

FIRE DEPARTMENT OF THE TOWNSHIP OF DEREHAM

The Dereham Fire Department has almost doubled in manpower since last year at this time in 1972.

The large increase was because of Dereham's ambitious project in the last year: the new Dereham Fire Hall number 2, located in Mount Elgin.

Dereham Fire Chief Joe Sharpe talked about the new fire hall and its benefits to the Township. He said that one of the major advantages is that the township could discontinue buying protection for the North East sector of Dereham. Until the building of the new station, N.E. Dereham had been covered by the North Norwich East Oxford Department.

Along with Mr. Sharpe as chief, there are Deputy Chief Alf Burn in Brownsville and District Chief Pat Johnson in Mount Elgin. Each station also has two captains.

The Brownsville detachment acquired a new 625 pumper in 1971. Chief Joe Sharpe said he hopes that a new tank truck will be acquired for Mount Elgin this year. This will provide both with a new tank truck and pumper for each fire hall.

All 23 men at Brownsville fire hall have completed a St. John Ambulance course. The men at Mount Elgin are undergoing the same training.

In 1971, the departments answered 30 calls. Included in those were three of four that gave the Mount Elgin men their first work-outs under actual fire conditions.

The complete 42-man detachment holds fire practice twice a month, once in each centre.

A big step for the Mount Elgin fire hall will be the hosting of the March meeting of the Oxford County Fire Department Association, to be held in the Mount Elgin Hall on March 2, at 2 pm.

BROWNSVILLE FIREMEN RESIGN

Township of Southwest Oxford Council asked fire chief Joe Sharpe to resign. He did. They accepted his resignation. They have also accepted the resignation of all members of the Brownsville fire department who "backed Joe up".

Mr. Sharpe has been fire chief since 1958, when the Brownsville fire department was formed. Later he was made head of the Mount Elgin department and then with restructuring of the Beachville fire department.

"We have been in the fire department 18 years and had no problems until we got into this regional government", he said.

Mr. Foreman accused council members of accepting the Brownsville firemen's resignations an hour before the delegation turned up.

"I would hope we have a fire department organized and quite soon. We're taking applications and I hope some of the old members will rejoin."

"We definitely need a fire department here. It is too far to come to Mount Elgin when we have a fire department and everything is right here," he said.

"I would like to thank Joe Sharpe for the job he has done for the Brownsville fire department. The people of Brownsville appreciate him quite a bit," added Mr. Franklin.

Township of Southwest Oxford Council members asked Mr. Sharpe for his resignation last Council meeting, in closed session Monday night they accepted it during another closed meeting.

At a fire practice a week ago the Brownsville fire department sent a registered letter supporting the fire chief. A delegation from Brownsville met with Council at the special meeting.

In the interim, Pat Johnson Sr., will be fire chief until another one is appointed. Mr. Johnson is Deputy chief of Mount Elgin. Applications for a new fire chief are to be submitted October 5th. Part of the specifications is the applicant "be responsible to the council for the proper administration and operation of the Township Volunteer Fire Department."

Mayor Jakeman said there was "lack of co-operation and rumours" and he "is sure we can clean up some problems and have good co-operation."

After September 30th, Brownsville residents will receive fire service from Mount Elgin.

BROWNSVILLE FIREMEN REQUEST REINSTATEMENT

OCTOBER 15, 1976

"As far as I'm concerned I'm eating crow by signing this but I'll do it to get the doors open".

With these sentiments, the former members of the Brownsville fire department all signed one form, asking to be reinstated by Township of South Oxford Council.

The Brownsville area lost the services of its fire department after 19 of the volunteers resigned to support fire chief Joe Sharpe. He was asked to resign by council members and says he no longer wants the job.

Representative of the fire marshall's office Bob Stewart was invited to the meeting in Brownsville last night and summarized the feelings of the men. "All you want to see are the lights on and the doors open at the fire hall".

Wednesday night Council members met with three representatives from the former Brownsville fire department: Harold Foreman, Alf Burn, and Donald Honsberger.