

'Best move' for recruit

Firefighting rounds out Acton man's life

Hurrying over from a baseball game once, Gary Pickles found himself bouncing off the walls of the Acton fire hall thanks to his spiked shoes.

The 24-year old firefighter is as keen about being a firefighter as the day he joined.

With the Acton fire department for just over two years, Mr. Pickles never considered being a firefighter until it was suggested to him by a former boss.

Working the summer

Institute, he works his firefighting around his studies. Five hours a day, when he's at school in Toronto, he can't fight fires, but when he comes back home to Acton, he's ready to rush over to the firehall.

"I was playing inter-county tennis one time and my pager went off. Luckily it was a short call and I was back in 45 minutes," Mr. Pickles recalled.

Most of the calls take only about 30 to 45 minutes to clear up, he said. If they are country calls they take longer,

any trouble there are lots of guys out there to help you," Mr. Pickles said.

CONSTRAINTS
Over the years firefighters build up quite a store of knowledge. Although Mr. Pickles said he'd like to see more training for the men, he acknowledges there are time constraints and other commitments that make it difficult to do so.

"I always want to keep learning. Here, you're always learning new things, and that's what the older guys tell me," he said. "I want to be sure I know what I'm doing when I go in there. After all, it's my life."

Just recently, Mr. Pickles got his D licence which allows him to drive the trucks and makes him a pumper operator. He has also learned to use the air pumps and has taken on responsibility for the maintenance of a tanker.

"Some people think we're a bunch of jerks. I don't know why," Mr. Pickles said. "Once they've had a fire in their place they change their minds pretty fast. I think most people are pretty happy with the job we do."

Acton's Gary Pickles has been with the community's firefighting brigade for two years.



...with the Halton Hills firefighters

ANIPEDERIAN

at the public works department under Alf Doby, he learned about the excitement and responsibilities of being a firefighter first hand from the Acton district chief. With Mr. Doby's encouragement, Mr. Pickles applied.

"It's the best move I ever made," he said with great sincerity. "I really love it."

AT SCHOOL

A computer science student at Control Data

just because it takes more time to get out there.

Mr. Pickles lives three-quarters of a mile from the Acton station. Five of the men live right on Bower Avenue and it takes them only a minute to get down to the firehall to man the first truck.

"The danger doesn't bother me. I figure if you know what you're doing you're pretty safe, besides, if you get into

Family support: takes edge off volunteer chores

After trying to get accepted on to the

The lifelong Georgetown resident has been



CAL WILSON

Georgetown squad of Halton Hills volunteer firefighters, Cal Wilson, 25, finally made it four months ago.

trying for the past three years to join. "I think the work they do is good work; it's something, I wanted to

get involved with," he said, wiping the grease off his fingers as he climbed down off a truck he'd been working on.

A mechanic with Burns Transport in Georgetown, Mr. Wilson has had a lot of support in his new endeavor.

"My wife agreed. She felt the same way about it as I did, that it's something to help the community. She stood right behind me," he said. "It helps to have a lot of backing from your wife."

If they're out somewhere and Mr. Wilson gets paged for a fire, his wife understands that he has to leave right away. Already it's happened that she's been left stranded in a shopping mall as her husband drove away with the car.

UNDERSTANDING
"She doesn't mind.

She understands," he said. She called one of her friends to give her a ride.

Mr. Wilson also gets support from his boss, Don Burns. Mr. Burns has had other men who were firefighters working for him, one of them being his son Larry Burns.

"We're aware that the volunteers are an asset to the town and we do our bit like everybody else," Mr. Burns said. "There's time lost, but the guys are pretty good about it. They try to work through their noon hours to make up for it."

Mr. Wilson said he doesn't respond to his pager every time it goes off.

"I wouldn't go if a truck came in with something broken on it, say with a load of freight on it that had to go," Mr. Wilson said. "I wouldn't leave because you have to give and take a little bit. They're good enough to let me go to fires, so I can't sting them."

"We co-operate back and forth," Mr. Burns said. "It can cause problems, especially in the transport business when a lot of jobs are rush."

RESPECT
The give and take between employer and employee is very important and a reflection of the maturity of the two sides, and the respect each holds for the other.

"I think the local volunteers do a tremendous job and I'm sure most people are aware of it," Mr. Burns concluded.

Mr. Wilson said he joined the firefighters because he had spare

"While it may be a volunteer position, a volunteer firefighter faces the same dangers his paid counterparts do in larger urban areas. But Halton Hills' firefighters enjoy their work, and interest from potential recruits never lags.

time he wanted to put to good use. Since he underwent initial training with the department for three months, Mr. Wilson has been out to a couple of fires. At times it's crazy and other times it's fairly quiet, he commented.

"All the guys here pull for one another. They're a pretty close bunch of guys," Mr. Wilson said. "They take you right in, and don't make you feel like you're an outsider."

He plans to keep on as a firefighter as long as he can, Mr. Wilson said.



Fire Marshall's office tackles scores of applications

Funds delay expected

By MAGGIE HANNAH

Herald Special

Fire departments which applied to the province for grants to purchase extrication equipment may have to wait, but eventually they will get their money.

Al Dupuis, chief of fire advisory services with the Ontario Fire Marshall's office, said grant applications for 1983 are almost double the annual allotment for such purposes.

Speaking to the Ontario Fire Fighters' Association at its annual convention, Mr. Dupuis said the government only set aside \$250,000 for grants

on extrication equipment in 1983 and already applications totalling \$485,000 have been received.

It may take a year or more before money is available to meet all the applications but they will be paid provided the application is approved, he said.

Mr. Dupuis said the province aims to have a basic extrication kit in every fire station eventually but it may take 10 to 12 years before the aim is met.

The province is now matching municipal funds spent on basic extrication equipment for use in removing people from

wrecked vehicles.

The province will also sponsor an invitational international auto extrication competition at the Ontario Fire College in Gravenhurst next September, he said.

Already their office has heard from an American team wanting to participate and a couple of European teams, Mr. Dupuis said. He said since the number of competitors would be limited, he expects the province will be split into regions and a team accepted from each region.

That would entail regional competitions to determine the best team

to enter the event.

Mr. Dupuis also told the association that the ministry of labor's legislation on a new standard of personal protection only involves helmets at this time.

He predicted legislation setting minimum standards of protective clothing will be broadened to include coats, pants, boots, gloves and something for eyes but that may be a year or more away.

Tests are still on-going to find a minimum standard for each item, he said.

—Courtesy
Georgetown Mercury

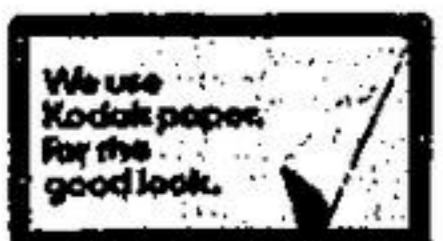
Last week's spell of cold weather signalled that fall isn't too far behind—a time when many Halton Hills residents begin thinking about local fall fairs.

Fall fair season
Acton Agricultural Society's bid for a beer tent and wine and cheese party during the Acton fall fair September 16 to 18.

When it's worth a thousand words...



Order extra prints for everyone!



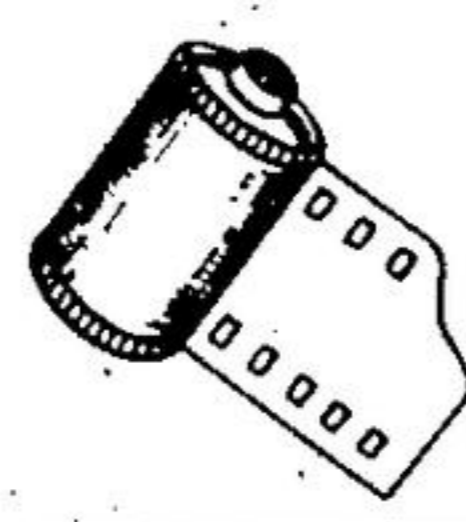
Save on 10 or More Quality Colour Reprints From Negs or Slides*

PRINTS FROM SLIDES		
	3 1/2" x 5"	4" x 6"
Reg. Price	\$1.10 each	\$1.20 each
SPECIAL	85¢ each	90¢ each

REPRINTS FROM NEGATIVES		
	3 1/2" Size	4" Size
Reg. Price	62¢ each	69¢ each
SPECIAL	50¢ each	55¢ each

* Special Print Offer Valid Until Oct. 29/83

* Special Reprint Offer Valid Until Oct. 1/83



HALTON CAMERA EXCHANGE - 877-4433

"Two Georgetown Locations To Serve You"

130-F GUELPH ST.

7 JAMES ST.

The Aristocrat of wall finishes!

Regal Aquavelvet
LATEX EGGSHELL FLAT ENAMEL

combines the beauty of a decorating flat with the serviceability of an enamel

Luxuriously Decorative - Has a soft, low sheen appearance that will enhance any or every room in your home

Highly Practical - Regal AQUAVELVET's finish is surprisingly durable - resistant to abrasions, and has unbelievably easy stain removal

Easy-To-Use - Flows on to a smooth, even finish with brush, roller or application pad. Soap & water clean-up

High-Hiding - Most surfaces covered in one coat with no unpleasant odor during application

ONLY AVAILABLE AT YOUR BENJAMIN MOORE DEALERS

GEORGETOWN DECORATING CENTRE

★★★ Georgetown Market Place ★★★

GEORGETOWN'S BIGGEST INDEPENDENT PAINT & WALLPAPER OUTLET

WHOLESALE & RETAIL

877-1872 - SERVING THE DECORATING NEEDS OF HALTON HILLS FOR OVER 15 YEARS - 877-4193