Citizens pay tribute to town's fire brigade

ETHEL HOLMES listens proudly during Citizen of the Year speeches.

OVER 30 firefighters flocked to the head table to shake Chief Mick Holmes' hand at the Citizen of the Year dinner.

A NEW CANADIAN FLAG was presented to the First Limehouse Boy Scout Troop by Halton MP Frank Philbrook at Limehouse Hall Monday night. Tom Ruggle, left, received the flag from the MP during a brief ceremony. Peter Jones, right, helps Tom with the flag.

The following citation was read at the Citizen of the Year dinner by Councillor Les Duby.

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Each and every one of us who are here as guests this evening are gathered for the express purpose of paying tribute to a group of dedicated persons, past and present, who have over the years voluntarily offered their services to the community at great risk to their own persons, in the interest of protection to all people and their property from the ravages of fire.

Firstly, I am sure, we commend our Chamber of Commerce for their good judgement, in the selection of this group of dedicated citizens to be the recipients of the "Citizen of the Year Award". While the award itself may indicate the specific year in which it was bestowed upon them, I am sure we all recognize it is the intent to honour them for their municipal presence, and the satisfaction and comfort we have all had in just knowing they were there, well trained and qualified as Firefighters, under the direction of their appointed Fire Chief and the duly-elected officers of their own Firefighters Association.

There is no limit to the extent that we could express our gratitude to this special group of people, who in both their waking and sleeping hours are ever at the ready to serve us.

How many of us would be prepared, except in a rare emergency, to commit ourselves to a 24 hour a day stand by? To be prepared at any time, at the sound of the heart-rending siren, especially to jump from a warm bed on a cold winter's night, and head out, for God only knows where, in the vast area which is their jurisdiction to save property and perhaps lives, whoever those poor souls may be.

This kind of service calls not only for dedication to duty, but in many cases, unknown to us—and I would like to use the abbreviated term for "intestinal fortitude"—it calls for a display of just plain "guts".

The volunteer Firefighting service for many years has been the institution to serve the lesser-populated area of the country including small urban municipalities, as opposed to the required, but no more sophisticated, large municipally employed fire departments of our larger cities.

The award tonight goes to a group of men who commit themselves to serve us in the truest sense as community volunteers, and for the most modest of remunerations based on attendance and practice training which makes them Firefighters of the best calibre possible with a sound knowledge of Firefighting and life-saving techniques.

The Acton Firefighters Association have a proud record that goes back a long way in the history of this community. I won't be specific as to the years and I could not mention honourable names without missing someone. It all started with the romantic old steam engine drawn by horses, right here in Acton, as depicted in our old school books generations ago. Then came the hose on a two wheeled cart, drawn by the now famous Model T Ford. Then came an old Studebaker of 1927 vintage, recently restored by our own Firefighters, which is still active today for parade purposes and provides an avenue of nostalgia for a great many who have lived here for the most of a life-span.

The very beneficial mutual aid ystem came into effect in 195., which by its nature, has brought all of the neighbouring Firefighting services into a modern radio-equipped support system. Many changes have taken place over the years, and all to the advantage of us who depend on the fire protection so provided.

Since the days of one storage bay and one truck, they now have a modern Fire Hall and several trucks and support equipment.

The number of Firefighters has grown over the years as required to serve our population *from a few to 20 and 25*, and now they have the number of 35 whom we honour here tonight.

Before the days of the siren, the men responded to a bell on the roof tolled by a rope until today when men respond immediately to pagers carried on their person.

This has reduced the complete response time to three to four minutes, and on many occasions the trucks are leaving the premises in a matter of seconds because the men are on hand at the hall in which they take an understandable interest. This has provided our Community with one of the lowest insurance rates that are enjoyed today.

The contribution of our Firefighters does not end with their dedication to firefighting and fire prevention service. They are well known for their support of muscular dystrophy and the Acton Firefighters make one of the largest donations for towns of our size. They also regularly sponsor minor sports.

They sponsor a poster contest yearly, for Grade 5 students, youngsters at an ideal age to be impressed by involvement in Fire Prevention concerns.

They produce and sponsor an annual fireworks display in our park on every long July weekend, because they are competent and trained in the handling of this special kind of recreation equipment.

They have also scheduled *an annual* Appreciation Night, a time when they have always produced a beautiful beef dinner to honour those in the municipality who have assisted them in one way or another.

As volunteers we must recognize their long years of interested service, and starting with Chief Mick Holmes and Samuel Tennant they have recorded from 32 to 34 years. Most of our present Brigade have also accumulated some 15 to 20 years' service, which is most commendable.

Ladies and gentlemen: there are so many outstanding situations that have involved the service of our Firefighters that it would take an endless period of time to comment on them. I know that every member of our Fire Department feels honoured this evening, and while they remain seated, would you please rise with me and salute our new Citizens of the Year for a job that is being so well done.

SAM TENNANT is hoisted to his feet after a joking introduction.

Halton Roman Catholic Separate School Board

St. Joseph's School, Acton

Advanced Sept. 1978 Registration Grades 1-8

Registration for the 1978-79 school year will be conducted for St. Joseph's during the week of

April 24th-28th, 1978 from 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. at St. Joseph's School 41 School Lane

Parents are invited to visit the school. Further enquiries may be directed to Mr. Briggs, Principal, St. Joseph's School 853-3730

R.J. O'BRIEN, CHAIRMAN — C.G. BYRNES, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

Ballinafad

100th anniversary for church May 7

by Winifred Smith

The April meeting of the U.C.W. was held at the home of Mrs. Eileen McEnery, Mrs. F. J. Shortill presiding. The roll call was naswered by all naming the first church they attended. Mrs. Joyce Clarke gave the devotional.

The main topic of business was to see that everything was in readiness for the 100th anniversary which will be on May 7. Beautiful church plates and coffee mugs as well as an historic book of the church will be available at that time. Mrs. Pinkerton and Mrs. March assisted the hostess in serving a cup of tea. A social time followed.

Sorry to have to report that A. D. McEnery is confined to hospital again. He is presently undergoing tests. We sincerely hope his stay will be a short one.

We welcome the new arrival which has come to live on the Eighth Line. Congratulations are in order for Mr. and Mrs. Tom Roberts who became the proud parents of a baby boy on April 12. They have named him Tomas Graham.

Mr. and Mrs. Morgan Madill, Mr. and Mrs. Del Linstead and family, and other relatives including Mrs. Hattie Price, Mr. Dave Lindsay and Mrs. Linstead Sr. travelled to Gorrie on Sunday to witness the christening of a grand nephew of Mrs. Madill.

There were many out to the Ballinafad church service on Sunday as many relatives came out to join the congregation to witness the Sacrament of Baptism. Two infants were presented namely Patrick Allan Brown, son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Brown of Ballinafad, and Timothy Owen, son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael M. Stevenson of R.R. 2, Acton. Rev. Stiles had a beautiful sermon "The Long Journey Begins" which told of the significance of the christening ceremony.

The Junior Choir added much to the service when they sang a lovely anthem.

Fall all winter

Even in the middle of winter, June Gerth of Elizabeth Dr. and her family could hear the rustle of leaves on a nearby maple tree.

The young tree never did shed its leaves, in spite of the severity of last winter. In the fall, the leaves turned brown and grew brittle, and even though the small maple beside it eventually became bare, the other one kept its foliage.

Mrs. Gerth says now that spring is here, the "normal" tree is starting to grow buds, while the odd tree is still brown and brittle.

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