Safe as Houses

By Eric Walters

1. Where does this story take place?
   Answer: Weston, Ontario what is now a part of Toronto.

2. Describe your feelings as you read the book?
   Answer: Anxious, feeling of urgency, of being swept away etc.

3. What makes this story seem fast paced?
   Answer: The fast moving water (river), the danger growing.

4. What was the name of this storm?
   Answer: Hurricane Hazel.

5. Why was David always in trouble at school and not very nice to his sister and baby sister?
   Answer: He had just moved to a new neighbourhood and new school and didn’t like the new neighbourhood and making new friends.

6. How did they get onto the roof of the house?
   Answer: They climbed into the rafters under the roof and used David’s father’s hatchet to cut out a hole.

7. What happened to the hatchet?
   Answer: It came apart and fell into the water.

8. After climbing into the rafters and trying to hatchet through the roof, the hatchet blade falls off and drops into the water. How do the children escape?
   Answer: They use a 2 x 4 like a battering ram.

9. What kinds of things were floating by the house and even slamming into the house?
   Answer: Truck, cars, dead pigs, cows, and sheep, boards, branches.

10. What made the flooded river so dangerous?
    Answer: The fast current was sweeping everything away and the floating debris.

11. What happened to the house when the flood waters became really high?
    Answer: It ripped away from its foundation and floated downstream.

12. What did the children finally have to do to save themselves?
    Answer: They had to jump off the roof and into the river and hope the current swept them into the tree tops.
13. What problem was there in the tree?
   Answer: There was not enough room for all three of them in the branches, so David and Elizabeth had to take turns staying in the water and on the branch.

14. What happened to Daisy?
   Answer: She was swept away and presumed dead.

15. What was the danger of staying in the water to long?
   Answer: The water was very cold and could cause hypothermia.

16. Who rescued the children?
   Answer: Two men in a motorboat, Jim Crawford and Herb Jones.