

# 30 volunteer firefighters highly trained at all times

Fire Chief Mick Holmes reports on the duties of his 30 firefighters, as well as procedure.

Why does a community support a Fire Department? Acton is proud of its department and records will prove that firefighting and fire prevention are at the peak of efficiency in our town and the surrounding rural areas, which through municipal agreement are protected by our Volunteer Fire Department.

This fire department is composed of 30 conscientious men, dedicated to protecting lives and property of others.

Acton has come a long way in its firefighting technique and in its never-ending promotion of fire prevention.

Volunteer firefighting today is a 24-hour-a-day profession and Acton rates among the tops in having a well-trained volunteer brigade. These men leave their jobs in industry and other places of employment to answer the call of the fire siren and praise must be given to their employers, who with consideration for the community and safety of lives, allow the men to depart from their work without severance of pay.

Firefighting equipment is very important and the Acton department is continuously striving to keep up-to-date by the addition of modern equipment and the continual practice and knowledge needed to make this equipment function.

First aid courses and firefighting courses are attended faithfully and this knowledge is put into use when the occasion arises.

Acton is fortunate to have an excellent fire insurance rating and this is a good promotional effect in encouraging industry and residential prospects to our town.

Acton Firefighters also find time to help children in the community, sponsor hockey and baseball teams, and are continually travelling throughout the area showing slides and preaching the never-ending words of fire safety.

Six fire phones are located in homes of firefighters. When a call comes in to 853-1212, all six ring, but the first to answer



MICK HOLMES  
Fire Chief

(usually it's the wife of the firefighter, who is at work) is the only person to take the message.

After complete information regarding the fire is received, the person who took the message flips a switch at the side of the phone to start the sirens sounding. The first firefighter to reach the fire hall picks up the fire phone and while taking details of the fire from the person who received the call, he shuts off the sirens in order to hear. After the message is received, the sirens are switched on again to alert other firefighters.

As soon as enough men reach the hall, don boots, hard hats and coats, they climb on the truck and rush to the fire. The length of time the siren sounds is no indication as to how serious the fire is.

In the winter time, it is necessary to test the sirens occasionally as sometimes they freeze up. The three sirens are at the fire hall, at Force Electric, and the tannery. The tannery siren is sounded independently from the boiler room, where a fire phone is also located.

Training sessions are held weekly for the 30 volunteers in order to keep abreast with the latest firefighting techniques. The Acton department is divided into three companies with a

duty roster drawn up weekly.

Although Acton has a voluntary department, firefighters receive an honorarium, which is meted out according to a point system. Each time a firefighter attends a fire or practice, points are allotted. At the end of the year, they are tallied to indicate the amount of the honorarium.

The department operates on a budget from town council and each year, Chief Mick Holmes submits the fire budget for council's consideration. The fire committee of council keeps in close contact with the operation of the fire department.

## Editor stresses progress need

(Continued from Page 11)  
rural area around Acton highly desirable to the dairy industry.

Suggestions in the report on the steps and planning to remedy and enlarge the commercial activity of Acton by development of the Central Business District are breathtaking. The implementation of any or all of the progress would add impetus to the growth of the retail section of Acton.

The report in its projection of a municipal population of 9000, educational facilities to 1983 sees the addition of four rooms to the Robert Little School; 8 rooms to the M. Z. Bennett School and the High School with a student population of 1150 requiring an additional 18 rooms.

The report, while it does contain assumptions, and is based on studies over a relatively short time, is perhaps not exactly the way Acton's future will emerge. However, it does contain the information available on Acton and its suggestions are based on the most up to date projections available.

With these reservations it is readily apparent that the report does contain information and suggestions invaluable to the citizens of Acton and particularly those charged with the responsibility of plotting Acton's course in the development of Canada in the next two decades.



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