

DAVID FORD

Learn about woodstove safety: Ford Know when to clean and check your chimney

By SANDY CAMPBELL

Herald Staff Before you put that first split maple log in your wood stove, consider what you need to know to prevent a

Fire prevention week is Oct. 6-12 an appropriate time before the colder air draws us all closer to wood stoves and fireplaces.

Last winter half of the calls answered by the Halton Hills Fire Department involved wood burning appliances, said Fire Prevention Officer David Ford.

Knowledge is the key to safety, he sald. "There has been an influx of

ing appliances. Today's people aren't educated like the older generation. You learn how to use them with experience," he said.

Books and pamphlets on wood burning safety are available at the fire department. Fire prevention officers will also check your stove and make recommendations to improve your safety.

David Ford advises those buying a stove to check that it is C.S.A. or U.L.C. approved and to follow the manufacturer's specifications. Make sure the stove you buy suits your needs.

'If you know you're taking six people to a ball game the last thing you

said. Some people overwork a stove designed for recreation by using it as their chief source of heat, he said.

After buying your stove, hire a reputable installer. Get a building permit and have the building inspector visit once or twice.

Your chimney should also be C.S.A. or U.L.C. approved and should have the proper temperature range for your needs, he said.

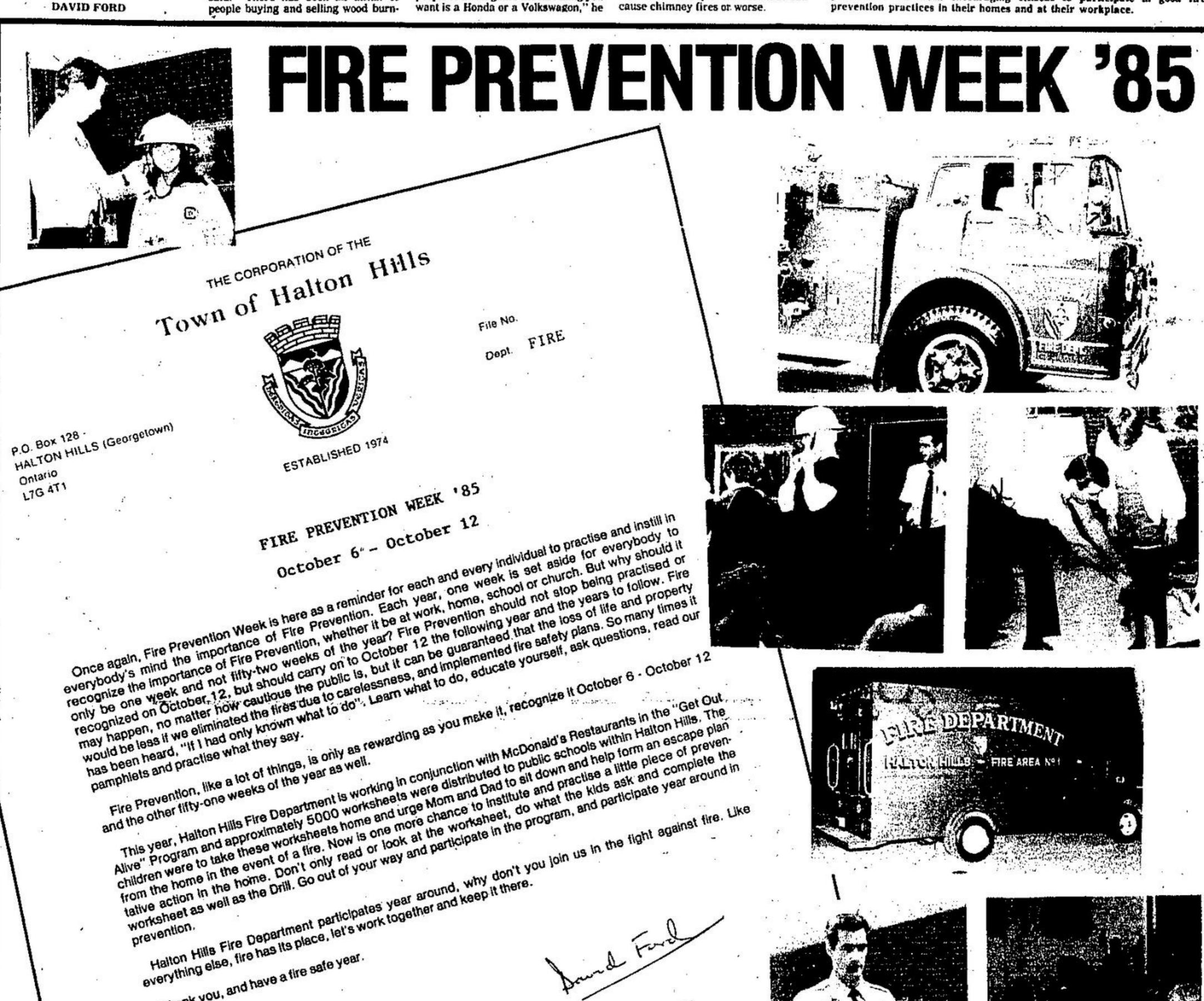
Now that your stove is installed you must carefully choose the right kind of wood. Dry hardwood is all you should use. Green wood and softwood leads to a buildup of creosote that can

Creosote works its way into the fire. If the fire spreads beyond the weak spots and clings to the walls of chimney you have a house fire, Mr. your chimney. At high temperatures it Ford said. ignites and you can have a chimney

Fire responses up by 12%

The battle against fire isn't faring so well this year with a substantial . increuse in fire losses over last year. According to the Halton Hills fire department, there was \$669,755 in fire damages to August end. Calls have also increased by 12 per cent over 1984 to the fire department.

To make the public more aware of the destruction wreaked by fires, the fire department is holding a fire prevention week Oct. 6 to 13. Town council proclaimed the week encouraging citizens to participate in good fire



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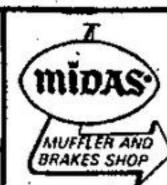
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