

Street set on dollar ownership

Ontario Street is not the only business to be vacated on Ontario Street in Port Hope this summer. The two acre parcel immediately to the south, occupied by Gilmer's Home Hardware will be emptied by late in 1989 with the move to the former Curtis Chicks property at Jocelyn Street and Toronto Road.

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Fire marshal investigates fire



An inspector from the Ontario Fire Marshall's office in Cornwall is investigating the blaze that gutted Dressler House restaurant in Cobourg Saturday.

"I'm here to determine cause and origin (of the fire)," the inspector, Marcel Lalonde, said Monday.

He refused to comment on the \$200,000 fire until his investigation is completed.

"Until cause has been determined we're not going to speculate," Mr. Lalonde said.

The blaze began in the basement of the 157-year-old King Street West building and spread through wall cavities to the second floor, he said. The ground floor, where the restaurant was located, was not damaged by fire although there was considerable damage from smoke, heat and water.

Cobourg fire chief Harry Greer said there is a good possibility the building could be restored.

"If you took the whole roof structure and lifted it off and replaced it, the building could be saved," Mr. Greer said.

In an earlier interview, owner John Wilkinson said he has no idea how the blaze started.

"We had been closed for a week for vacation, everything was locked up" he said.

Wilkinson, who lives close to the building, discovered the fire at about 2 a.m.

"I thought something was wrong, I went over and opened a door and smoke poured out."

Actress Marie Dressler, who became a major Hollywood star early in this century, was born in the house in 1873. Her father, Charles von Koerber, organist at St. Peter's Church, rented the dwelling from the Field family.

The house was turned into a prestigious eating house by the late Lena Field Fisher who lived next door.

Historic house badly damaged - The Ontario Fire Marshall's office is investigating a blaze, early Saturday morning, that caused \$200,000 damage to Dressler House restaurant at 212 King Street West in Cobourg.

Stewart corrals office space

by Larry Hall

Christine Stewart is one of 128 brand new members elected in November to Canada's parliament in Ottawa.

Stewart, a Liberal, took her seat on the opposition benches and set out to organize her offices on Parliament Hill and back in her constituency.

It wasn't until last week that the new M.P. found space at 467 Division street in Cobourg for her main constituency office, which she hopes to open to the public next week.

The former constituency office

that served this area was located in Port Hope.

She has selected two full time people for the Cobourg office. Vicki Kimmett of Cobourg and Jean Wilson of Grafton have been hired.

Stewart says she hopes also to set up a part-time office to serve the Trenton area.

Members of Parliament are given a budget of \$129,800 to operate their offices. The rules stipulate that 20 per cent must be spent on the constituency office staff.

Although she is allowed to hire three staff members for her office

in Ottawa, Stewart says she is going to try to keep that down to two, using the money saved from her budget to provide extra help at the riding level.

"The main thing is to serve the riding," she said.

The next step for Northumberland's rookie MP is to select which of the 22 standing and legislative committees she wishes to serve on.

"My area of expertise is in international affairs and development as well as social issues. These are the things I have been involved in," she said.