

Don't Stop at a Week — Make Fire Prevention a Habit 365 Days a Year

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Second Section

30 Trained Volunteer Firefighters Ready To Face Danger, Fight Fires at All Times

Unfortunately, citizens forget too easily! In spite of continuous publicity urging everyone to practice fire prevention precautions at all times, every community must maintain a Fire Department. "Why?" is a question that might well be asked. The answer is too often that someone is careless and only a well-trained and properly trained fire department can cope with the scourge of fire once it starts.

Rigid Training
Outward appearance is deceiving as far as the Acton Fire fighter is concerned. It is not the story of the modern fire hall with shiny new equipment, hundreds of feet of hose, two-way radios and other pieces of equipment. It is the story of 30 men, trained to cope with all types of fires, save lives and buildings. They are all volunteers who man the trucks and spend many tireless hours training to be firefighters.

From an outsider's point of view, perhaps it is believed the Monday night practice session is only an occasion to roll out the shiny fire trucks and go for a ride, attach hoses to hydrants and see how far the water will squirt, or even sit in the fire hall and listen over the two-way radio as calls from other departments can be heard.

Tough Job
This is not so! Firefighting is a tough job — not just dangerous but also physically demanding. The fire hall is kept spic and span by the volunteer firefighters who are caretakers of this important community building. By sale of tickets, firemen are able to enjoy some recreation by equipping the meeting room with dart boards, a TV set and card tables. To the average person this sounds as though the back room is nothing but a place for recreation. On the contrary, this

but dirty, hard and laboring — a race against time. Even practice sessions can be strenuous and all this is done by men who already have put in a hard day's work for their own livelihood.

It takes a dedicated group of men to offer hard work on a volunteer basis, men who often leave a warm bed in the middle of the night or by-pass a warm meal or rush from a household chore to answer the call of the siren. Consideration must be given also to those who leave their job in industry and their places of employment and to their employers who, with consideration for the community and safety to lives, allow men to depart from work without severance of pay.

Everything Up-to-Date
Firefighting equipment must be serviced and the Department is continuously striving to keep everything up to date. All equipment must be ready for use at all times and after the trucks have returned to the hall, it means the men have to remove wet hose and replace it with dry, check and clean all equipment in readiness for the next alarm. Constant checking, weekly inspections and the running of the equipment are only a few of the chores the 30 volunteers perform.

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room is used for meetings, training sessions, a room to acquaint community groups with the importance of fire prevention by showing films as well as a place for firefighters to sit quietly and pursue their techniques of firefighting.

The 30 volunteers are also quite community minded and pour a great deal of their hard-earned money from ticket sales back into sports equipment for youngsters. They support both hockey and baseball teams in the town leagues.

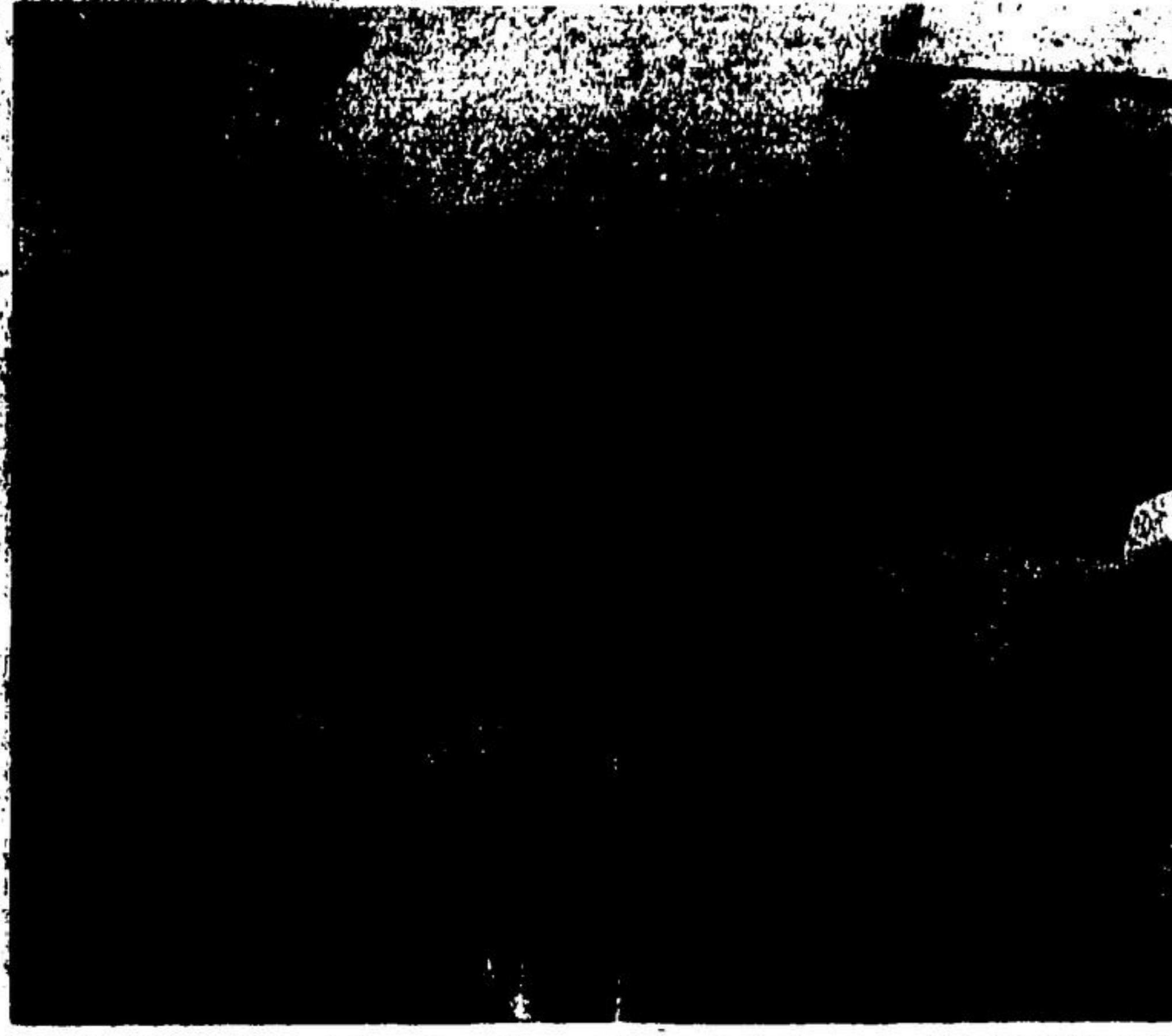
Firefighting today is a profession and Acton rates among the tops in having a well-trained group of volunteer firefighters, ready and willing at the sound of

the siren to drop everything they are doing, race to the firehall, don coat and boots and hop aboard the truck to battle a blaze. They are also willing to acquaint everyone with the importance of fire prevention by pointing out fire hazards in homes, offices or industries. They are only too willing to recommend the proper type of fire extinguisher which should be used in home, office or industry and pass on any information to citizens which can be of assistance in either fighting fire or preventing fires.

Fully Capable
The advance in toxic and high volatile chemical adds to the headaches of a modern fire-

fighter but the 30-man crew whose responsibility it is to protect this area are fully capable in their chore of firefighting. Pre-planning is necessary to combat that unexpected event that may place Acton in a dangerous situation. Acton firefighters are endeavoring to prevent any catastrophe by steady practice sessions each week and group and individual study on the latest techniques.

Protecting life and limb must not be left entirely to the firefighters. It is the duty of each and every citizen to help prevent fires — not just during Fire Prevention Week but every week. Why not make it a resolution now "To prevent fires."



RECOMMENDED TYPES of fire extinguishers are being checked over by Deputy-chief Bill Williams, right and firefighter Harry Otterbein as part of their Fire Prevention Week duties. Both men are members of the Fire Prevention committee and have planned an extensive program next week to mark Fire Prevention Week. The department recommends soda acid for the average rubbish fire, foam for burning liquids, dry chemicals for electrical fires and pressurized water for small fires. Banned by the Ontario Fire Marshall's office is pyrene on account of deadly gases given off by the fumes. Acton Firefighters are willing to advise residents on the proper type of extinguisher they should obtain.

Heat System Causes 13% of Canada's Fires

Fires caused by Canadians are losing more than \$120,000,000 in fire damage each year and faulty heating systems cause more than 13 per cent of these fires, according to the All Canada Insurance Federation.

With winter approaching, the following precautions be taken to insure that your home is not needlessly destroyed during the cold months to come.

1. Choose only recognized and approved home heating equipment.
2. Have qualified workmen install the equipment.
3. Keep stoves and furnaces clean and in good repair.
4. Install metal flashing at points where pipes and chimneys pass through walls or partitions.
5. Use only clean, first-quality fuel.
6. Store spare kerosene and similar fuels in a safe place, preferably away from your home.
7. Use fireplace screens to prevent sparks.
8. Have chimneys cleaned and checked.

4. Fireplaces, stoves and furnaces should be insulated to prevent combustion of surrounding walls.



MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY sufferers are being aided this year by Acton Firefighters. The brigade had a display at the fall fair and members handed out pamphlets, displayed fire extinguishers and photographs of serious fires. Firefighters are stressing the need for fire prevention at all times.

Voluntary Check

Inspect Your Home for Fire Hazards

Your home is your castle! This tradition is sacred to the program of voluntary home inspection by the fire service. That is why the inspection of a home is subject to the friendly wish of the householder, without involvement of any kind.

If an authorized, uniformed firefighter knocks at your door, let him in. His aim is to help you uncover fire hazards. If you're wise, you will accept his suggestions, as have hundreds of thousands of Canadians.

What he has to say concerns the safety of your home, perhaps your own life. There's no expense to you and it doesn't add to your taxes and it will help your peace of mind. He is at your door either under a planned municipal program or at your own invitation.

Men Tragic
While public and commercial buildings in Canada must submit to a rigid fire inspection, the home and the owner's privacy are respected. Nevertheless, it is in the home that three-quarters of all fires occur, so often with tragic loss of life.

More and more across Canada voluntary of courteous home inspection has been established as a public service.

Besides trash inspectors, an alert to storage of flammable liquids and stove ashes, smoke pipes and chimneys and faulty wiring. Don't be ashamed if they point out danger spots. S

home is perfectly free from hazard. They will give you a private written report on their findings without use of your name, without gossip about the neighbors, and they will not advise on re-

payment of equipment suppliers. As the fire service says, "The best fires we fight are those that never happen. Make a fire-free home your kind of home."

List Firefighters

Acton Volunteer Fire Department is rated second to none in its class. According to reports of fires last year, the firefighters can boast of an enviable record among other fire departments.

There was a total fire loss of \$6,252 in the townships and \$5,850 in the town of Acton. No persons were killed, but one family was left homeless for a short period.

For the most efficient firefighting the department is divided into three companies. A captain is appointed to head each one.

Listed below are the names of the firemen in each company. All are under the direction of Fire

Chief Mick Holmes and Deputy Fire Chief Bill Williams.

A Company — Captain Ben Van Fleet, Don Van Fleet, Doug McEachern, Dorson Trizzell, Leo Swannott, Herb Dadds, Grant Walters and John Turkyev.

B Company — Captain All Dubs, Will McEachern, Bill Spelwegel, Norm Price, John Kravick, Bill Knight, Harry O'Neil, Jack Pink and Ken Hodgson.

C Company — Captain Doug Mason, Wayne Kelly, Sam Leonard, David McFoy, Harold Townsend, Phil McCordell, Will Donald, Ed McGalloway and Hal Ford Price.

People Out of Work If Fire Destroys Plant

Fire swept a portion of the main street section of one of the towns. Not only were the 42 employees made jobless but the loss of the buildings and contents had a serious effect on the income of the town.

This terse remark in the annual report of the Fire Commission of a Canadian province is illustrative. "Good job had fire people out of work."

It is the only one in town every citizen, directly or indirectly suffers if it per- manently leads.

Look at the history of a factory fire in a Canadian community of 25,000 workers thrown out of work numbered 150. A few (mostly women) were absorbed elsewhere, as the management pondered rebuilding and decided to go ahead, though it would take at least a year.

In that time, some were re-

Children Suffer Most By Fire in Canada

More children than ever before died by fire in 1962. But the year's total fatalities are still below the all-time death record of 1957. The sex ratio table sets out the victims by sex, women and children 1962 figures being estimates.

Year	Men	Women	Children	Total
1962	238	116	266	620
1961	225	120	211	556
1960	209	125	232	566
1959	221	106	233	560
1958	210	115	217	542
1957	244	134	256	634
1941	716	1415		

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