous waste treatment process invented by Thomas Barton of Kingston, Ontario. Barton's system called "plasma arc" uses electricity to destroy wastes at temperatures approaching 50,000 degrees Celsius. The State Department of Environmental Conservation will use the process at Love Canal if tests prove successful.

December 31, 1983

Buffalo News reports that toxic chemicals from the Hyde Park dump have permeated a square mile of underground soil and bedrock in Niagara Falls and Lewiston, according to records on file with the State Department of Environmental Conservation. The exact threat posed by the underground migration remains unknown, according to officials.

January 9, 1984

Former Environmental Protection Agency official, Rita Lavelle, was sentenced to six months in prison and fined \$10,000. for lying to Congress.

January 20, 1984

Results from the latest environmental testing by Occidental Chemical Corp. at its Durez plant show "no health risk to the plant's neighbors and employees," the company announced.

January 23, 1984

Congressman John J. LaFalce issued a strong request to EPA Administrator William D. Ruckelshaus demanding that he approve a request for \$4 million to purchase the remaining homes around the Love Canal.

David B. Twedell, who pleaded guilty to testifying with fraudulent credentials in the Hyde Park landfill case, is sentenced in U. S. District Court to a year in federal prison. (See August 10, 1983 entry.)

January 24, 1984

State environmental officials stated that 25 percent of the most seriously contaminated toxic waste dump sites in the state are located in Western New York. The heaviest concentration of sites in New York State is in Erie and Niagara Counties, where 30 of the 144 most polluted sites are located. State Environmental Commissioner Henry G. Williams said the 144 sites are considered to pose a "significant" threat to health or the environment.

The Environmental Facilities Corp. denied a request by Occidental Petroleum Corp. for \$20 million in tax-free bonds to finance the cleanup of the Hyde Park Landfill.

Sister Margeen is interviewed by National Public Radio program "All Things Considered" regarding the toxic waste sites in this area.

February 8, 1984 Buffalo News reports that Occidental Chemical Corp. executives have been asked to explain a spill that dumped 100 gallons of contaminated liquids at the site of its cleanup operation at the Hyde Park Landfill and to explain why it failed to report the incident in a timely manner. The spill occurred on January 21, 1984.

February 9, 1984 Several ETF Board Members and Sister Margeen testified at State Superfund Management Board hearings on "Inactive Hazardous Waste Remedial Plan".

February 10, 1984 The Province of Ontario is granted intervenor status in the proposed settlement of the S-Area lawsuit.

February 14, 1984 The Love Canal Area Revitalization Agency voted to demolish 30 houses east of the canal in the third ring of the declaration area.

February 15, 1984 Sister Margeen gave presentation at Western New York Council On Occupational Safety and Health.

February 17, 1984 State Attorney General office demands more information on chemical contamination at the Occidental Chemical Corp. Durez plant before the state will approve a cleanup plan for the site.

February 25, 1984 Buffalo News reports that federal and state officials have asked Occidental to drill more test wells to pinpoint the extent of migration outward from the Hyde Park Landfill and downward into bedrock layers deep beneath the dump.

February 27, 1984 The Niagara Falls City Council voted unanimously to accept a recommended settlement of Love Canal damage claims brought by residents. (See October 10th. and 12th. 1983 entries.)

March 2, 1984

The \$20 million Love Canal damage settlement, whose terms have been kept secret until today under a court order, will set aside up to \$1 million for a lifetime medical trust for 1,336 Love Canal residents. The trust funds will be used to cover diagnosis and treatment of any latent but canal-related illnesses that occur during the lifetime of those accepting the out-of-court settlement.

March 13, 1984

U.S. District Judge John T. Curtin denied ETF and its joint applicants intervenor status in state and federal lawsuits against Occidental Chemical Corp. over the S-Area chemical dump. (See March 21, 1983 entry.)

March 14, 1984

State and federal officials, local residents and members of the press accompanied eight scientists on a bus tour of the Love Canal neighborhood. These scientists were selected by Health and Human Services and the State Department of Health to advise the Technical Review Committee on criteria and methods to be used in studying Love Canal data and permit the State Commissioner of Health to make a final determination on habitability of the canal area.

Rev. Dr. James Brewster of the ETF Board of Directors gave presentation for the Department of Pediatrics, College of Medicine, Upstate Medical Center, Syracuse, New York.

March 20, 1984

Town of Niagara officials met with representatives from Occidental Chemical Corp. and the State Department of Environmental Conservation to discuss temporary storage of chemical wastes from the Hyde Park Landfill. (See November 1, 1983 entry.)

March 21, 1984

The State Department of Environmental Conservation has postponed the cleanup of chemical contamination in Black and Bergholtz creeks until 1985.

April 6-9, 1984

ETF Staff attends second statewide meeting of the Conference on the Health Hazards of Synthetics in Albany, New York. Sister Margeen & Mary Cahill addressed the Toxic Victims Coalition on the subject of Community Organizing.

April 11, 1984

ETF, Pollution Probe and Operation CLEAN Niagara filed a joint appeal of the ruling by U.S. District court Judge John T. Curtin denying intervenor status in the hearing that will determine whether the judge will permit the proposed cleanup of the S-Area dump.

April 20, 1984

The Occidental Chemical Corp. paid a \$500 fine - half the amount sought by the State Department of environmental Conservation - to settle an unreported spill at the Hyde Park dump remedial cleanup site. (See February 8, 1984 entry.)

April 30, 1984

Hearings began in U.S. District court, Buffalo, N.Y., on the settlement agreement for the proposed cleanup of the S-Area dump.

May 1, 1984

The Town of Niagara Board postponed action on Occidental Chemical Corp.'s request to install storage tanks at the Hyde Park landfill until questions of worker safety and emergency responses are resolved. (See March 20, 1984 entry.)

May 2, 1984

State Health Commissioner David Axelrod told Love Canal residents, former residents and area taxpayers, that a decision on habitability of the Love Canal area would be made before the end of the year. The habitability guidelines developed by a panel of scientists (see March 14th. 1984 entry) would be applied one at a time to each house within the area.

May 3, 1984

Hearings concluded in U.S. District Court, Buffalo, New York, on the settlement agreement for the proposed cleanup of the S-Area dump, with final arguments to be made May 31, 1984.

May 10, 1984

Judge Joseph P. Kuszynski, State Supreme Court, began hearing claims by the first of 1,367 former and current residents of the Love Canal area. The process of evaluating all the claims is expected to continue through the end of the year. (See March 2nd, 1984 entry)

May 29, 1984

ETF Annual Meeting held at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Niagara Falls.

June 12, 1984

Town of Niagara Board denied the request by Occidental Chemical Corp. to bring temporary storage tanks onto the Hyde Park Landfill site, on the grounds that the State and Federal environmental officials had not convinced the Board the tanks would safely contain highly toxic chemicals from the dump. (See May 1, 1984 entry.)

June 21, 1984

Dr. Richard T. Dewling has been named acting regional administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Region II office in New York City, succeeding Jacqueline E. Schafer. As deputy administrator, Dr. Dewling was chosen by Washington officials to oversee the \$8 million Love Canal environmental study that led to an initial approval, later renounced, of the habitability of homes in the Love Canal.

June 27, 1984

Niagara Gazette reports that Occidental Chemical Corp. will apply for permission to burn toxic chemicals, including PCBs and dioxin, from the Hyde Park Landfill in the company's Buffalo Avenue plant incinerator, within two weeks. Occidental has a temporary permit from the Environmental Protection Agency to burn hazardous waste in its Niagara Plant incinerator, but is not authorized to incinerate the highly toxic Hyde Park chemicals. EPA recently notified Occidental that an incinerator would have to be capable of destroying 99.9999 percent of PCBs and dioxin to burn Hyde Park wastes.

- July 4, 1984 The U.S. Department of Justice will ask federal Judge John T. Curtin to order the Town of Niagara to allow Occidental Chemical Corp. to bring temporary storage tanks onto its Hyde Park Landfill. (See June 12, 1984 entry.)
- July 18, 1984 Plans to bury 450 barrels of sludge containing high levels of dioxin into the top of Love Canal commencing tomorrow were disclosed during a Love Canal Technical Review Committee meeting as a result of citizen questions.
- July 19, 1984 The Ecumenical Task Force contacted DEC Commissioner Henry Williams regarding the proposed burial of toxic sludge into the Love Canal proper. As a result, the Commissioner stopped the burial until the public has a chance to comment on the procedure.
- July 25, 1984 Buffalo News reports that U.S. District Judge John T. Curtin was informed today that Occidental Chemical Corp. is storing leachate with 20,000 parts per billion of dioxin in the Hyde Park Landfill area.
- July 31, 1984 Norman H. Nosenchuck, State Director of Solid and Hazardous Waste, announced during a public meeting regarding the burial of 450 drums of dioxin-laden sludge into Love Canal, that the burial has been indefinitely postponed. Even with the announcement of the postponement, citizens lashed out at state and federal officials, accusing them of ignoring public concerns, hiding the drum-burial decision, misleading the residents and relying on out-of-date technology. Mr. Nosenchuck assured the public: No future Love Canal decision will be made without the full involvement of local citizens.
- August 3, 1984 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator William D. Ruckelshaus denied a request from Congressman John Lafalce for \$4 million to buy vacant homes and other property in the Love Canal area. (See January 23, 1984 entry.)

August 7, 1984

U.S. District Judge John Curtin ordered the Niagara Town Board to allow Occidental Chemical Corp. to bring temporary storage tanks for chemical waste to the Hyde Park Landfill. (See July 4, 1984 entry.)

August 8, 1984

Tests by the State Department of Environmental Conservation revealed toxic chemicals in water seeping from the Niagara River Gorge northwest of the Hyde Park chemical dump.

August 18, 1984

Buffalo News reports that chemical wastes from Occidental Chemical Corp's Hyde Park dump are leaking from a second point in the Niagara River gorge wall, according to State Officials.