## Fire brigade moves to new quarters Saturday

Saturday, January 9, 1971, was moving day for the Rockwood Fire Brigade but it was a short hop for the long haul as trucks, cars, and manpower were put action to transport equipment, furniture and other possessions from the little building on Guelph Street to the grander, more elegant quarters on Inkerman

The move was one of mixed emotion. Four of the men whose names are on the membership list have been associated with the brigade since its inception, others have been members long enough to remember the more carefree days of camaraderie days before television and the novelty of extensive car travelling.

Monday practices

"It used to be" said Frank Schneider, one of the original brigade who has recently been retired to an honorary position as radio attendant, "that Monday nights at the old Fire Holl were important nights to remember in the community and every week all the firefighters would gather for their regular night out. After their practices session there'd always be an evening of cards and donuts and nobody went the next Monday practice".

"At that time" said one of the wives of an earlier member, meet at somebody's house and they'd play bridge or something

sponsor and participate in most of the community life. They were the men's activity group in Rockwood and they contributed a great deal of their time and effort towards village affairs, raising money when it was required, organizing and sponsoring youngsters' baseball teams, and generally, being the backbone behind organizations.

Started in 1949 The Rockwood Fire brigade was originally organized on a formal basis in July, 1949; previous to that time the villagers fire protection consisted of a group of volunteers using a two wheeled cart on which were

mounted two chemical tanks. It was pulled by a car or truck and was kept in the rebuilt barn section of the Knoops property on Guelph Street and in the winter, the cart was stored in the old Battery factory, which is now the Schneider Candy Factory.

True to name

As 1937 rolled along the brigade bought a Model T truck nicknamed the Red Devil, purchased from the Guelph Fire Department and, according to home without looking forward to reports from those who were there then, the old truck was true to its name and was constantly presenting engine difficulties. "when the men would go to their 'The firemen mounted the practices the ladies would also chemical tanks on the ancient vehicle but, in the early '40's she was replaced by a brand new else, too." The firemen used to International truck on which the

tanker and the pumps were

The alarm siren was located on the telephone pole at the east end of Guelph Street, and at the provocation of any blaze, villagers would telephone the fire number and the alarm would , sound automatically via the operators located in the Bell telephone building.

Pranksters

However, this raised great difficulty; often pranksters would phone the number and arouse firemen for night-time and Hallowe'en stunts and, in consequence, it was arranged that three established centres would take all calls when the 9511 number is dialed today. whichever of the three stations has been alerted, Fred Meadow's service station, the Kingsley's Barber Shop or Root's Hardware store, the answerer rings the siren via phone and, when the firemen arrive at the firehall they pidck up the phone which has automatically given the alarm and are informed where the fire is after which they write down the address of the fire and its details on the slate board beside the phone.

20-man brigade

When the Rockwood Fire Department first started up it was a 20 man brigade of which Lorne Thatcher, Albert Malthy, Joe Duby, Cliff Meadows, Len Nightingale, Ray Young, Les Ayles, Harry Edwards, Earl



THE INTERNATIONAL fire truck which replaced the Model T"Red Devil" original at the fire hall. The International In its turn had to bow to a more modern pumper which occupies the number one spot.

panel truck for emergency radio

calls was also in operation for

brigade usage but, as the tanker

was put to heavier use, the

firemen became concerned at the

possibility of its blowing up. By

1970, the Rockwood Fire

Department had amalgamated

with the Eramosa Township who

was paying portions of money

into the brigade operations for

System revised

A new 1970 International

firefighting truck, built by Pierre

Thebault of Pierreville, Quebec

was purchased and temporarily

housed at the Guelph Street Fire

Station under the ownership of

the new Eramosa Township Fire

Brigade. A whole new system for

out of village runs.

Duby, Alec Kingsbury, Kelth Hamilton, George Nightingale, Art Nightingale, Bert Pinkney, Ross Ayles, Frank Schneider, Herb Bolton, Roy Bacon, Walter Hunt and Herb Saunders comprised its numbers. Herb Bolton was the first fire chief.

Locally the Fire Department was financed through the Board of Trustees but fire calls outside the village were paid for by donations from farmers or sometimes insurance companies and were generally qualified as mercy calls.

Paid by township

At first the Village was paying for all outside calls until gradually, arrangements were made with the township council and fire brigade members were paid so much per call. In the old days, said one early Rockwood brigader, it was a privilege and a challenge to belong to the Village Firefighters but gradually the question of pay and remuneration has crept into the brigade and somehow, it's becoming more of an extra income and there isn't quite the same attitude of "helping people out". The firemen are now paid according to the number of practices and fires they attend with stiff Lstipulations that, if they don't spend enough time to qualify, they will automatically be released from their obligations. The brigade usually has 21 as

its number of members with 3 probationers presently on the Rockwood list. Although generally only a few men are required for blaze and truck operations, a large list of volunteers is necessary in Rockwood as many of the men are either on shift work in the village or not always available during daytime.

Transport water

After the purchase of the International Fire Truck more frequent out of town and local calls made it necessary to purchase a tanker truck which could hold and transport 900 gallons of water, 600 more than the fire truck's 300.

revised with wage scales based on regular firemen's pay.

all volunteer lire departments

throughout the country was

The Guelph Street Fire Hall, built prior to the organization of the Rockwood brigade in 1949, was the first building to house the Model T "Red Devil" with one half used for hydro equipment storage. Later, an old ticket office was confiscated from the Rockwood Ball Park and attached to the back half of the present small building. This area was then used as a club room in which the brigade members, after their Monday night practice sessions could play cards and fraternize.

Approximately ten years ago the need of the tanker truck resulted in the renovation of the ticket shed area and building a new addition to the structure.

New interests

The new fire hall on Inkerman Street will present new interests to the present brigade. Already they have combined their many efforts to outfit and install on their own time, painting, refinishing, laying rugs and generally co-operating in their display of interest in their new quarters.

Fire chief Carl Meadows is assured that the Open House date for Eramosa citizens to view the new building will be sometime in early spring and everyone looks forward to viewing its interiors.

Bright future The pay is better for the present brigade, everything is more updated; and esprit de corps runs high. Only four of the

remain on the Eramosa unit. Earl Duby, Art Nightingale, Herb

Saunders, and Frank Schnelder. brigade look promising but whether the early days of close association and camaraderic will

original Rockwood brigade ever be repeated can only be weighed against other historical beginnings.

Is any organization ever as The future of the Township fire great as when it first started up with challenge, accomplishment, and sound local interest the very core of its development?

## PLEASE POST

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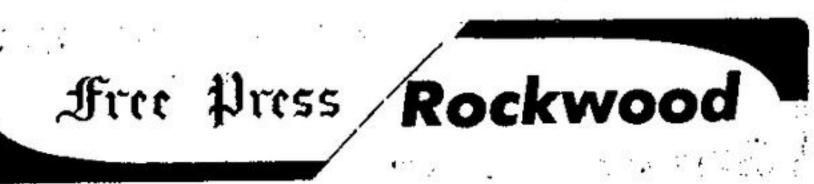
Avis est par les présentes donné qu'une réunton des contribusides d'expression française de la commission ecolaire du comié de Halton aura Heu te mercredt 20 janvier 1971 à l'écule Martin Street, 184 sus Martin, Milton, a f heuren du anir.

Catte assembles est convoquée conformérment aux paragraphes tils et 115 de la Loi des Écoles Secondaires et des Commissions Scolaires.

Le but de cette assemblée est l'étection de quatre contribushies francophones du comité à un comité consultatif de la commission scolaire. Ce consilé comprendre aussi des délégués de la commission.

Le comité consultatif fera des recommandations à la commission scolaire comté de Halton aux les muyens de repondre aux besoins éducatifs culturels des étudiants francophones de la région.

M. J. W. Singleton Directour d'aducation M. L. D. Wood I'raildent de la commission scolairs

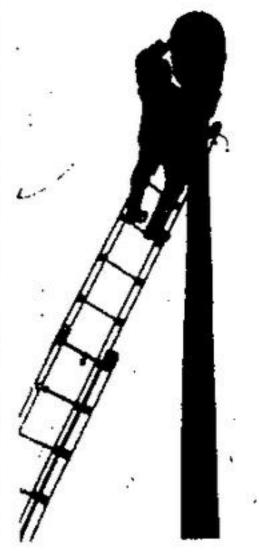




DRESSED FOR ACTION, Rockwood firefighters posed for this picture. Back row, Herb Saunders, Gord Cox, Earl Duby, Albert Maltby, Bev Barefoot, Frank Schneider, Bill Blacklock, Bert Pinkey, Ted Jestin, Red

Meredith, Cliff Meadows. Front mascot Kenny Schneide Les Ayles, Jimmie Milne and Herb Bolton, the first fire chief, who also used to drive the original truck.

Gradually, however, over a period of years, too much load was placed on the old tanker which was eventually used as a second emergency vehicle. A



TOP, JOHN ASMA loosens up the fire siren for removal to the new fire hall. Below, firefighter Art Nightingale carries the siren cover down the ladder and hands it over to another brigade member.-(Photo by Lorraine)

## Combined "Sunday" School on various days of the week Centennial School beginning Feedback to the combined Tuesday, January 19, with hours Mrs. Betty Eason and Mrs. from 4 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. All 4, 5,

Christian Education Sunday School Committee suggests that many parents of the children attending the combined Sunday School were pleased with its results and feel that it has been a worthwhile experiment worthy of continuance.

The regular Saturday morning schedule which was adopted at the Sunday School's inception approximately a year and onehalf ago, has been altered somewhat and, in the past September's starting-up sessions, the school which was formerly held in the Centennial Public School, was, instead, conducted in the various church halls throughout the village.

Semester basis

Each age group had its own particular place of assemblage, and instead of pacing their programs with the regular school weeks, the committee decided to continue them on a six week semester basis with intervals in between. This worked out so favorably in the last session it was decided to complete the term until June in the same manner.

The new 1971 classes have again changed their course in as much as some will be conducted on various weekdays instead of the regular Saturdays as previously planned, with the exception of the pre-schoolers whose classes will continue to be carried on Saturday mornings and, beginning Saturday, January 16, the first of these classes will be held at the Presbyterian Church Hall under the guidance of Miss Nancy Ingle with hours from 10 a.m. until 11.30 a.m.

Ellen Thomson will head up the staff of teachers for the primary classes which will be held every Tuesday at 4.00 to 5.30 p.m. at St. John's Anglican Parish Hall and will include those children of the kindergarten to grade 3 level.

The Junior Grade children, under the direction of Mrs. Sitska Drijber, will be attending their regular six week series at the

and 6 graders are included in

Confident of success Grade 7 and up level children will attend their Monday evening classes at 7.00 p.m. until 8.30 p.m. under the guidance of Rev. Don Sinclair and Miss June Thomson. The Presbyterian Church hall will be the scene of their classes.

Difficulties getting the teachers organized to fit into a specific program date is the reason for the staggered Sunday school class dates, however, the enthusiasm for the project still exists and the teachers, the parents and the committee backing the entire scheme are confident of its success.

Last year's continued attendance growth indicative of its progress.

## Rockalong W.I. meets in Guelph

The January meeting of Rockalong Institute was a rollicking beginning for the New Year. Held at the home of Mrs. Victor McKay, formerly Miss Laura Tone, R.R. 4 Rockwood, a large number of the Institute ladies attended at Mrs. McKay's 18 Cambridge Street residence in

Short course The president, Miss Helen Bain, conducted the business meeting in which the date of January 13 was discussed as the one for the "Summary Day" to be held in Harcourt Memorial Church in Guelph starting at 1:30 p.m. based on the Institute's short course "The Main Dish makes the meal" which was conducted recently at the No. 9 Recreation Centre outside of Rockwood. Mrs. Margaret Nelson reported on the success of said short course and, at the latter part of the meeting gave out pamphlets to the members in which were contained the various recipes presented at the short

course demonstration. It was also decided that the

usual euchres will be held in the No. 8 school house recreation centre on dates of January 21 and

Further discussion followed at which time a motion was passed that the Institute would sponsor the local 4H club in its next project to be entitled "Dressing up vegetables" for which the leaders as yet have not been appointed.

After the business had been completed Mrs. Douglas McNabb proceded as convener for the "Grandmother's meeting" during which time current events were given by Mrs. Margaret Nelson of R. R. 4, Rockwood and a number of readings presented by Mrs. George Mitchell, Mrs. Edna Guild, Mrs. Albert Shultis, Mrs. Lloyd Dyer, Mrs. Victor

McKay and Mrs. Harvey Shultis. A lively game of fun bingo was conducted by Mrs. Albert Shultis in which nearly all the members received a prize. A word contest with words

derived from the word

lady tie and everyone enjoyed

"grandmother" resulted in a two

matching wits. Miss Helen Bain and Mrs. Lloyd Dyer then convened the tasty lunch after which the meeting was completed. Mrs. McKay, the Guelph

hostess replied to her thanks from the Institute for her gracious hospitality and she invited the ladies to come back again for another meeting in 1972. Despite the cold, slippery night, the meeting had been a warm and happy one enjoyable to all members present.

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