



THREE SHINY TRUCKS in a row and the latest square of 28 men are on call if needed. In fire-fighting equipment are available for local calls at the Acton Fire Hall. A volunteer (Staff Photo)

## Volunteers are special citizens community investment against fire

Many small communities cannot afford a full time fire-fighting squad. Yet, no community can afford to be without fire-fighters.

For this reason, the volunteer fire department is special. It takes a group of special citizens

willing to devote a part of their private lives for the safety of the community as a whole.

It could mean leaving church when you're in the front pew, ducking out of a poker game when you have the winning cards, getting out of bed on a

stormy night, or dashing off during dinner before the chocolate cake.

It's often hard to muster energy and enthusiasm when the siren blows in the evening after you've worked a full shift for the family income.

Nearly every little boy dreams of owning his own high rubber boots and hat, and speeding through town on the big red truck, lights flashing and siren blaring.

But in reality, fire fighting is a dangerous, dirty job. There's nothing glamorous about third degree burns, suffocation by fumes and smoke, carrying heavy equipment over rough fields to reach a grass fire, or punching in for work at eight when you've been out at a house fire until four-thirty.

The desire to help doesn't make a good fire department. It demands hours of practice to begin to function efficiently as a team. It requires progressive leadership that is willing to accept and implement new ideas and techniques. It needs the support of the community.

Yet, although the hours are long and the pay just isn't, the job of the volunteer is not without rewards. There's the fellowship of the meeting hall at the station, the pride in keeping the fire hall and equipment shiny and in top condition, and the sense of worth and achievement when lives or property are saved with your help.

No matter how extensive the prevention campaign, no home or industry is safe from fire. With a good volunteer fire department, the odds against serious loss are cut considerably.

## Acton firefighters among best in area

Acton can boast one of the most efficient, best-equipped volunteer fire departments of any community in the area.

Thirty trained men and three trucks are ready at all times to answer calls in town and the surrounding rural district. The past summer has seen almost continuous action, particularly during the rash of lightning storms in August, battling barn fires, blazing homes, grass and bush fires.

This year a new rural area agreement has been signed with Erin, Nassagaweya and Esqueping townships for service to these areas. The introduction of fire permits has been a great aid in fire prevention.

In an effort to keep up on the most modern techniques, several volunteers took a special radio course. Practice sessions are held every Monday night at the fire hall.

The department is always willing to take part in public functions where time will

permit. They drove a truck in the fall fair parade and set up one of the most informative booths. They plan to drive in a Church parade to be held Oct. 28.

Under Chief Mick Holmes and Assistant Chief Bern Van Fleet, the department is divided into three companies.

"A" Company—Alf Duby capt., Don Van Fleet, John Dunn, Lloyd McIntyre, Grant Withers, Leo Synott, John Turkosz, Harold Manes, Jim Thornhill.

"B" Company—Wayne Kelly capt., Bill Spielvogel, John Vander Brink, Norm Price, John Krapek, Harry Otterbein, Jack Pink, Bert Fowler, Ken Hodgson.

"C" Company—Doug Mason capt., Whit McEachern, Ditson Frizzell, Sam Tennant, "Scotty" McCristall, Harold Townsley, J. H. Price, Wilfred Duval, Ed McGiloway, H. Dodds.

This division of men enables the department to answer more than one call at a time if necessary without confusion.

This year's secretary is Scotty McCristall and treasurer Wilfred Duval.

## Electric fuse is watch dog

An over-fused electric circuit invites fire in the home. And a national survey shows that hundreds of thousands of Canadian dwellings have the wrong fuse (costing less than a dime) in a socket.

In a typical municipality of 25,000, fire investigators found that only 15% of the homes visited were properly fused.

What is over-fusing? It's when you use a 20, 25 or 30 ampere socket fuse in an ordinary branch household circuit. Why can such fuses provide a fire hazard? Because they engender a sense of false security. They do not "blow" when the "load" is dangerously increased. The wiring heats. Heat plus fuel and oxygen means fire. If the wiring is concealed, fire may start in the wall.

## Fire—sound the alarm!

Sound an immediate alarm in fire. Call the Fire Department. Don't take it for granted that somebody has acted.

How you react in emergency can mean your job. If the place is destroyed, nobody will be working there tomorrow. Maybe never.

In a recent Canadian business office fire, it was 20 minutes before help was called.

It takes only a few minutes for a minor fire to become a big one. Analysis of large loss fires in North America shows that discovery was prompt in only a third of the outbreaks.

Safe evacuation of people depends, too, on early warning. It took 30 minutes to get out 3,000 workers in a Canadian skyscraper fire.

Water is still the best way to put out most fires, and automatic sprinkler protection is a great asset to a building. But remember that water is useless in, say, on oil fire. Water only spreads the burning oil.

Make a point of reading the directions on the fire extinguishers available where you work. You may never know when yours will be the responsibility of action in emergency. You may be the means of preventing a small fire from becoming a big one.

## "We left them alone only a few minutes"

This newspaper has said it before, and it will say it again and again: for a compassionate community there is no sadder news than the death by fire of children in the home.

And the shadow deepens when the headlines read: "We left them alone only a few minutes..."

For the stricken family, the shadow of its wretched neglect will last a lifetime.

Fire is no accident. Fires are caused by stupid, unthinking carelessness.

To parents and guardians of the young, let it be known that, besides various provincial laws, the Criminal Code of Canada, (section 189) reads:

"Everyone who unlawfully abandons or exposes a child who

is under the age of 10 years, so that its life is or is likely to be endangered or its health is or is likely to be permanently injured, is guilty of an indictable offence and is liable to imprisonment for two years."

People have a duty to their children, to the community and to themselves to see that the youngsters are properly looked after.

FRED A. HOFFMAN  
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Guelph, Ont.  
Telephone 824-2871

# WE NEED YOUR HELP URGENTLY!

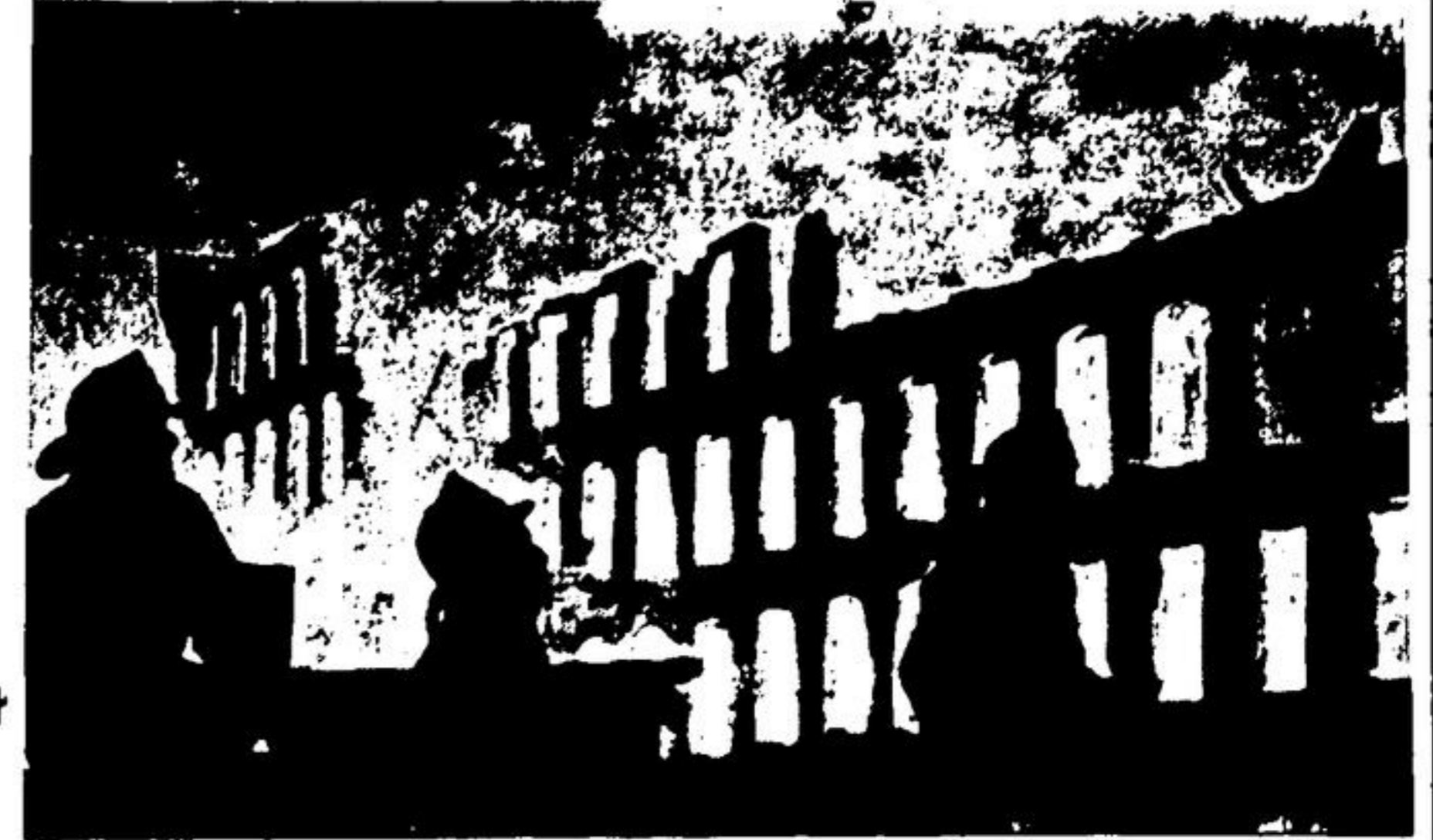
## OCTOBER

### 6th to 12th

HAS BEEN PROCLAIMED

## NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION

Only You Can Help Us in Our Constant  
Fight Against Fire by Observing the  
Theme of Fire Prevention Week:



## Think About Fire Wherever You Are . . .

TODAY . . . TOMORROW . . . ANY DAY . . .

# FIRE PREVENTION is up to YOU



FOR EMERGENCY ONLY  
CALL ACTON

## 853 - 1212

### MY PLEDGE FOR FIRE SAFETY

- I pledge to remove fire hazards from my home daily.
- I will not kill by smoking in bed or being careless when I do smoke.
- I will not clean clothes or start fires with gasoline or other flammable liquids.
- I will not throw away matches without first being sure they are out.
- I will check my heating appliances and chimneys at regular intervals.
- I will not place hot ashes and coals in anything but a metal container, and will not leave these containers sitting on a wooden floor.
- I will protect all woodwork close to smoke pipes with asbestos and metal, leaving an air space of at least two inches between this protection and the pipe.
- I will not do electrical wiring repairs unless I am a qualified electrician.
- I will not use pennies, hairpins, foil and such as electric fuses.
- I pledge to make Fire Prevention a year-round obligation by participating actively in the fight to reduce Canada's annual death toll by fire.

FIRE IS A MENACE . . . a menace to the lives of those you hold dear . . . a menace to your home and to your business. Fire lurks in litter and rubbish, in oily, paint rags, in unchecked electrical systems, in dirty, cracked chimneys, in overheated furnaces. Wherever there is carelessness, fire threatens. Fighting fire starts with prevention . . . and that's your job. Next week and every week do your part to prevent fires . . . remember a little care can save a lot of damage.

YOUR ACTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT  
URGES YOU TO CHECK FOR FIRE HAZARDS  
IN YOUR HOME, IN YOUR BUSINESS, TODAY!

DURING FIRE PREVENTION WEEK AND EVERY  
WEEK THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE YEAR WE  
PLEAD FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION TO HELP  
KEEP ACTON SAFE. WON'T YOU HELP?

# DON'T BE CARELESS PREVENT FIRES

THIS MESSAGE SPONSORED BY THE

## ACTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

**\$38.99**  
**PLEASE!**  
That's your share and the share of every man, woman and child of the estimated \$750,000,000 cost, direct and indirect, of fire in one year in Canada.  
NOW! the taxpayer least of all, escapes the responsibility of fire on the job and in the home.

**FIRE IS A POKKET PICKER!**

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