

**LOVE CANAL
CHRONOLOGICAL
REPORT**

**APRIL 1978
TO
JANUARY 1980**

**LOVE CANAL
HOMEOWNERS
ASSOC. INC.**

DEFINITIONS

- Ambient Level - The Ambient level of a chemical in any particular place is the amount of the chemical scientists would ordinarily expect to measure in the absence of an incremental amount of the chemical resulting from an outside source.
- Benzene - Benzene is a carcinogen and is highly toxic. Exposure to benzene may result in intoxication, blood chemistry changes, fatigue, anorexia, and other central nervous system disorders.
- Carcinogen - The term Carcinogen refers to any substance which has been proven to cause cancer or is suspected to cause cancer in humans, animals or both.
- Chloroform - Chloroform is a carcinogen which also seriously affects several vital body functions. Chloroform causes narcosis of the central nervous system, destruction of liver cells, kidney damage, harmful alteration of blood chemistry and cardiac problems such as arrhythmia.
- Dioxin - There are many isomers of dioxin. The most prevalent, 2,3,7,8 - tetrachlorodibenzo-para-dioxin (TCDD) is one of the most potent chemicals known to science. It is acutely toxic at low doses; it causes cancer, birth defects, mutations, fetal death in laboratory animals, and can be fatal to children and adults. Dioxin is persistent in the environment and is bioaccumulative. The official EPA Water Quality Criterion for 2,3,7,8-TCDD for protection of human health is zero. New York State Health Commissioner stated that no exposure to dioxin is safe.
- Environment - The term Environment refers to all free and unconstrained air, water, sediment and soil and to plants and animals which are in the public domain.
- Epidemiological Study - The term Epidemiological Study refers to a study of the distribution and determinants of a disease in a population.
- Exposure - The term Exposure refers to actual contact with a chemical by a living organism, whether by inhalation, contact with or absorption through the skin or ingestion.
- Groundwater - The term Groundwater refers to subsurface water found in the zone of saturation, the top of which is known as the water table. The zone of saturation is that area where all voids are filled with water.
- Landfill - The term Landfill refers to a site used for disposal of wastes, including chemical wastes.

- Leachate - The term Leachate refers to any liquid or semi-liquid material which is formed when subsurface or surface water mixes with chemicals disposed of in a landfill.
- Lindane - Lindane has been shown to cause adverse effects in the reproductive capacity of exposed animals. Exposure to Lindane reduces reproductive capacity and increases incidents of embryonic and fetal mortality. They also have been implicated in causing liver disease. They induce chemical poisoning symptoms, and adverse central nervous system disorders, including convulsions and epileptiform seizures.
- Migration - The term Migration refers to the movement of chemicals or leachate away from a landfill, whether by runoff, seepage through the soil, or through the air.
- Subsurface Water - The term Subsurface Water refers to water in upper subsurface geological layers, whether contained in bedrock or flowing through soil.
- Swale - Old streambeds, lakes, swampy areas, and underground rivers.
- Tetrachloroethylene - Exhibits adverse effects on the central nervous system and is also a carcinogen. Its effects include depression, nausea, and at high exposure, unconsciousness and, ultimately death. Exposure to tetrachloroethylene also causes liver dysfunction.
- Toluene - Toluene exhibits effects on the central nervous system. In sufficient doses it causes cell mutations and cancers.
- Toxic or Toxicological Effect - The term Toxic or Toxicological Effect refers to adverse biological or health effects which result from either acute (short term) or chronic (long term) exposure to a chemical. Toxicological effects in humans include, but are not limited to respiratory diseases, liver abnormalities, birth defects, central nervous system disorders, skin irritations, nausea, and ultimately, mortality.
- Trichloroethylene - Is a potent central nervous system depressant and can cause severe neurological symptoms such as dizziness, loss of appetite and loss of motor coordination. It produces liver damage at sufficient exposure levels and causes cell mutations and cancers.

ABBREVIATIONS

CDC	-	Center for Disease Control
DOT	-	Department of Transportation
DOH	-	Department of Health
DESC	-	Department of Environmental Conservation
EPA	-	Environmental Protection Agency
FDA	-	Federal Disaster Assistance Administration (Now known as FEMA Federal Emergency Administration).
HEW	-	Health, Education and Welfare
HUD	-	Housing Urban Development
NIH	-	National Institute Environmental Sciences
NYSD	-	New York State Health Department
NYDEC	-	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
NYSDOT	-	New York State Department of Transportation

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- April 13 - Commissioner Whalen, New York State Health Department, and Commissioner Berle, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, personally inspected the Love Canal site in response to the findings of the New York State Health Department that a health hazard may exist.
- April 25 - Commissioner, New York State Health Department, determined that a public health hazard existed in the Love Canal area. He ordered the Niagara County Health Department to remove exposed chemicals from the site and to install a fence around the area in an effort to restrict access by residents to the area. He ordered immediate health studies initiated on residents (not done till August) living adjacent to the canal and any other measures needed to protect the health of the residents.
- April 26 - Public officials from NYSDEC, NYSHD, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency, met to formulate a plan of action for solving the Love Canal problems, including protecting public health, and safety and removing environmental hazards.
- May 11 - Commissioners Whalen and Berle met with various State elected officials (including State Legislature) to propose possible legislation helpful to the Love Canal problems.
- May 15 - The United States Environmental Protection Agency announces that air samples taken from the basements of homes located adjacent to the Love Canal, contained high levels of toxic vapors, suggesting a serious health threat to people living within these homes.
- May 19 - NYSHD met with residents to explain potential hazards of exposure to toxic chemicals.
- May 21 - NYSHD reveals plans to conduct short and long term epidemiology studies on Love Canal residents.
- June 13 - State officials met with residents and local officials to discuss Constoga Rovers engineering plans for corrective measures on the canal. Officials tried to explain issues to residents, but failed to adequately answer questions addressed to them by residents, producing mistrust, and feelings of inadequacy in the engineering plans.
- June 25 - NYSHD began air sampling outside of homes adjacent to the canal.
- July 7 - NYSHD issues first results of air samples taken in homes (basements, and other rooms) showing high levels of toluene, chloroform, benzene, and chlorotoluene. When issuing results to residents, they gave raw data analysis to residents without any interpretation of what it meant. This caused needless panic and hysterics.

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- July 19 - State officials conducted a public meeting at 99th Street School to discuss State findings and actions to date. Residents at this time asked many questions concerning chemical data pertaining to their homes and possible health effects. They were not answered to any degree of success by State officials, consequently the meeting ultimately turned into an emotionally packed screaming match between distraught residents and State officials.
- Example: When residents asked if the school was safe for their children to attend and play in the yard a State official replied, "the air readings in the school were safe and as long as the children stayed on the sidewalks when walking to and from school there should be no problem". Barrels had surfaced in the school yard in the past.
- July 20 - Governor Carey signs legislation appropriating \$500,000 in state funds to conduct long range health and environmental studies.
- July 31 - Commissioner Whalen held a meeting at LaGuardia Airport with experts in toxicology, epidemiology, industrial hygiene to present state findings and seek recommendations on further actions to protect public health and correct the environmental problems.
- August 2 - Commissioner Whalen declares a State of Emergency at Love Canal and issues orders to Niagara County, City of Niagara Falls, and Niagara Falls School District. The order included closing the 99th Street School pending completion of corrective construction, evacuating pregnant women and children under the age of two from the homes in the first row of houses. The meeting was held in Albany with no one there to answer questions of residents who were panicky and frightened for their lives, and the lives of their children. There was no financial arrangements made for the families and nothing said about the rest of the children or their spouse. The order caused mass hysteria of residents who held a street meeting burning tax payments, and mortgages. People were uncontrolled with a feeling of helplessness. Pregnant women wondered what kind of deformed babies they were carrying and mothers with children over two wanted to know what has already happened to their children.
- AUGUST 9 - Governor Carey requests Federal Aid from President Carter. Public meeting chaired by Thomas Frey, Director of State Operations, Commissioner Whalen, NYSRD, and other State officials announced that the State would pay for temporary relocation of those affected by the August 2nd order with provisions for other members of the family affected. Over 600 residents attended the meeting. It was a very emotional meeting, residents having many fears about the safety of their families.

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Continued

- August 3 - Questions were again unanswered and residents requested repeatedly that Governor Carey come to the Love Canal and speak with them.
- August 4 - Governor Carey's Task Force formed to deal with Love Canal problems opened at 99th Street School.
- August 5 - William H. Wilcox, Director of Federal Disaster Assistance Administration, tours Love Canal to determine if Love Canal qualifies for FDAA disaster aid. He walked the canal bed, observed open holes containing what visually appeared and smelled to be chemical contamination.
- August 7 - Governor Carey visits Love Canal, and announces the State will purchase homes identified by the task force as houses unfit for human habitation. Governor Carey selected a small group of people including State representatives, residents and Love Canal Homeowners Association President to discuss the needs of the residents prior to the public meeting. The Love Canal Homeowners Association expressed the concerns of the residents for permanent relocation of both the first row of homes as well as the second row across the street.
- August 7 - Public meeting followed. Governor Carey made many promises at the public meeting giving a lot of hope to the residents. Some of the promises were:
1. The first row of houses would be purchased by New York State
 2. The second row of homes will also be purchased.
 3. He was contacting the Federal Government for help and should know soon.
 4. Assures residents in outside area (away from immediate evacuated area) homes that if there were illnesses and chemicals from the Love Canal he would take care of them. For example: evacuation.
- August 7 - President Carter approves emergency financial aid to Love Canal area and promises Federal aid should be forthcoming.
- August 9 - State officials met in the White House with the Love Canal Homeowners Association President, a representative of the President and various Federal Agencies to discuss aid for Love Canal. Financial responsibilities were discussed. After meeting, state representative officially announced that Ring II would be purchased by the State at fair market value.
- August 9 - Lois Gibbs LCHA President received a draft of the safety plan for construction workers on-site. This plan did not include any provisions for the residents living in the area.

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- August 10 - Health Department officials met with area physicians to discuss State findings and answer any questions they may have had.
- August 15 - Governor Carey visited the Love Canal to assure residents that a residential safety plan will be incorporated with citizen input. The work will not begin until the off-site plan is completed and has citizen approval.
- August 15 - State Health Department completed two weeks of drawing blood from more than 2,800 people. The blood testing program was never organized to any degree, it was inefficient, and extremely trying for the residents. A general announcement was made for anyone wishing to have their blood drawn and tested for potential disease resulting from chemical contamination to come to the school. Two to four technicians were available to draw the blood samples. Hundreds of people were lined up daily for testing. Consequently, this caused more stress among the residents, standing in lines for undetermined amounts of time. (possibly being turned down once reaching the front of the line because of shortage of needles, etc.) The State could have made this procedure better had they used a little thought and organization (planning). They could have taken people by streets, or alphabetically, etc.
- August 31 - Public meeting with State officials from the Health Department and Department of Transportation. State officials presented a safety plan which residents felt was extremely inadequate, because it did not address accidental gas releases or explosions which could release toxic vapors into the air. Residents asked many questions of State officials. Officials indicated that the air would smell terrible but there was no health hazard. The residents refused to accept that asking what about asthmatics? One resident asked State Health Department personnel what he would do if he lived here and there was toxic vapor released into the neighborhood, his reply: "I would not wait for the bus, I would run like hell."

Residents requested immediate Task Force meeting to present a list of immediate needs of the residents. The list consists of:

1. Total evacuation of residents affected.
2. Identify a control group outside of the canal area to base their medical data on.
3. Invite the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences team to look at the State's accumulated data.
4. Release to Homeowners Consultants results of soil data, air tests, blood tests and medical data, which could be done without revealing anyones personal information.
5. Release of soil sampling plan.
6. Appropriate funds for medical expenses, blood tests, and diagnostic tests incurred by residents.

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Continued
August 31

- 7. Prop up property values in homes outside the immediate evacuation area.
- 8. Contract a monitor on-site to oversee the construction and relay information to the residents.
- 9. Set up family care center during working hours for residents (senior citizens) who feared staying in the area while construction was in progress.

August 31

- United way provided temporary relocation for residents who did not qualify under State requirements (location) but had illnesses that doctors stated could be aggravated by living in their present location.

September 7

- Task Force Meeting (requested by LCHA in August) chaired by William Hennessey, Department of Transportation, the homeowners presented the list of needs to task force in which everything was approved except relocation of all residents affected in the area. State based, the no response on not having enough data to tell where the affected area was. Everything else was forthcoming.

September 12

- State announced they were taking soil samples across the street from the canal.

September 14

- State officials met with consultant Dr. Vincent Ebert to discuss modification of the construction plans. Dr. Ebert made recommendations at this time. (Dr. Vincent Ebert brought in by LCHA to work with State and LCHA to insure construction is done properly)

September 18

- Task Force Meeting to discuss the points brought up at September 7th meeting. All needs that were approved at the September 7th meeting were still forthcoming. Discussion of the three families the United Way evacuated was also brought up. United Way was running out of money and the families did not want to return to their homes on the advice of their family physicians. Health Department officials said they would evaluate the families based on their health problems, location of home, and physician's statement with their expert panel and asked, the United Way to be patient a little longer.

September 19

- Lois Gibbs, President of LCHA presented Dr. Nicholas Vianna with a map showing various diseases and old streambeds and explained that she thought there was a correlation between certain health problems and the location of the old streams. Dr. Vianna said he would send his team out and see if it was true. Mrs. Gibbs also gave Dr. Vianna a list of 54 families that had health problems and wanted to be reviewed by the expert panel to see if they would qualify for relocation, based on location and health problems.

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- November 15 - LCHA consultants returned to Albany to further discuss the environmental data with State Health officials. Consultants were asked not to discuss with residents or media results of this meeting.
- November 21 - Task Force and public meeting chaired by William Hennessey DOT as well as Dr. Glenn Houghie of the Health Department. Dr. Houghie explained the environmental data and health problems in the Love Canal collected to date. He explained the Health Department did find contamination outside the first two rows of homes, and that 20 children 0-9 years of age may have some type of liver problems, which need further investigation.
- November 21 - Public Meeting: LCHA repeatedly asked Dr. Houghie to have the scientists who were qualified to answer residents questions available at the public meeting. The scientists did not attend, resulting in angered residents walking out of the meeting when their questions and fears could not be properly answered by Dr. Glenn Houghie.
- December 4 - Construction: They have discovered that there was not enough leachate flowing into the trenches running north and south of the canal, and would have to install laterals which would run east and west towards the center of the canal. This again put residents into a panic because of coming so close to the canal and the possibility of hitting a drum which may explode. It also made them wonder about the effectiveness of the drainage system and therefore, their safety in the future.
- December 9 - New York State Health Department verified the findings of dioxin and issued a statement. LCHA sent a memorandum to the Health Department requesting information on the environmental studies and identity of expert committee (Blue Ribbon Panel).
- December 11 - Dr. Campbell from the Health Department read a release from Commissioner Whalen concerning the dioxin finding. Dr. Campbell could not answer any of the residents questions when asked at a small meeting at 99th Street School. Residents were sent into a panic, with no understanding exactly what this meant. Dr. Campbell asked us to submit questions in writing and he would get the answers. LCHA submitted questions in writing about dioxin to New York State Health Department.
- Six residents were arrested after forming an informational picket to inform construction workers of possible dangers of working in an area with dioxin findings. They were charged with disorderly conduct.
- December 12 - Seven more residents (victims) were arrested on the same charges.

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December 12 - Later that day construction workers were taken to the hospital to determine what the cause of rashes appearing on their bodies were.
- December 13 - Fire On-Site: An open flame heater being used to keep the filtration unit from freezing caught fire as the wind whipped the flames against a tarp enclosure. The safety official was not on-site during the fire and made no effort to be there. Instead he stood back at the 99th Street School and watched.
- December 15 - NYSHD met with the Niagara County Medical Society to discuss the tests needed for the 20 children with possible liver problems. The NYSHD totally neglected to inform the parents of these children. When family physicians called the parents of these children it caused another case of panic, wondering what horrible disease their children may have.
- December 20 - Construction began on the lateral trenches going towards the center of the canal. Residents complained the odors from this stage of the construction was unbearable, a few said they had developed respiratory problems because of it.

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- January 11 - Residents met with Commissioner Axelrod in Buffalo, New York. Dr. Axelrod promised a public meeting within two weeks to discuss the update of information on the canal.
- January 15 - Over a month later Dr. Houghie, NYSHD sent response to LCHA memorandum. The response on the health and environmental data was very evasive, the response was an insult to the Homeowners integrity and intelligence. The LCHA asked about liver abnormalities and for the statistical analysis and were refused. We asked about white blood cell counts and to see the results and were again refused. We asked the identities of the "Expert Committee" and their qualifications and were told we could not have their names, and they had special expertise with regard to specific issues.
- January 25 - Department of Environmental Conservation, Joseph Slack announced in an area paper that when doing the center section of the canal they may have to remove barrels. This is the residents greatest fear, because disturbing drums could lead to explosions, gas releases, etc.

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- February 4 - LCHA took a survey of the residents who had relocated from the first two rows of homes to find out if their health problems had changed, the results of this study is as follows:
- 101 Homes contacted
 - 67 Families said health improved
 - 30 Families had no change in their health
 - 4 Were not sure
- One example of a health change was a child who had almost total hearing loss and after leaving the Love Canal area her hearing returned to over 100%. It was the first time the child was ever allowed to participate in swimming activities.
- February 5 - LCHA attorney, Richard Lippes sent a letter to request names of the "Blue Ribbon Panel" members. The panel is making decisions on the lives of people and this information should be made available to the public. He also requested the credentials of this panel and what area their expertise is in.
- February 8 - Commissioner Axelrod announced a new recommendation. Dr. Axelrod recommended temporary relocation of all pregnant women and children under two years of age who lived in a six block area because of the findings of "a small but significant increase in the risk of miscarriages and birth defects". This caused mass hysteria as it did in August, women were afraid for their children over two. Also women who wanted to have more children now are afraid to because by the time they are certified pregnant, most of the first three months (the most important time during pregnancy) are past and the damage to the fetus is already done! They based their recommendation on the wet areas theory (swales) submitted by the LCHA which was at one time referred to as unscientific - useless.
- February 10 - The LCHA found when they looked off the last four years of birth defects there is a 56 per cent birth defect rate which could possibly mean the contaminants are moving or surfacing now more than years before.
- February 15 - A small group of residents from the Love Canal traveled to Albany with a casket to try to see the Governor, explain our data and try to impress the severity of the problem. He was not there and LCHA was promised a meeting at a later date (still forthcoming).

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- February 20 - Dr. Paigen attended a LCHA meeting and presented the health effects outside the first two rows of homes to the residents. Dr. Paigen told residents that her results indicate significantly higher rates of miscarriages and birth defects than were reported by the NYSDH on February 8th. Data collected by the LCHA showed the highest rates of birth problems and illnesses occurred among residents living near "wet areas" or swales. Some of the other elevated illnesses are nervous breakdowns, suicide attempts, hyperactivity in children, epilepsy, asthma, and urinary tract problems. Dr. Paigen also recommended that women who were contemplating pregnancy wait at least six months after leaving the area for a margin of safety.
- March 9 - Leachate running off north end of the canal. It was reported by Lois Gibbs, LCHA President that there was a substantial flow of leachate running off the north end of the canal, into the city street, and into the storm sewer which empties into the Niagara River. A State official ordered clean up of the area immediately. A hole was dug to contain the leachate and vacuuming began to remove the leachate and treat it on-site. The first day 4,000 gallons of leachate was pumped out and they continued to pump for over 48 hours straight. Residents claimed leachate was running for at least three days before it was even reported. The leachate was black in color and appeared to be oily looking, the odor from it was unbearable, it had the same reaction as ammonia (takes your breath away). The north end of the canal is the end where last summer the State Health Department found the highest concentration of lindane. The residents are very fearful that this is only the beginning and once the spring rains and thaws come it will become even more of a health hazard. And if it is beginning to move on the canal how much is moving toward their homes where their children play.
- March 15 - Love Canal parents became concerned over the safety of children attending the 93rd Street Elementary School because of radioactive slag discovered on school grounds. A petition was circulated throughout the neighborhood by residents to be presented to the Board of Education.
- March 16 - Hooker Chemical held press conference in which they stated the Board of Education was given "plenty and adequate warning" in 1953. Hooker did not know the harmful effects of exposure to their buried toxic wastes and didn't know about migrations into the neighborhood until 1976.
- March 22 - House Commerce Committee on Oversight and Investigation held hearings on toxic wastes in Washington. The Sub-Committee heard testimony from Dr. Beverly Paigen of Roswell Park Institute, Lois Gibbs of the Love Canal Homeowners Association,

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March 22

- Fred Armagost of Bloody Run, William Hennessey of the New York State Department of Transportation. Dr. Paigen and Lois Gibbs accused New York State of underestimating the scope of the health problems and failing to respond in a timely and efficient manner. Dr. Paigen also recommended further evacuations of families who reside on or near wet areas (which are areas where families are likely to be more susceptible to miscarriages and other physical ailments).

March 23

- The Sub-Committee heard testimony from Robert Matthews of Niagara Falls, Director of Utilities. During the testimony, Matthews admitted that the S area landfill is "highly likely" the source of chemical contamination found in the water plant.

March 25

- Love Canal woman's physician urges relocation prior to conception. New York State refused stating: "they have provided women of childbearing age with sufficient information as to the risks before making a conscious and voluntary decision to become pregnant". Women in Love Canal interpreted the state's response as "New York State is now practicing birth control".

March 29

- Two Love Canal residents testified before Senate Environmental and Public Works Subcommittee in Washington. Residents James Clark and Anne Hillis explained the State's involvement in Love Canal, the health problems their families faced, and the urgent need for further relocation.

April 1

- Board of Education records were made public. Records showed board members recommended in August 1953 that "fill from the Love Canal" be hauled to the 93rd Street School. The proposal was approved unanimously in January 1954. 3,000 cubic yards of Love Canal dirt was removed to 93rd Street School.

April 3

- Teachers at 93rd Street School are tested for blood and liver problems by New York State Health Department.

April 4

- Ralph Nader toured Love Canal, termed the area as "violence of the worst kind. This is a silent, cumulative hidden kind of violence that is perpetrated by companies that supposedly know what they are doing."

April 6

- Report published by the Interagency Task Force on Hazardous Waste links the Army with dumping at Love Canal. Dangerous chloride compounds which may have been produced for the United States Army were dumped in the Love Canal.

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- April 7 - Governor Carey signed into law a bill that gives Love Canal Homeowners a retroactive property tax exemption amounting to 80 per cent of the assessed value of their homes. This will provide gradually declining tax exemptions through 1982 for about 600 homeowners eligible.
- April 11 - Hooker testifies at congressional investigation in Washington. The investigation uncovered Hooker memos, one which described how three or four children were burned on the Love Canal property in 1952. If the memos were public, the Love Canal situation could have been avoided. Another memo of March 1968 contained an analysis of residue from Love Canal which was described to be oily and burnt like a fourth of July sparkler. Other correspondence to Hooker revealed other Hooker dumps creating a health hazard. The 102nd Street dump where children were burnt and drums exploded and Hyde Park Boulevard landfill which was creating "an extremely dangerous condition" for employees at nearby industrial plants and residents who live in the neighborhood.
- April 13 - Leachate spills off of the Canal and onto the public street. Because of heavy snowfall and warmer weather, water containing leachate began flowing off the canal into the street and then entered the storm sewer system, which empties into the Niagara River. This is the same problem which occurred on March 9th, and the state still was not addressing the problem.
- April 13 - Love Canal Homeowners who reside in the Town of Wheatfield protest sewer lines to be constructed on their streets until the neighborhood is given a clean bill of health. Residents are concerned about an added health risk once construction begins and contaminated soil, dust, etc., is carried through their neighborhood.
- April 14 - Increased level of dioxin was found at the canal. A test taken in a backyard of Love Canal home, showed a dioxin concentration at 20 parts per billion, much higher than the previous results and the front yard soil test results were 1.3 parts per billion.
- April 17 - "Operation Bootstrap" an internal Hooker report was released by a former employee. The report, written by internal Hooker engineers and doctors, strongly criticized the company's handling of toxic chemicals. The plant condition descriptions include "very disagreeable" and "a very serious potential problem". The report calls C-56, a component of pesticides made at the plant until 1975, "a serious environmental problem, and the building still represents a poor environmental health situation".

1979

- April 17 - The Love Canal Homeowners Association held a protest at the 99th Street School. The protest was held to let the officials know we want health and environmental data and immediate relocation because of the health problems and chemical contamination like dioxin throughout our neighborhood. Residents burnt two effigies representing the governor and the state health commissioner.
- April 18 - The city and county have put out a gag order. The city manager's memorandum to all city employees stated, "it is imperative that no employee of this city discuss at any time any facts or opinions relating to the Love Canal". The County Attorney advised county people to "exercise extreme caution" when talking about Love Canal.
- April 24 - Department of Transportation has put the homes which had been evacuated in August 1978 up for sale. The only thing they have advised to treat the homes so they can be safe for occupancy was to wash and paint the homes before occupancy.
- April 24 - Test results on the overflow which occurred in March show a total halogenated organics at 48 parts per billion, when the results were questioned by residents, officials admitted the tests were taken just after a rain, which may have caused lowered results.
- April 24 - Dioxin at 4.6 parts per billion was found in the fish taken from Lake Ontario. The Health Commissioner urged pregnant and nursing women and young children to avoid eating "any fish whatsoever" from Lake Ontario.
- April 25 - Safety Meeting held by New York State officials. Residents received new safety plan. Residents rejected plan because there were no provisions for dust control, no evacuation buses, safety officer would have a conflict of interest, etc.
- April 26 - Accident on-site which leaked several hundred gallons of chemically contaminated leachate on-site into the public street, and down the storm sewer which empties into the Niagara River.
- April 26 - Safety Meeting Held by State officials, meeting was filled with anger, emotion, and fear from Love Canal residents. The meeting did not reveal any new information.
- April 27 - Governor Carey arrived in Niagara Falls and was met by angry, frustrated residents at the airport. The Governor met privately with Lois Gibbs, Dr. Beverly Paigen, and Jean Hasley to discuss the Love Canal situation. The homeowners representatives

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Continued
April 27

- pleaded for further evacuations based on severe health problems. Governor Carey repeatedly said he does not have unlimited resources. The residents (100) picketed outside the Convention Center while the governor addressed the teachers union.

April 27

- New York State United Teachers Committee backed a resolution: The resolution called for support of the demands which the Homeowners Association have asked for, including health care, monitoring for diseases, complete evacuation of the area.

April 29

- Niagara Frontier Coalition was formed, which is a group of labor, citizens, and environmental groups. Their goal is to support the right to a clean environment, and healthy jobs. Other goals include the safe storage of wastes, removal and neutralizing of toxins from dumps and aid to persons adversely affected by dumping.

MAY 2

- Interagency Task Force on Hazardous Wastes held three days of public hearings to listen to the public's views on how to deal with the Love Canal and 151 other potentially dangerous chemical dumps on the Niagara Frontier.

MAY 3

- New dioxin findings results were released showing dioxin levels of 6.7 parts per billion in the backyard of a Love Canal home.

MAY 4

- Hooker testified at Hazardous Waste Hearing. Bruce D. Davis, Executive Vice President told the Task Force that the clean up job was a difficult one and should not be handled in court. He further stated that if state or federal authorities were to begin litigation, its most likely affect would be to disrupt the on-going efforts of the state, the county and Hooker to solve quickly technological problems presented by our closed landfills.

MAY 4

- State Health Department released results of 93rd Street School soil test which showed traces of highly toxic materials on the playground.

MAY 6

- Three hundred people toured the Love Canal in a Walk of Concern. The walk was led by a religious coalition and the residents of the area.

MAY 7

- The families who confronted Governor Carey two weeks ago are given new hopes, a health department representative has notified them that they are being reconsidered for relocation on an individual basis.

1979

- May 10 - Handicapped persons, some mentally retarded, have been hired by the state to do maintenance work in the immediate Love Canal area. Residents strongly objected to allow the handicapped to work there even with the assurance that the jobs posed no health hazard to workers. Residents felt the workers would have been unable to recognize the hazards they faced.
- May 11 - Residents learned at a public safety meeting that a drainage ditch around the 99th Street School which was transporting toxic waste into the storm sewer system. Residents demanded the ditch be plugged and samples be taken and analyzed.
- May 13 - Mothers Day March 200 people led by Love Canal residents passed Hooker and other industrial plants to urge industry to end pollution.
- May 14 - Love Canal Task Force meeting - Commissioner Axelrod, Department of Health, reassured residents seeking relocation that they will be considered. The residents requested data to back up previous health conclusion and press releases by the State Health Department but were told once again it was forthcoming. Residents were told again there would be no further permanent relocation.
- May 16 - Third Safety Meeting held by the Department of Environmental Conservation officials at this meeting told residents that "swales" or old streambeds do not need to be sealed off by clay. State and residents argued over whether the flow coming from the neighborhood to the canal through the "swales" would be worth taking the chance of the trenches filling up during heavy rains or pump shutdowns, and contaminate flowing back out into the neighborhood through the "swales".
- May 18 - Board of Education closed Cleveland Avenue School (which replaced 99th Street School when closed by the Health Commissioner Robert Whalen on August 2, 1978) and left 93rd Street School open even though there are many unanswered questions about its safety.
- May 18 - Dr. Yuri Dundiev, a specialist in labor hygiene and occupational disease from the Soviet Union, toured Love Canal and other dumps in Niagara County.
- May 19 - Senator Daniel Moynihan held a hearing on Hazardous Waste Disposal with the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. Bruce Davis of Hooker, Dr. Beverly Paigen, and Lois Gibbs, representing the Homeowners testified at the hearing.

1979

- May 23 - Niagara Falls city officials announce the existence of toxic chemicals in the city's finished water but state they pose no danger to the citizens who drink it. The city admits some are "highly toxic" and then state there is no need to be alarmed.
- May 25 - Results on the city's drinking water showed increased levels of two benzene compounds and the presence of 12 other substances.
- May 26 - State held open bids on the sale of evacuated homes in Love Canal. Love Canal residents protested at the auction stating the homes were unsafe, and the state is selling poisonous homes to unsuspecting families. Eight homes and eleven garages received offers with the State only to realize \$18,118.
- May 27 - Mayor O'Laughlin of Niagara Falls is seriously considering the purchase of Love Canal homes and moving them downtown to the distressed East Side of town.
- May 29 - Residents at a Homeowners Association meeting voted to seek an injunction to stop the work until the safety of residents is adequately addressed.
- June 1 - Chemical contamination has by-passed the treatment system and leaked out the southern sector of the canal where tiles have not been placed. Residents believe the chemicals are endangering residents who are still living in the Love Canal neighborhood.
- June 3 - The Town of Wheatfield Town Board stated the town would not allow any homes from Love Canal to be moved into their area. They based their decision on a State law which gives the town the authority to restrict anything "contrary to the public health, welfare and safety of the community".
- June 6 - State Supreme Court Justice Norman Stiller signed a show cause order this afternoon directing the city and state to appear in court and explain why the second phase of Love Canal remedial work should not be stopped. The Homeowners are attempting to have the remedial work stopped until an "adequate safety plan is adopted.
- June 8 - Fifty gallons of diesel fuel were dumped into a storm sewer by Kimmins Construction Company, a NDMCO affiliate. The oil emptied into the Niagara River and DEC tested and attempted to clean it up.

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- June 12 - A survey taken by the Love Canal Homeowners Association shows 88 hedges dead or dying and 38 healthy. The owners reported that all were thriving last year and residents believe the dead vegetation is due to airborne contamination like dioxin coming off the canal during construction activities.
- June 15 - Press release from New York State Health Department says the rate of miscarriages north of Colvin Boulevard is significantly lower than the evacuated area. They stated further that the Health Department has found no similarly high levels of miscarriages outside the fenced off area. The residents were outraged saying they have evidence of high miscarriages in "wet" areas, and wanted the data to back up the department's statements.
- June 18 - State Supreme Court Justice Norman A. Stiller denied a request to halt the remedial work saying "the danger is there whether the work goes on or whether it doesn't go on" but the judge did agree the state should block off the old streambeds or "swales", and the state should provide a longer term relocation for any resident developing an illness, instead of just the existing 48 hour plan.
- June 19 - YWCA opens their Day Care Center for children who live in the Love Canal neighborhood. A day camp has been set up for children over 5 years of age. The facilities were used to remove the children from their neighborhood during the construction hours. Residents were fearful of toxic fumes which may be given off during construction.
- June 22 - State Attorney General's Office and the Department of Environmental Conservation issued a wide-range subpoenas to the Hooker Chemical and Plastics Corporation regarding dumping practices at the Love Canal and other dumpsites owned by the company.
- June 26 - Governor Carey came to Niagara Falls to sign two pieces of legislation, one to provide a \$5 million increase for hazardous landfill clean up projects and the other to provide a tax exemption for additional families in Love Canal.
- June 26 - Residents met the Governor at the airport wanting to speak with the Governor but were refused. The Governor stated, "I've been at Love Canal a dozen times, what do you want me to see that I haven't seen before?" Carey also told Mrs. Gibbs that "he has spent more time with her than anyone else outside of his own family".

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- July 3 - Preliminary soil and water tests show low level chemical contamination in the Town of Wheatfield. Sewer construction has been halted until it is determined if the area has been affected by Love Canal chemicals.
- July 15 - The Ecumenical Task Force, representing churches across Western New York has hired an executive director to oversee relief work and other task force operations in the Love Canal neighborhood.
- July 18 - State Health Commissioner David Axelrod promised area residents further soil and air testing will be conducted North of Colvin Blvd. and on 93rd Street.
- July 18 - Governor Carey gave final approval to bills giving partial property tax exemptions to approximately 600 families at a cost of about \$650,000 over a four year period.
- July 22 - Love Canal Homeowners Association begins a control group health study, to compare statistics of their Love Canal neighborhood study.
- July 24 - Construction pipes (three) were blocked with stone. The pipes had to be retrenched and cleared to allow leachate to flow freely.
- July 26 - Panel of Federal experts including Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) concluded that "the population in the Love Canal area has suffered certain adverse health effects as a consequence of exposure to a chemical contaminated environment. They also stated the data suggests a gradient of health effects, with the most severe occurring in residents of houses immediately adjacent to the canal and in "wet" areas.
- August 2 - Love Canal anniversary one year. One year ago today Commissioner Whalen issued the first health order to evacuate pregnant women and children under two.
- August 2 - Workmen digging the chemical collection trenches outside the Love Canal, encountered a highly contaminated streambed forcing them to adjust the route of the drain system and to seriously question the extent of dumping in the area. The old streambed contained, rubbish, bottles, paper, and a drum as well as gross contamination.
- August 9 - Tile work around the canal is delayed because of the discovery of another blockage in the pipes.

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- August 15 - Parents of Love Canal children met with Board of Education members to urge the closing of 93rd Street School. A letter sent to the Board from the Health Department said, "based upon the data currently available to us, we cannot identify any significant health risks to children specifically associated with their attendance at the 93rd Street School". But in the final paragraph Dr. Houghie wrote "to minimize any further or potential risks from environmental factors in the vicinity of the 93rd Street School, you may wish to consider various steps to limit exposures and or access".
- August 18 - The Love Canal Homeowners Association held a candlelight service to commemorate the first anniversary of the health emergency there. It was a sermon of hope, but those who came were in mourning for victims of Love Canal past, present and future.
- August 21 - Health Department confirmed the presence of dioxin in the southern sector of the canal. The results showed a level of 5.3 parts per billion in a soil sample and 176 parts per billion in the holding tank on-site. Residents began to panic after hearing the new results.
- August 21 - State Task Force meeting at Love Canal. Dr. David Axelrod announced the chances of a woman suffering a miscarriage are 30 to 45 per cent or two to three times the normal. Axelrod said the state's policy on relocation remains unchanged, women who were contemplating pregnancy cannot be temporarily relocated, until you become pregnant and are certified by your physician.
- August 25 - approximately 25 Love Canal residents have temporarily left their homes after chemical fumes in the area, caused many of them to become violently ill.
- August 26 - Day Care Center has a much higher absentee rate, of Love Canal children than any ordinary group of children. After checking the absentee rate the LCHA discovered over 50 per cent of Love Canal children were absent with the same systems while, the other children who attend the same center and are not separated in any way have only 2 out of 20 children absent.
- August 29 - Dr. James Dunlop, the school physician recommended that 93rd Street School be closed as a precautionary measure. He had received word from the Health Department sources that Black Creek which is behind the school is contaminated with dioxin.
- August 29 - Robert Flacke, Commissioner of the State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) met with Love Canal residents to discuss problems with the remedial construction work. Residents complained about the construction and safety plan,

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- Continued
August 29 - accusing the state of not following the safety plan, having too many trenches open at a time, making it impossible to accurately monitor emissions of fumes in the area. The meeting then became an emotional scene when area residents who became ill and were living in a school dormitory demanded some type of permanent relocation more suitable for family living.
- August 30 - Niagara Falls Board of Education voted unanimously to close 93rd Street School. 450 children are transferred downtown. The Board based its decision on recommendations from the superintendent and school physician, that the school be closed for at least a year, until further testing of toxic contamination can be evaluated. Although the school may be unsafe for children to attend, the Health Department is allowing children to live across the street from that same area.
- September 1 - Board of Education agreed to bus children to four other elementary schools because of the 93rd Street School closing this year.
- September 1 - The State Attorney General's office requested information from the Health Department on data collected in the 3,000 health questionnaires submitted by past and present residents of Love Canal.
- September 1 - The tile drainage system was uncovered on 101st Street and wheatfield where residents told the state they would find it. The pipes had been placed in the ground years ago and long time residents say the pipes follow the swales and connect to the canal. The State has never fully investigated the pipes, where they go, what they contain, and if they do transport contaminants from the canal.
- September 1 - Twenty-three families are now temporarily relocated in local hotels. The families have been told they must leave the hotel because of full bookings with the Labor Day weekend. Residents became very emotional and fearful with the thought they may have to return home, the place they just fled from because of illnesses.
- September 2 - Senator John Daly and Assemblyman Matthew Murphy wrote a letter to the governor urging that the state purchase at fair market value the home of any resident wishing to leave. Their letter also blasted the Federal Government for their callous disregard for residents and pointed to its active involvement in relief efforts during the "Blizzard of 77". The letter also asked the Federal Government to relocate residents of LaSalle Development, a Federal Housing project in the neighborhood.

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- September 1 - Over 120 people have now left Love Canal because of illnesses believed to be connected to the construction activities on-site which cause odors, dust, etc. The residents have moved from the hotels to Stella Niagara Education Center dormitories.
- September 4 - There are now 231 persons who have evacuated to Stella Niagara for temporary housing. Residents will soon have to leave because of the students who will soon be arriving.
- September 5 - The State Love Canal relocation officials told residents who were temporarily relocated that they must have a medical certification before they can be put in long term housing. The certification must state the individual is acutely ill, coincidental in time and causally related to the construction.
- September 6 - Lois Gibbs went to Washington, D.C. to seek Federal assistance for residents of Love Canal. In her one week visit she met with Congressman John LaFalce, Senator Daniel Moynihan, R.D. Folsom, a policy staffer from the White House, Dr. David Rall, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Douglas Costle from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Shelly Williamson from Toxic Effects EPA, Dave Huber from Solid Wastes EPA, Dan Dozier and Ronald Copeland Health, Education and Welfare and representatives of Federal Disaster Assistance Administration. She also met with Joseph Highland from the Environmental Defense Fund.
- September 8 - Lois Gibbs reported after returning home that the meetings were very frustrating. Everyone stated there is no policy which the Love Canal situation fits, or we must receive a request for assistance from the State Governor or Health Department. The Federal government did say they would send physicians to Niagara Falls to help with the certification of residents to enable them to relocate.
- September 8 - More than 300 residents are now temporarily relocated, moved from Stella Niagara to area hotels and motels.
- September 12 - Love Canal Homeowners' Association went to court with a show cause order seeking to force the State to continue paying relocation expenses for at least one more week. Justice Stiller announced pending the hearing he would allow all residents who are aged or seriously ill may move back to a hotel at State expense and those presently in hotels may stay.
- September 12 - Residents, furious at the state's decision to send them home. The residents refused to return home formed a motorcade, then drove to St. Paul's Methodist Church which was equipped with cots and food. Residents received help from the Red Cross and Ecumenical Task Force.

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- September 13 - State Supreme Court Justice Norman Miller, Love Canal Homeowners Association Attorney Richard Lippes, and the Association President Lois Jones toured the Love Canal neighborhood to help the Judge better understand the problems the residents have been experiencing.
- September 13 - There are now 138 Love Canal families temporarily relocated because of illnesses.
- September 13 - Forty-eight families obtained medical certification, making them eligible to receive extended temporary relocation at the state expense. The certifications were given following examinations at a temporary clinic, with six Erie County physicians located by the Love Canal Homeowners Association.
- September 14 - State Supreme Court Justice gave Love Canal refugees a five day reprieve to obtain doctors certificates stating their physical ailments are related to the canal remedial work.
- September 15 - Heavy rains at Love Canal quickly filled the two 55,000 gallon leachate storage tanks and the streets around the canal flooded possibly containing chemicals which were washed off the canal surface.
- September 15 - Heavy rains shut down work at the canal, and averted another confrontation. Residents were ready to protest the construction work if the State continued during the weekend as intended. If work continued through the weekend children, etc. would be exposed to noxious odors because the daycare center is not available. There are presently 130 families temporarily relocated in area hotels and motels.
- September 16 - Love Canal Homeowners Association are now investigating the possibility of going back to court for women who are contemplating pregnancy. The association and their scientists believe those women should be relocated 6 months before conceiving to rid their bodies of some toxic compounds they have been exposed to.
- September 16 - Officials at the Niagara Falls Water Treatment Plant have found a "weep hole" in the main intake tunnel about 200 to 300 feet from shore shaft. They believe this hole is responsible for allowing contamination from Hooker's S Dump into the city water supply. The contaminated water supply affects more than 100,000 residents.
- September 17 - Homeowners Association asked several authorities to investigate faulty construction of the drainage system. There have been many blockages on both sides of the parallel lines and the contractor has been patching the pipes. The Homeowners want an investigation to be sure the system will work as intended before the contractor and State walk away from Love Canal.

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- September 17 - The first of many homes vacated has been burglarized. There was no additional security given in the neighborhood to protect the homes and possessions of the 138 families who evacuated temporarily to area motels.
- September 18 - State will demolish all 100 homes around Love Canal because no one wanted them and those who made an offer found that the town they would be moving the home to, would not allow a Love Canal home in their community.
- September 20 - A Federal team of doctors ready to be flown in to Love Canal to certify residents were refused permission by New York State Health Commissioner David Axelrod. Lois Gibbs was told by Axelrod that he would not accept a certification signed by a physician from outside New York State. In a statement made to Congressman John LaFalce Axelrod said, "if the Federal government is not willing to do the whole thing, he was unwilling to have them come in for anything.
- September 22 - State and Federal officials discussed the need for additional work on Love Canal. Both admit the tile and trench collection system and clay cap is not the total answer to the problem especially the swales or old streambeds.
- September 22 - State announced it is costing \$7,500 daily to house the Love Canal residents in area motels. Total cost as of September 11, 1979 was \$57,000.
- September 25 - Lois Gibbs met with Health Commissioner David Axelrod in Albany. Lois Gibbs characterized the meeting as very unproductive. She only received a promise that her complaints would be looked into and the health information she requested would be given to her when it became available. The same story she received in August 1978.
- October 2 - "Nova" the science documentary aired a nationwide show, "A Plague on Our Children" which included a segment on Love Canal.
- October 2 - About 900 claims, seeking a total of \$2.4 billion have been filed against the city, county, and school board. The Association attorney Richard Lippes asked the court to extend the time for filing notices of claim or to rule that the claims already filed were timely. The judge ruled the request would be decided during case trials.
- October 4 - Jane Fonda and Tom Hayden visited Love Canal and pledged to join the fight of Love Canal residents for permanent relocation. Jane blamed corporate greed for the Love Canal situation and Tom said "corporate law breakers" such as Hooker should be responsible for cleaning up situations like Love Canal. They pledged to carry our plight nationwide beginning with Albany tomorrow.

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- October 3 - Four Republican members of the State Assembly toured the Love Canal area. All expressed shock at what they saw. They said they would work harder to bring aid to the area and believed the families had a legitimate complaint.
- October 4 - The anniversary of a 7 year old child who died one year ago today. We believe his death was due to chemical exposure and could have been avoided.
- October 4 - Senator Daly and Assemblyman Matthew Murphy met with the Governor to seek relocation for residents. Governor Carey responded by stating that they do not have the money the state and the state does not have unlimited resources.
- October 6 - Health Department announced the findings of resistant mosquitoes at Love Canal. Because mosquitoes that breed in Love Canal have a continual exposure to pesticides they may have a resistance to conventional pesticides.
- October 8 - Love Canal Homeowners Association plans a march on Albany for November.
- October 10 - One year later from the first ceremonial hole, the south end remedial construction is completed. Now who will maintain it? The fight between the city and state has already begun.
- October 11 - The town of Wheatfield insists on installing sanitary sewers in their part of the Love Canal neighborhood even though the homes are worthless and unsafe to live in because of canal contamination.
- October 12 - Dr. Janette Sherman, a specialist in occupational health and serves as a member of Toxic Substances Advisory Committee, EPA "Strongly urged the relocation of Love Canal residents as soon as possible" in a letter to EPA administrator Steven Jellinek. She also urged an immediate halt to all construction, thorough monitoring, re-evaluation of the engineering and public health measures, and more.
- October 14 - The House Commerce Sub-Committee on Oversight and Investigation Report was highly critical of New York State's response to the canal disaster, and that another 140 families be removed from the area. It further stated that Dr. Paigen's study was "of sufficient merit to deserve serious public comment by state officials". It further stated that the Health Department has not provided anyone with a credible refutation of the Paigen Study.

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- October 15 - Dr. Beverly Paigen and Lois Gibbs appeared before a Department of Health, Education, and Welfare Sub-Committee in Washington. Both told the panel the residents should be evacuated until experts can agree on the dangers. They also told the committee another health study should be done by a group who does not have a vested interest in the outcome.
- October 16 - Governor Carey while in Buffalo agrees to purchase additional Love Canal homes.
- October 16 - Students of the University of Buffalo picket Hooker officials recruiting job applicants on campus in support of the Love Canal families.
- October 18 - Love Canal Homeowners put a full page ad in the local newspaper to explain their plight. It listed reasons why families could not return to their homes, they cannot go in their basements, play in their yards, eat out of gardens, attend a school in the area, the miscarriage and birth defects being above normal, etc.
- October 26 - State officials announced plans to purchase homes in the Love Canal neighborhood. Homes would be purchased at fair market value and the state plan includes the whole neighborhood, everyone who wishes to leave.
- October 27 - Love Canal Homeowners Association held a victory party to celebrate their major goal being won. They also honored Dr. Beverly Paigen with special thanks and recognition for all her help and kindness.
- October 29 - Although canal homes will be purchased soon families vow to stay in hotels and not return to their canal homes and wait for the appraisers. Temporary relocation will be discontinued by the state soon.
- October 30 - Lois Gibbs contacted State officials to request a seat on the new committee formed to deal with Love Canal home purchasing, and revitalization and stabilization of the neighborhood.
- October 30 - Lawsuits for damages against the City, County, Board of Education, and Hooker have now reached \$11 billion.
- October 31 - Love Canal residents protested with a "sit in" and won extension on temporary relocation in area hotels and motels.
- November 1 - The Congressional Sub-Committee released the first national chemical waste survey which includes 63 sites in Western New York, 25 of them in Niagara County. This survey did not include the Love Canal dump.
- DAILY MURPHY BILL PASSED.

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- November 3 - Mayor Michael O'Laughlin said in a press release that he hopes that many residents will decide to stay in the Love Canal neighborhood despite the new legislation to buy homes of families who wish to leave. Does the Mayor know there is a problem at Love Canal?
- November 7 - A report by the Carcinogen Assessment Group of the Environmental Protection Agency shows a high range of cancer risks from street to street in the Love Canal neighborhood. The study states the risks vary from street to street and house to house. The study only took into consideration the air readings in the homes, no other routes of exposure like soil, water, etc. and only considered five of the hundreds of compounds found, not including the most toxic, dioxin. The results showed a higher than normal risk on limited information, and residents are fearful of what the real cancer risks are.
- November 7 - State cut off all funds to residents who are temporarily relocated in area hotels. Because there were no more funds and residents refused to leave the motel, Howard Johnson's went to court to seek a court order to evict the families who refused to pay.
- November 8 - The motel obtained a court order, requiring the families to show cause why they should not be evicted. Hotel officials and Love Canal Homeowners Association attorney Richard Linnes met in court and agreed on a settlement.
- November 8 and 9th - Residents put out public plea for temporary housing on TV, radio, and through the local papers. Some families as a result of the plea and with the assistance of the Ecumenical Task Force found housing but many were forced to return home.
- November 10 - Concentrations of dioxin has been found in Bergholtz Creek, the northern most boundary of the Love Canal neighborhood. It abutts the 93rd Street School property. Dioxin was found at 31 parts per billion in sediment samples and 3 parts per billion in a cray fish sample taken downstream. A Health Department official said the health hazard posed by the findings are impossible to determine, yet the Health Commissioner stated no exposure to dioxin is safe.
- November 11 - Congressman John LaFalce wrote a letter to President Carter stating he "has reached the limits of his endurance" in trying to deal with Federal bureaucracy, he added that "approximately 500 families have suffered needlessly over the last several years because the Federal government has not responded adequately". The Congressman asked the President for his direct intervention and forceful leadership.

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- November 14 - The Federal Environmental Protection Agency sent a team of scientists to Love Canal to begin air sampling in the neighborhood. This will be a preliminary study. Air tests will be taken in only a few homes.
- November 14 - The Ecumenical Task Force has moved their office out of the Love Canal neighborhood because of the potential health threat to staff and volunteers.
- November 17 - Governor Carey named Mayor Michael O'Laughlin to head the new task force handling the Love Canal situation. He also named other bureaucrats to the task force and did not include any community representatives.
- November 27 - The Town of Wheatfield will install sewer lines in their portion of the Love Canal neighborhood, even though most families have applied for the State to purchase their homes and the board is willing to take the risks of encountering dioxin and other compounds during the construction. Residents in that area requested relocation during the construction, but were refused!
- November 28 - The team of scientists from the Environmental Protection Agency returned to re-sample homes to insure what they found in the first air samples were not abnormal.
- November 29 - Cost of the Love Canal clean up project has now passed the \$40 million mark and experts say it may only be a temporary solution.
- November 30 - The new Task Force met, whose goal is to "revitalize" the Love Canal neighborhood. Nothing was accomplished. Residents attended to ask for a community representative to be put on the Task Force.
- December 1 - "Revitalization Committee" met for the first time to set up legal entity which would provide a vehicle to funnel money to purchase homes and "stabilize" the area. The "Revitalization Committee" plans on reselling the contaminated homes after residents move out.
- December 2 - Senator Daly and Assemblyman Murphy asked Governor Carey to expand the "revitalization" task force to include a homeowner and a tenant. They felt it was unsatisfactory to have only politicians and bureaucrats serve on the committee as is the case now.
- December 4 - Construction began on the sewer project in the Town of Wheatfield, the east side of the Love Canal neighborhood. Town agreed to test soil, air, and water daily, because of residents fear of toxic chemicals could be released into the environment further endangering their families.

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- December 5 - Approximately 1.4 million gallons of hazardous liquids have been leaching into the Niagara River from the Olin dump next to the 102nd Street dump just south of the Love Canal neighborhood according to a company report to the DEC.
- December 13 - The appraisals of canal homes are delayed until the second week in January 1980. Residents worried about their families health became upset over the new delay.
- December 13 - EPA postponed releasing the results of recent air tests they took in the canal neighborhood. The individuals whose homes were tested became upset, not knowing what their results were.
- December 19 - The Homeowners Association conducted an update survey on the pregnancies during the past year of Love Canal women. The results showed out of 15 pregnancies only two children were born normal. The remainder ended in a miscarriage, birth defect, stillborn, or child with medical problems.
- December 20 - In a memo from DEC to the Health Department which stated that winter kill and not airborne contaminants were responsible for vegetation damage in Love Canal. It also said DEC had been unable to locate a plant expert who could establish that toxics "could have enhanced the susceptibility to winter kill". Residents refused to accept that knowing some hedges grew back and died again during the summer months when temperatures never reached the freezing level.
- December 20 - Hooker Chemical and Plastics Corporation was again named in another suit filed by the U.S. Department of Justice seeking more than \$107.5 million to clean up company owned or operated toxic chemical dumpsites in and around Niagara Falls, New York.
- 1980
- January 6 - Governor Carey sent a letter to President Carter asking him to provide funding for past and present programs now being carried out by the State agencies. This includes participation in programs to stabilize the Love Canal area.
- January 9 - Revitalization Committee met at the mayor's office in a closed door meeting to discuss the plans for home appraisals. About 80 angry people confronted the Mayor, asking him to allow a representative into the closed meeting so that their best interest could be looked out for and to pressure the committee to move quicker so that families could move to a safe environment to protect their children at an earlier date.

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- January 22 - Construction of the 17.6 million dollar Hooker Chemical Corporation office building in downtown Niagara Falls will soon begin. The project was shaky when the state comptroller said he may not approve the loan to be drawn from state pension funds, because of complaints about Hooker's "social responsibility" in connection with the disposal of toxic wastes.
- January 23 - Harassment irks Dr. Beverly Paigen at Roswell. Dr. Paigen said she must clear all public appearances, press releases and interviews pertaining to Love Canal in advance with Roswell authorities and the "harassment" is affecting her work. She also charges politics have stifled her research efforts on toxic chemical dumping grounds. Dr. Paigen who has had several grants cut off says this kind of situation can drive good scientists away from their research efforts.
- January 31 - Liability issue stalls sale of homes in Love Canal area - none of the existing agencies involved wants to assume future legal liability for the potentially contaminated homes.

June

- [redacted] 99th Street
3 cats died leukemia

August 15

- [redacted] 96th Street
Black Creek, oily substance floating smelled like Love Canal.
McDougall and Hartenstein went to check it out.

August 23

- [redacted] 2nd Street
Located on storm sewer, tree died.

October 1

- [redacted] Colvin Boulevard
Evergreen turning yellow.

October 1

- [redacted] 101st Street
Ground sinking where they took soil samples, smells like Love Canal.

October 2

- [redacted] Buffalo Avenue
Five trees blighted.

October 5

- [redacted] Street (former resident)
Dog died of throat cancer, Dr. Levenson.

October

- [redacted] 99th Street
Cancer, Mr. [redacted], kidney disease, was resident 5 years
3 prostate surgery.

September 15 - [REDACTED] 101st Street
Boy broke out September 15-30 Dr. Dyster, Dr. Bin medication
Hearodex.

October 1 - [REDACTED] Colvin Boulevard
Daughter, cough and congestion, refill prescription.

October 2 - [REDACTED] 96th Street
Son, urinary problem, didn't have problem at the hotel.

October 3 - [REDACTED] Center Avenue
Susan, blood clot, Memorial Medical Center, Dr. Segal.

October 3 - [REDACTED] 101st Street
[REDACTED], still born 7½ months, temporarily relocated

October 3 - [REDACTED] 101st Street
Baby having seizures, has been hospitalized repeatedly.

October 8 - [REDACTED] Buffalo Avenue
Donato, former resident out 4 months, only one migraine
since relocated.

October 8 - [REDACTED] 102nd Street
no headaches since relocated.

October 17 - [REDACTED] 100th Street
Lived here 1½ years, children sick, sore throat, swollen glands
Dr. Kushner saw them, children were not sickly till they moved
here. Wife had nervous breakdown over Love Canal.

October 15 - [REDACTED] 101st Street
Son, 11 years old, rash under armpits, painful itching, cortisone
treatment.
Wife intestinal infection, bladder infection, Dr. Dyster.

October 23 - [REDACTED] 96th Street
Wife Bronchial condition, went away when she left on vacation.

November 14 - [REDACTED] 102nd Street
Black gunk in basement

November 14 - [REDACTED] 99th Street ([REDACTED])
Tree died.

November 14 - [REDACTED] 102nd Street
Wife and husband bladder infection, husband also prostrate
since back from hotel.

- November 14 - [REDACTED]-101st Street
 Returning from hotel all got sick.
 Wife, bleeding from intestinal tract, kidney x-ray, stomach swollen.
- November 14 - [REDACTED]
 Boy, heart murmur 8 months.
- November 14 - [REDACTED]-101st Street
 Davis, breathing problems, Childrens Hospital.
- November 14 - [REDACTED]-102nd Street
 Speech impediment, Dr. Dunlop.
- November 15 - [REDACTED]-100th Street
 Baby stillborn at 9 months, baby conceived at Love Canal.
- November 29 - [REDACTED]-103rd Street
 Courtney, breathing problems, Hospitalized, croup.
- December 4 - [REDACTED] Colvin Boulevard
 ears, throat, sinus, Larotid, Tussornade.
- December 6 - [REDACTED]-102nd Street
 Both boys sick.
- December 7 - [REDACTED]-102nd Street
 Son, croup, hospitalized.
- December 7 - [REDACTED]-101st Street
 Kelly, croup.
- December 11 - [REDACTED]-102nd Street
 just released from hospital, nerves.
- December 11 - [REDACTED]-101st Street
 bladder, cyst on ovary, in Memorial Hospital.
- December 10 - [REDACTED]-101st Street
 Dog died.
- December 11 - [REDACTED] Center Avenue

- December 11 - [REDACTED]
-101st Street
Marlene, sore throat, since leaving hotel medication won't even cure it.
- December 17 - [REDACTED]
-102nd Street
Son, croup
- December 17 - [REDACTED]
-101st Street
Wife, constant sore throat, doctor cannot understand why it does not go away with medication.
- December 18 - [REDACTED]
-100th Street
Cellar flooded, never happened before.
- December 18 - [REDACTED]
-101st Street
Basement floor cracked and buckling, chrystals forming in the crack, never happened before, driveway also cracking.
- December 18 - [REDACTED]
-99th Street
Daughter sick for 2½ to 3 months with sore throat, has been to Dr. Schiff and Dr. Arthurs.
- December 19 - [REDACTED]
-101st Street
Home was broken into, insurance is going to be cancelled (worried)
- December 19 - [REDACTED]
-101st Street
[REDACTED] has had cough for three weeks that won't go away on medication from Dr. Dunlop.

|||||

15 pug.

2 were nasal

all children

were conceived

in U.S.A.

20 hepatocellular

either from bleeding

or tumor in

5 block area

most were in

ages of 25-35.