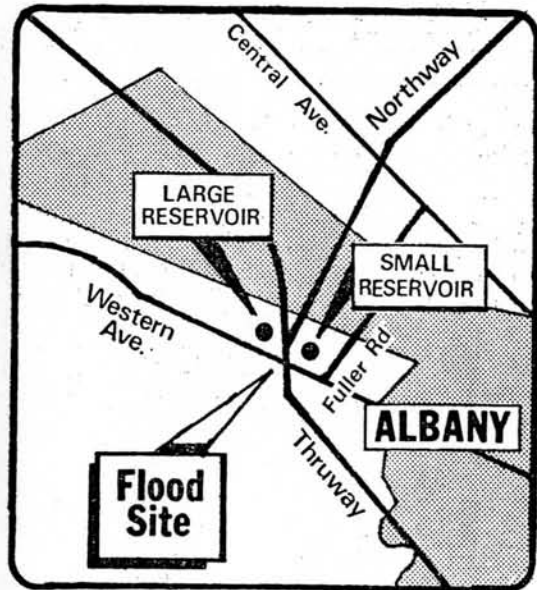


The flood --where and how



Automobile makes its way on flooded Western Ave. (Route 20) in Guilderland. (Staff photo by Paul D. Kniskern)

Guilderland dam floods Route 20



Thousands of gallons of water coursed through a broken dam in Guilderland today, overflowing a smaller reservoir and flooding several acres in and around Stuyvesant Plaza.

A Guilderland policeman at the scene said a six-foot section of the dam broke, allowing water to flow from the larger reservoir west of the

See map, another photo on Page 3-A

Thruway into a smaller pond at the western end of Stuyvesant.

Durwood Brewer, Guilderland water superintendent, said vandals may have caused the dam to break.

The larger reservoir holds 7 million gallons of water.

Four cars in the parking lot of Executive Park at the west side of Stuyvesant Plaza were reported to be underwater.

State and Guilderland town police closed Western Avenue between Fuller Road and Schoolhouse Road this morning while town officials tried to determine the cause of the overflow. The avenue was under two feet of water.

A spokesman for Stuyvesant Plaza said the leak was first noticed about 10 a.m. this morning. Within an hour three to four feet of water covered part of the parking lot in the Executive Park section of the shopping center.

Cars had to be towed from the area, but no injuries were reported.

It is believed that the leak occurred in a reservoir behind the McKownville Methodist Church on Western Avenue. That reservoir is owned by the Questor Corp.

Officials from Guilderland speculate that the water flowed through pipes under the Thruway and Northway to a smaller water supply near Stuyvesant Plaza. The smaller reservoir is owned by the Town of Guilderland and used as an emergency water supply for McKownville.

Police closed Western Avenue to traffic about 11:30 a.m. this morning. A spokesman for the State Police estimated it would take "at least an hour" for the water to be cleared from the road.

Neither the Northway nor the Thruway were affected by the overflow.

IN THE DRINK—A milk truck rests in a hole in the Executive Towers parking lot near Route 20 in Guilderland Tuesday after seven million gallons of water surged out of

McKownville Reservoir when a dam broke, undermining the area. See story, other photo on Page 3. (Staff Photo by Paul D. Kniskern.)



A Stuyvesant Plaza truck plows through the flooded parking lot as water partially engulfs one car. (Staff photo by Bob Richey)