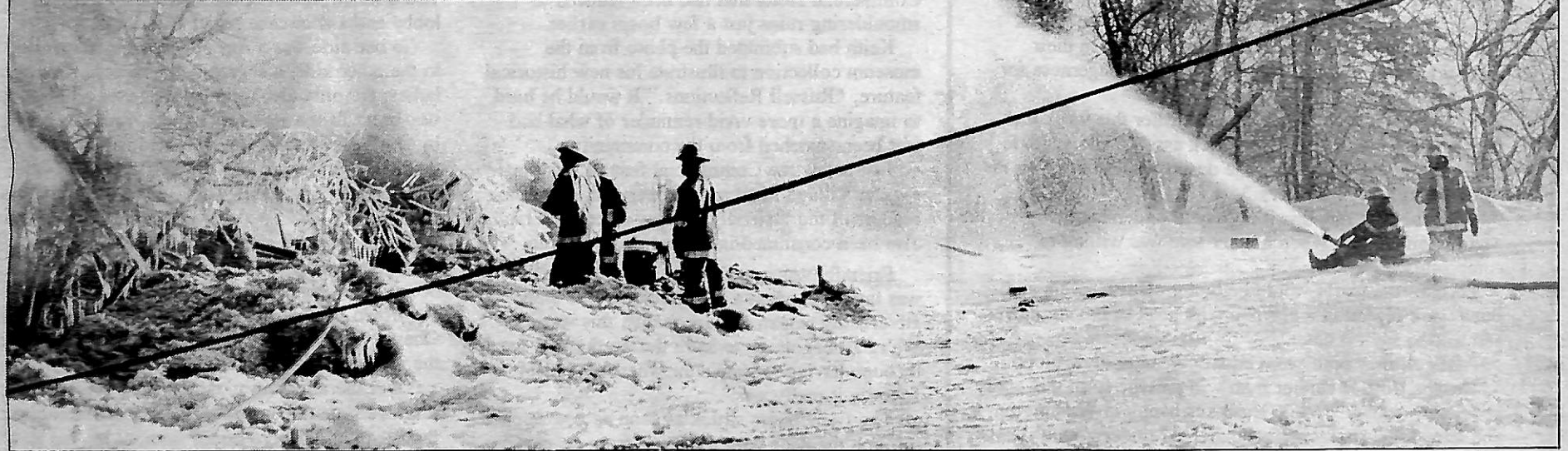


Commercial Hotel, Russell, Ont.



Villager photo - McMahon

Russell's firefighters took turns hosing down the smoldering remains of the Commercial Hotel and Village Meat and Grocery store. The sub-zero temperatures quickly turned the area into a hazardous skating rink and coated the firefighters with a layer of ice. They thawed out in the nearby fire hall

with a cup of coffee and food provided by many friendly volunteers. *Inset photo:* The Russell Commercial Hotel in its glory days. When it opened in 1899 it was considered one of the finest hotels in the area and a credit to the village.