Hundreds of residents evacuated after vicious winds and floodwaters battered communities along the south end of Lake Manitoba.

Residents of those areas, in the Rural Municipality of St. Laurent, were given the bad news at a public meeting Wednesday morning. Nearly 90 people from the region had to be rescued by crews using front-end loaders and Zodiac boats. Helicopters were also used.

As a result, the water levels on the lake will remain high for months, so the risk that this could happen again is just too great, Zotter said.

Stormy meeting

The water levels have receded somewhat but are still covering a vast amount of land. It was a shock for those who had to get out quickly, caught off guard when the lake roared up.

Tour of destruction

Tour of destruction

"It's tough news for people who have been waiting here at the RM office all morning, waiting to find out when they can go home," said CBC reporter Megan Benedictson.

Hundreds of people who live and farm in the region turned out, many of them offering stories of the devastation caused by Tuesday's storm.

Tour of destruction

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"A lot of household appliances have moved. Outbuildings are off their footings or pushed away," he said.

"We saw that there were places that we wouldn't go — that were still under water — that were still inundated. We had to turn around because we could not even save a hamburger because it was too sudden. I just never dreamed that this would happen to me," said Valerie Micaela Bain.

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