

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 Street.

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 Hall 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 home without looking forward to the next Monday practice".

"At that time" said one of the wives of an earlier member, "when the men would go to their practices the ladies would also meet at somebody's house and they'd play bridge or something else, too." The firemen used to

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 reports from those who were there then, the old truck was true to its name and was constantly presenting engine difficulties. The firemen mounted the chemical tanks on the ancient vehicle but, in the early '40's she was replaced by a brand new International truck on which the

tanker and the pumps were installed.

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 Halloween 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 pick 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 Maltby, Joe Doby, 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.

Doby, Alec Kingsbury, Keith 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.

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

all volunteer fire departments throughout the country was revised with wage scales based on regular firemen's pay.

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

original Rockwood brigade remain on the Eramosa unit, Earl Doby, Art Nightingale, Herb Saunders, and Frank Schneider.

The future of the Township fire brigade look promising but whether the early days of close association and camaraderie will ever be repeated can only be weighed against other historical beginnings.

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

PLEASE POST

COMMISSION SCOLAIRE DU COMTE DE HALTON

AVIS AUX CONTRIBUABLES FRANCOPHONES DU COMTE DE HALTON

Election des Membres du Comité Consultatif de français pour les Ecoles Secondaires

Avis est par les présentes donné qu'une réunion des contribuables francophones de la commission scolaire du comté de Halton aura lieu le mercredi 20 janvier 1971 à 14 h 00, 124 rue Martin, Milton, à 8 heures du soir.

Cette assemblée est convoquée conformément au paragraphe 114 et 115 de la loi des Ecoles Secondaires et des Commissions Scolaires.

Le but de cette assemblée est l'élection de quatre contribuables francophones du comté à un comité consultatif de la commission scolaire. Ce comité comprendra aussi des délégués de la commission.

Le comité consultatif fera des recommandations à la commission scolaire du comté de Halton sur les moyens de répondre aux besoins éducatifs et culturels des étudiants francophones de la région.

M. J. W. Singleton
Directeur d'éducation

M. J. D. Wood
Président de la commission scolaire

Free Press Rockwood



DRESSED FOR ACTION, Rockwood firefighters posed for this picture. Back row, Herb Saunders, Gord Cox, Earl Doby, Albert Maltby, Bev Barefoot, Frank Schneider, Bill Blacklock, Bert Pinkney, 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.

Combined "Sunday" School on various days of the week

Feedback to the combined 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 one-half 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.

Head staff
Mrs. Betty Eason and Mrs. 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 Driber, will be attending their regular six week series at the

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

Centennial School beginning Tuesday, January 19, with hours from 4 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. All 4, 5, and 6 graders are included in these sessions.

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 was indicative of its progress.

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.

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)



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