

# 404 YEARS OF FIREFIGHTING KNOW-HOW IN GEORGETOWN'S VOLUNTEER BRIGADE

**GEORGETOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT'S OFFICERS:** (seated from left) Ace Bailey, Harold Bennett, Chief Erwin Lewis, Deputy Chief Clarence Spence, Gord Inglis, Jim Valentine; (standing) Ross Dickey, Herb Roshier, Walt Richardson, Paddy Woods, Dave Williams, Ralph Bludd, Charles Hill.

Often praised for their promptness and efficiency, the Georgetown Volunteer Fire Department boasts 25 members with 404 combined total years of experience. They are: Chief Erwin Lewis (25 yrs. with Dept.); Deputy Chief Clarence Spence (25 yrs.), Captain C.R. Valentine (28 yrs.), Captain D. Williams (14 yrs.), Captain R. Bailey (11 yrs.), Lieut. R. Bludd (11 yrs.), Lieut. W. Richardson (25 yrs.), Secretary H. Bennett (10 yrs.), Treasurer G. Inglis (10 yrs.), Driver P. Woods (7 yrs.), Driver R. Dickey (6 yrs.), Driver C. Hill (12 yrs.), Driver H. Roshier (14 yrs.), and Firefighters C. Carey (27 yrs.), W. Ritchie (29 yrs.), J. Ritchie (26 yrs.), W. Hyde (25 yrs.), W. Street (18 yrs.), J. Cunningham (24 yrs.), C. Tyler (17 yrs.), Udd Davidson (22 yrs.), A. Stamp (9 yrs.), W. Hillier (6 yrs.), W. Henderson (2 yrs.), and Jack Davidson (1 yr.).

Amazing is the fact that the 25 man force, responsible for the safety of lives and property of 12,000 inside town limits as well as another estimated 3,000 population and property in a large section of Esqueving Township, is at same strength as it was twenty-five years ago when their protection area included only Georgetown and its population of less than 3,000.

## Electric Fuse Is Your Watch Dog: Don't Muzzle

An over-fused electric circuit invites fire in the home. And a national survey shows that hundreds of thousands of Canadian dwellings may 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 per cent of the homes visited were properly fused.

What is overfusing? 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 and oxygen means fire. If the wiring is concealed, fire may start in the wall.

In minutes, it may be out of control, perhaps tragically. Says the fire chief of a prairie community with 25,000 homes: "In most of the older homes where we found overloaded circuits, practically all were using 30 amp fuses, and even pennies and tinfoil behind the fuses."

Check with your fire chief, the utility, an electrician or even a knowledgeable neighbour to make sure you have the proper fuses in your sockets. For under a dime, why gamble with fire?

**FIRE INSPECTION**

### DON'T BE ASHAMED

Shame (over an untidy house), fear (of consequences), ignorance (of what it's all about) — forget these things if you have an ounce of common sense. Welcome the fire fighter if he knocks at your door, suggesting a look-see for fire hazards.

Close your door to fire, keep it open for fire prevention. This neatly describes the philosophy of Canada's campaign for greater fire safety in the home, on the job, and everywhere. In plants, office buildings, stairwells, fire doors must be kept closed. Why? To shut off live air (oxygen) from fueling a fire. In the home, too, a closed door will slow down the spread of fire.

**Long Way**

But because three-quarters of all fires happen in the home, and because the basic hazards are quite simple (over-fusing, frayed wiring, faulty heaters, rubbish and the like) their elimination will go a long way in prevention. Hence the purpose of the fire fighter's call. But why wait for the fire fighter? Check these hazards yourself. Or call the fire chief and make an appointment.

Some of the Fire Dept. members have their own business, however most are employed with local industries whose cooperation plays a large part in the success of the volunteer setup.

The Georgetown brigade is a main link in the unique Halton Mutual Aid Firefighting System first county system of its kind in Ontario, which can put 6 additional fire trucks and 50 more men in any part of Halton County should they be required.

As well as being prepared to fight fire whenever it occurs the Georgetown Department is doing its share to see that fires don't get started by taking an active part of the Halton Fire Prevention Bureau. Operating fire safety poster contests and conducting inspections are just two of the many ways they work towards eliminating fire hazards. The Georgetown Dept. is also affiliated with the Thunder-Credit District Firefighters Association, and with other fire departments across Canada have taken on the fight against muscular dystrophy as a project.

Keeping Georgetown and area protected means the sacrifice of much time and cuts into holidays and the leisure hours



**YOUR HOUSE?**

WEEK IN AND WEEK OUT, fire strikes an average of one thousand homes. Most of these fires are the result of carelessness and neglect. Fire is not only costly but in many cases a very tragic occurrence.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, October 11-13-14

Trophy to be awarded at school with most parents attending.

Due to catering difficulties no lunch served this year.

# DON'T BE CARELESS PREVENT FIRES

## FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

OCTOBER 9th to 16th

### Fire Prevention Blitz Wednesday, Oct. 12

Industries — Schools — Commerce

Local Fire Department Inspectors will be accompanied by Inspectors representing local insurance companies.

Residential Inspections Later by Request

## GEORGETOWN FIRE DEPT.

# "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 wanton 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.

## PROCLAMATION

EACH AND EVERY YEAR we have throughout the Town of Georgetown, numerous fires which through carelessness and neglect are a constant concern to our Volunteer Fire Department.

Therefore pursuant to a resolution passed by the Municipal Council, I do declare . . .

### OCTOBER 9th - 15th

## FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

In the Town of Georgetown

JOSEPH GIBBONS, Mayor



## PRACTICE FIRE PREVENTION 52 WEEKS A YEAR

- In The Home
- In Store & Office
- In The Factory
- On The Farm

### CARE AND CAUTION COULD PREVENT MOST FIRES

You can never be too careful when it comes to preventing fire! That's why good safety habits at home, at work, at play are the rule, never the exception. At home, check often to guard against accumulation of flammable debris, faulty wiring, or heating system, or other fire hazards. At work, obey fire department regulations to the letter. At play, make sure campfires are out, dead out. Caution now may save lives later.

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