

## REPORT FROM THE GULF (November 01-14, 2005):

*The following is part of an October 2005 update on the situation in Gulfport from FCPO member David Greenhalgh. David is a 36 year career law enforcement officer from the Vancouver, BC (Canada) area. David is part of the relief effort and has volunteered the next 4-6 months to help coordinate things for the Gulfport Police Department, freeing up one of their members to go back on the road. This liaison position is now part of the management team and crucial to the recovery of the PD's lives, homes and family. David has been joined by retired firefighter and his wife (Captain and now Chaplain) Alec and Laurie Dutt. Alec and Laurie are helping coordinate the relief effort for the firefighter families affected.*

"Club Canada" unveiled: All it is right now is just an empty field..... Albeit with a vision attached to it!!

Upon arrival Alec tried to declare the command post "Canadian territory". As there were three armed US Police in the trailer at the time, Alec was promptly informed his British ally (me) would desert him. I think we can safely assume that "Club Canada" will remain in US hands for now, however, our secret weapon is hard at work: Tim Horton's (Canadian) coffee. Even Chief Barnes is now hooked on the stuff. Before you know it the Maple Leaf will be flying over the entire City.

As we write, the ground has been broken, the water meter is hooked up and electrical supplies have been purchased. Do you have an RV? Do you need a break from our long "Canadian prairie winter"? "Club Canada" is where the Maple Leaf flies high, Tim Horton's coffee flows and the only snow will be fake. The weather there is like northern Florida and the gratitude from the families will last a lifetime.

What has been happening over the past few weeks?

- Approximately 45 of the Gulfport PD staff have been interviewed about their housing needs with 28 identified as "seriously affected".
- About 12 other relief agencies have been contacted or have been in contact with us and 34 GPD related work orders have been tasked through Youth for Christ.
- Roughly 25 of these have received action. RV compatible hookups have been installed at worksites for RV's with ground breaking work commencing at "Club Canada".
- Approximately 40 families (estimate) from GPD have benefited from these services and supplies. This includes three of four of the worst affected families.
- Solutions are in hand for the fourth family. There has been prayer and counseling with about 12 individuals.
- On November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2005, nearly 200 sheets of donated sheetrock arrived to be put toward houses of the GPD families.

As you can see, each day brings new blessings, challenges and memories. It is amazing to see how doors are being opened and "Project Katrina" is being blessed. As you read these updates and reports, it is our desire that you will feel led to get more involved. Each of us has different skills. Some are organizers, some are motivators, and some are carpenters, electricians and general all around "good hammer type people".

As we move from the cleanup phase to the repair phase, we need members to get motivated and get involved. If you can't swing a hammer, then perhaps you can be a prayer supporter or motivate someone you know who "would be perfect" to come lend a hand.

I received this skill testing question from an FCPO member on the West Coast.

*You are living in Canada during the months of December to April. The weather is either, damp and rainy (West Coast), cold, really cold or really really cold (rest of the country).*

*The Montreal Canadians only come to Vancouver once every three years with the new NHL schedule. With the poor West Coast TV coverage on the Habs, there is no real sense in watching hockey and really, who cares about the Toronto Maple Leafs as when was the last time they won the Stanley Cup anyways? (that should stir up some replies from you sleeper FCPO members)*

*You have the chance to visit one of the premier tourist destinations on the Gulf Coast of the USA, catch some sun, make some friends and best of all make a difference in some small way during our time here on earth. Do you:*

*A) Remain in damp and rainy or cold, really cold or really really cold Canada destined to watch Western Conference teams do battle time without any decent Montreal Canadians TV coverage (especially rewarding to watch them beat the Leafs).*

*B) Head south, hang out, burn calories, get a tan and wonder why you didn't stay for two weeks.*

*Personally, I would choose B and if you are from the East, did I mention that the Leaf's won't be doing very well anyways? Go Habs Go.*

**\*\*Disclaimer:** Being a "Brit" hockey is extremely confusing especially when someone from the West Coast isn't cheering for the Canucks? Apparently there is some reason why Les Canadians are called the "Habs" but it is well above my level of knowledge. I also have no part of stirring up this "original six" rivalry unless of course it gets you interested in helping out. In that case, go Habs go!!\*\*

For all you hockey fans, that's the news and I am outta here

**"Lest We Forget". Our thanks to the men and women who have served, who are serving and who have given their lives in service to God, Queen and Country on this November 11, 2005.**

David G.,  
Alec and Laurie D.

PS: You can see regular photos and stories at:

[www.fc pocanada.com](http://www.fc pocanada.com)

[www.fc po.org](http://www.fc po.org)

[www.gulfportpd.com](http://www.gulfportpd.com)

**Canadian donations can be sent to:** FCPO Canada: 73 Devonshire Ave. Tillsonburg, Ont. N4G 5C3

Canadian donor cheques should be made out to *FCPO-CANADA*, with a separate piece of paper marked "Gulfport P.D. Relief." (please do not designate directly on cheques). All gifts are tax-deductible. (CHARITABLE NUMBER 12036 5804 RR 0001)

**US Donations can be sent to:** FCPO-USA, P.O. Box 3686, Chattanooga, TN 37404-0686.

US donor cheques should be made out to *FCPO-USA*, marked "Katrina Relief." All gifts are tax-deductible.

