

High praise for Ross Township fire department *July 12/92*

The Ross Township Fire Department has perhaps one of the best trained group of volunteer firefighters in the county.

And the newly-constructed Haley fire station is one of the best facilities in the county.

"Right now we're working on training. That's our big priority," said fire chief Dale Black. "That's why we have (training officer) Dale Curtis. "Even a volunteer fire department needs as much training as a full-time fire department."

The Ross Township fire chief said the biggest equipment concern is the lack of a rescue van. A new pumper to replace the 1958

truck at Forester's Falls is also a priority.

Training officer Dale Black pointed out that the Ross Township Fire Department responded to 31 incidences in 1991-- 16 were auto accidents on Highway 17.

"We provide 24 hour a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year service," said Officer Curtis. "I think that the Ross Township taxpayers should be very proud of the people in their fire department."

"The department has responded to everything from a plane crash in a lake to a chimney fire, a chemical spill and auto extrications," said the Petawawa fire captain. "I

think they deserve a pat on the back."

Coun. Vic McLaughlin, who attended the Mutual Aid meeting, said it was most gratifying to see the amount of training being done by the fire department.

Coun. Don Rathwell added that over the years the Ross Township Fire Department in Forester's Falls and Haley has developed into a united group.

"The ratepayers of Ross Township are very fortunate to have this group of firefighters," said Coun. Rathwell. "All Ross Township should thank you."

Over-ninety birthday celebrations *June 24/92*

By Marie Zettler
Sun Editor

Every month at Little Lakes Estates, there's a birthday party for all the residents who have birthdays during that month.

The June birthday party was held on June 17. And while birthdays are always special, this month's party was extra special. There were three over-90 birthdays.

Viola Johnston

Viola Johnston was looking ahead to her 90th birthday.

Mrs. Johnston was born on June 28, 1902, the daughter of the late Tom and Annie Scott. She and her late husband, Earl Johnston, had two daughters, Helen Isaacs, who died last year, and Pauline, who lives with her husband, Bobby Clark, in Mountain View, California.

She has three grandchildren in California: Brenda, Bruce Wilcox and his wife, Rony, and Diane and her husband, Mike. She also has five great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Johnston lived for many years on the family homestead near Beachburg. She was a church organist both in St. Andrew's United Church, Beachburg, and in Ross Presbyterian Church.

A very creative and artistic person, she spent many hours quilting, crocheting, and oil painting.

Gladys Cox

A relatively new resident at Little Lakes Estates, Gladys Cox, is celebrating her 96th birthday on June 25. Miss Cox moved to Little Lakes last fall with her sisters, Elizabeth Cox and Ruth McGinn, on October 1 last year.

"And we're staying here till they carry us out," said Mrs. McGinn. "I've moved

for the last time."

Gladys Cox was born in Leamington, came to the Ottawa Valley during the 30's to be near her sister, Ruth, who was teaching in Cobden. Miss Cox taught for a year in Micksburg.

"The salary was \$600 a year," recalls Mrs. McGinn. "But if you were a local girl wanting some experience to help you get a job, you would work for \$300 a year."

After her year in Micksburg, their father died, so Miss Cox gave up her career to return home to look

after her mother and an aunt.

In 1958, their mother passed away. Their aunt had died earlier. So Elizabeth and Gladys pulled up stakes and moved to Renfrew to be with Ruth.

Ruth's late husband was John McGinn, son of Hugh McGinn, a well-known Cobden merchant.

Susie Cameron

Susie Cameron celebrated her 95th birthday on June 14.

She grew up four miles outside of Beachburg, and

was the daughter of the late Archie Cameron and his wife, Annie Little. She had four brothers, Duncan, Tom, Alec, and Alan, all of whom are now deceased.

Miss Cameron remembers travelling to the Presbyterian Church in Beachburg by horse and buggy with her family as a child.

With the union of the Presbyterian and Methodist churches in 1925, the church became St. Andrew's United Church.

Miss Cameron is now the oldest members of that church.



Special birthday ladies

These are this month's special birthday girls at Little Lakes Estates. From left are Gladys Cox, 96; Susie Cameron, 95, and Viola Johnston, 90.