

# Open house at new Rockwood-Eramosa fire hall

It could be said that the focal point of last Saturday's Rockwood-Eramosa Firehall Open House was the cutting of the ribbon by Mrs. George (Pete) Saunders who, looking charming in her blue afternoon dress stepped forward on the stage to complete the formalities after her introduction to the audience.

As the wife of the first unofficial fire chief and the mother of the first official chief her status made her attendance on the stage a fitting one and every one applauded heartily as Mrs. Saunders gave a short speech thanking those present for inviting her and congratulating the fire brigade on their new building before proceeding with her duties.



Fireman Harvey Laverty, wearing his official hat, shows the children where some of the equipment is kept and they are impressed. —(Photo by Lorraine)

**Roses, plaque**  
She was then presented with a beautiful bouquet of roses and also a plaque in commemoration of the Saunders' family contribution to the Association. The engraved plaque held the gold scissors which Mrs. Saunders had been given for cutting the ceremonial ribbon.

Approximately 175 citizens of Rockwood and Eramosa sat together to witness the ceremony which represented the culmination of 50 years of co-operative working together for the fire protective betterment of the Rockwood community as well as other areas in Eramosa.

**Best wishes**  
Herb Saunders was the chairman for the auspicious occasion and, during the ceremony, many officials utilized the opportunity to convey their best wishes to the future of the brigade whose quarters are handsomely new with many of its completions having been accomplished by the brigade members themselves.

**Few graduates**  
Deputy Fire Marshal for Ontario, Mr. Turnbull, said that many municipalities in Ontario do not have established fire departments and he commended the foresight of the municipal councils of Rockwood and Eramosa for their initiative in establishing one in a rural community. He further commended the co-operation of the present Fire Chief Carl Meadows as Fire Chief of the Rockwood-Eramosa Brigade, will be unique as, after his graduation from the Fire Protection Technology course he will be a highly qualified authority in fire protection and its preventative measures and one of the very few graduates of such a course in all of Ontario.

**Speak briefly**  
Several bouquets were extended by officials who were on hand to give their sanction to the

**KINDERGARTEN** children of Rockwood Centennial public school were given special treatment of cold drinks and doughnuts on Tuesday afternoon when members of the local fire brigade gave them an instructive tour of the new fire hall.

new building. Various members of the township council spoke on behalf of their particular interests regarding its procurement and potential function. Cam Lush, Alf Hales, and John Root, all representing their various legislative capacities spoke briefly.

Mr. Hales reflected on the fact that the innovation into the community showed combined co-operative and up-dated thinking of the township and village councils and he further commented that the residents of Rockwood could look forward to the new post office building which would be in operation by late fall or early spring of next year.

"It will be a suitable and functional building" said the affable Mr. Hales and he said that it would cover approximately 1,000 square feet.

**Pay tribute**  
As closing reflections Chairman Herb Saunders paid tribute to four firemen of the original brigade who were now deceased; Herb Bolton, Clifford Meadows, Les Ayles, and Harry Edwards.

Walter Hunt, also a past member of the original group and in attendance at the Open House

spoke briefly expressing his pleasure at such a fine building and wished the present brigade members every success. Other ex-brigade members were introduced to the audience by the chairman and they stood up individually.

After the ceremony refreshments were served. A film giving an excellent portrayal of emergency fire handling in crowded centres such as schools and homes was also part of the afternoon's program and the movie impressed the fact of "don't panic" as the one of major concern.

**Many visitors**  
There was a continuous round of spectators visiting during the Saturday and Sunday Open House hours and many guests attended from Guelph, Orton, Toronto, Acton, Hillsburg, Harrison, Fergus, and Puslinch. Some of the visitors were representing other home-town fire brigades, others simply interested in the operation of the local department.

The efficiency and organizational abilities which the Rockwood-Eramosa group applied to the important event was highly creditable. The men deserved and received tremendous praise

from those who were present. "Such a fine looking group of men" was heard from many sources and the entire brigade, complete with blazers and gray flannels carried off the affair with the same efficiency they would have applied to emergency fires.

**Came long way**  
The date on the plaque presented to Mrs. Saunders reads 1921 and at that time it was a 20 man brigade of whom only four originals remain, Earl Doby, Art Nightingale, Herb Saunders, and Frank Schneider.

The local unit has come a long

way since their beginnings in 1949 but their effort is continuous; working diligently for the community, producing general assistance in local charity efforts, and more to the fact, giving time and energy while acting as a one body unit under the leadership of five top men, Chief Carl Meadows, Deputy-Chief David Meadows, and team captains Fred Nightingale, Rick Lewis, and Frank Allsop.

**Many donations**  
Hours of energy and diligence have been put into creating the satisfying home for the energetic brigade. Carl Meadows was the designer of the building and it was his wife Susie who made the draperies. Fred Meadows donated the sign outside the main portals of the building and Molly Allsop supplied the vacuum cleaning equipment. Bill Wingate contributed top soil for the outside decor. T.V. tables were donated by Dr. Teskey, a gentleman from Kitchener who was interested in the endeavour as well as the industry of the men working together, and Lou Hills donated a 1965 Ford Utility Rescue truck. Coffee for the two-day event was perked in the electric coffee maker, donation of Frank and Georgina Kelso and, although many other contributions had been made to the new hall nothing can supersede the hours of painting, hammering, scraping and generally working together in harmonious camaraderie as one unit striving for an end.

As Chief Carl Meadows introduced each man individually the community knew that their fire problems were in good hands. Present at the Saturday Open House were all of the regular brigade members with the exception of four who were

detailed at their jobs, Gord Cox, Charles Petty, Darryl Nichol, and Fred Nightingale Jr.

**Roll call**  
Those who stood as their names were called were: Deputy-chief David Bacon, Captains Fred Nightingale, Rick Lewis, and Frank Allsop; firemen Bill Wingate, Ed Langdon, Herb Saunders, Earl Doby, Harry Laverty, Grant McTee, Floyd Meadows, Frank Kelso, Gord Baldwin, Tom Rockola, Charlie Milne, Gary Hill, and Art Nightingale.

The plaque presented to Mrs. Saunders is now hanging in a place of great honor on the wall of

the bakery shop where her husband and first unofficial fire chief of the Rockwood Fire Brigade had conducted his business for so many years.

At night, the headlights of approaching traffic create driving difficulties. But another car's lights can be useful too, says the Ontario Safety League. Distant headlights silhouette pedestrians who might otherwise be unnoticed until close at hand. On rural roads especially, drivers should watch closely for figures silhouetted against the glow of approaching headlights.

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FLANKED BY TWO official dignitaries at the opening ceremonies of the Rockwood-Eramosa fire hall, Mrs. George (Pete) Saunders is seen with M.P.P. John Root and M.P. Alf Hales, both Conservative representatives of the Wellington-Dufferin riding. —(Photo by Lorraine)

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### Centennial School Notes

On Wednesday, May 26, Room 6 had hosted a grade 4 class from Sterling Ontario. The other children had to travel 171 miles to reach our school on May 26. They visited the African Safari together and took part in a wiener roast and picnic on that same day. The following morning the classes continued with a rock study and cave exploration unit.

Mrs. Mayes room put up a display on the Middle Ages. In this display are the clothes they used to wear, the castles and the saints.

The world really isn't any worse, it's just that the news coverage is so much better.

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