



C.R. (Jimmy) Valentine received a gold helmet from his fellow volunteers in area two on the occasion of his fortieth anniversary as a volunteer fire fighter in January 1977. This week Mr. Valentine says his recent illness convinced him it was time to quit.

(Herald photo)

C.R. Valentine retires

With fire department since 1938, volunteer hangs up golden helmet

One of Georgetown's best-known firefighters is retiring after 42 years with the volunteer force.

His age and his health are the reasons C.R. (Jimmy) Valentine cites for calling it quits.

"I think it's a time I got out," he said last week. "I'll be 65 in June. It's time the younger boys took over. When the hall was just down the street, I used to run down and get there before some of the other guys, but now that it's over on Maple Avenue, I can't catch the trucks from home anymore."

I put my resignation in for the December 4 meeting but they wouldn't accept it," Mr. Valentine told The Herald. "They'll probably accept it at the annual meeting. I've already turned in my beeper, radio and car light, so I have no way of knowing when there's a fire now."

Two years ago, Mr. Valentine's fellow firefighters in Area Two presented him with a gold helmet and the town gave him an engraved ice

bucket at a surprise party honoring his 40 years with the volunteer force.

When he joined the fire department at the first meeting in 1938, it consisted of 25 members. In addition to the International truck, their equipment then consisted of 50 feet of one-inch hose fed from a 50-gallon tank of soda acid, a hose reel to tow with 400 feet of two-inch hose and an old ladder wagon with a 60-foot ladder.

Their personal equipment consisted of short rubber boots and old rubber coats that got "hotter than hell" if you got too near the fire. They had no helmets, Mr. Valentine recalled.

Mr. Valentine said he has never been injured during his year of "eating smoke". The closest he came to trouble was when Kentner's Lumber Mill burned. A 550-volt hydro line burned through and fell on the ground outside the building. Both Mr. Valentine and the fire chief were stepping over

the live line throughout the battle, yet neither one of them touched it, he said.

Even if he hadn't been paid at all for his work he'd have been at it anyway, he commented, because he "loved every minute of it".

Mr. Valentine is proud of the department's efficiency and points to the fact they saved three barns - Wagstaffe's in

Glen Williams, Campbell's near the Union Church and Leferink's on Trafalgar Road, as evidence of that efficiency over the past 10 years.

Mr. Valentine was born on John Street near the arena and married Ruth Norton from Glen Williams.

Mr. Valentine's nicknames are better known than his official name of Charles. Jim-

my stuck with him as the result of a song his grandmother used to sing, when he was young, about a New York bank robber named Jimmy Valentine. His firefighting buddies call him Tracker or Dirt-track because he used to race his motorcycle on the sand track in Georgetown park on Sunday afternoons.

He has also had a long standing association with area

pipe bands.

"Piping was my hobby and firefighting was my pleasure," he said.

He belonged to the Georgetown Men's Pipe Band in the 1930s and was the first drum instructor for the Georgetown Girls' Pipe Band in 1942. He also belonged to the Lorne Scots Pipe Band from 1937 to 1946.

Police report

Steal Kawasaki, smash window

The Christmas season means a holiday for most people, but not for the Halton Regional Police, who were called to investigate several burglaries and acts of vandalism.

The largest burglary occurred at Hazen's Auto Service in Georgetown. The burglars

gained entry to the service station by smashing a panel in the rear bay door. The missing property includes a Kawasaki snowmobile, a chainsaw and some snowmobiling clothes and equipment. The value of the stolen property is estimated at \$5,500.

Someone broke into the Way

Jay Club in Norval, but nothing appears to have been taken.

Nothing appears to be missing following a break-in at Curwood Packaging. A panel was forced open in one of the bay doors.

A window was smashed at

Howard Wrigglesworth Public School. A Sony AM-FM radio and a pocket calculator were taken during the break-in.

Two male juveniles have been apprehended in connection with a break-in at Robert Little Public School in Acton.

Two bands from Acton head west

Herald special

Sponsored by the Open House Canada Program, Acton high school's band will be taking part in an exchange with a band from Ross Sheppard composite school of Edmonton.

The two bands will visit each other's schools for one week periods in 1980.

The Edmonton band will be the first to travel, coming to Acton from Feb. 16 to 22.

While here, the band will be touring with the Acton band outside the city, with concerts as far away as Toronto and Kitchener according to Acton band conductor David Sale.

"We want to give them an understanding of what it is like to live in this part of Ontario," he said.

The 40 members of the Acton band will be going to Edmon-

ton a return trip in late May.

Edmonton band members will be billeted with Acton musicians during their stay here, and will host the Acton band on its trip west.

According to Mr. Sale, the students involved are looking forward to the exchange, and since they know already who they will be staying with, they are all writing letters to their billets to find their interests. With this sort of information the band members hope to be better able to plan activities when the two groups meet.

The Ross Sheppard composite school was supposed to have been in Acton this week, but technical problems delayed them.

The Acton students have done some fundraising to help pay for the buses they will need.

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The covered main entry leads into a hall-like reception foyer and closet storage area, from whence left to the large L-shape living dining room combination. The living room features a corner-positioned fireplace, for convivial at-homes, and a charming bay window, which later could easily have the built-in banquette-style window seat installed, should it please individual decor preference.

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