



Gallons of water were sprayed in the big front door to try and put out the tanker blaze.



Acton Firefighters direct gallons of water to the south side of Thompson Fuels trying to keep the blaze from spreading.

This week thru the lens



Firefighters spray water in the big front door to the building trying to control the flames destroying the tanker truck inside.



It was a constant battle for the firefighters to keep the blaze contained.

## Community support overwhelms McIntyres

The support and concern of the community of Acton is overwhelming the McIntyre following a fire which destroyed their business, Thompson Fuels on Friday.

Offers of almost every kind of assistance have been flooding into their makeshift office at the McIntyre's Young St. home says proprietor Lloyd McIntyre, and customers have been dropping in with payments and proof of payments to help out.

Lloyd actually remembers very little of the incidents leading up to the blaze which left only a few charred walls standing. He recalls he was working on a valve on the tanker oil truck and suddenly an explosion threw him about 10 feet towards the opened garage door of the building. He shouted at daughter Kim, who was working in the back office, to get out and call the fire department and then tried to get the newly purchased computer system out of the inferno. But the equipment was too heavy, he says, and the smoke was too dense. He ran to his home next door and evacuated his wife and granddaughter, who were taken to a neighbor's home. The family dog Bozo, who was in the office at the time of the explosion was later kept in the house out of immediate danger.

Meanwhile, Kim did not remember hearing a specific explosion. Everything happened so fast, she said, that when she heard her father shouting, she ran next

door, stopping to pick up nothing. She lost her coat, boots and purse in the fire.

While the building and contents were completely destroyed, the contents of Kim's big steel desk came out relatively unscathed, she reports. She explains the drawers were closed and postdated cheques from budget billing customers were only slightly scorched. Other business papers were also in the drawers and were retrieved after the fire.

Records of billings, and payments have been kept up to date with the computer in the office, purchased last July. Fortunately, Lloyd says, copies of each day's transactions are at the bank, with a set also at Kim's home. She explains she got into the habit of taking them home to file "in case of fire". However, tax records and other business papers for the past five years have been destroyed.

Lloyd says he hopes to rebuild as soon as possible, but in the meantime the office will be run from his home. The fact he has a home he credits to the Acton Firefighters. He is a member of the department, but all he could do Friday was stand back and watch the men attempt to save his business and home. He feels the firefighters did a terrific job in containing the flames to his building.

It will be a while before things get back to normal for the McIntyre family, but the concern and generosity of an entire community is helping them to overcome their crisis. For that they are grateful.



Firefighters worked feverishly as flames spread to the office portion of Thompson Fuels.



Halton Hills Hydro workers cut off the power to one of the homes beside Thompson Fuels so a bad situation wouldn't worsen.



Firefighters spray water in a rear window to try and extinguish the inferno.



Former fire chief Mick Holmes gives some suggestions to one of the volunteers during the hectic battle Friday morning.

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