

# Learn about woodstove safety: Ford

## Know when to clean and check your chimney



DAVID FORD

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.

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 said. "There has been an influx of people buying and selling wood burn-

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 want is a Honda or a Volkswagen," he

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 cause chimney fires or worse.

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

## Fire responses up by 12%

The battle against fire isn't faring so well this year with a substantial increase 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 prevention practices in their homes and at their workplace.

# FIRE PREVENTION WEEK '85



THE CORPORATION OF THE  
**Town of Halton Hills**



ESTABLISHED 1974

File No.  
Dept. FIRE

P.O. Box 128 -  
HALTON HILLS (Georgetown)  
Ontario  
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**FIRE PREVENTION WEEK '85**  
October 6 - October 12

Once again, Fire Prevention Week is here as a reminder for each and every individual to practise and instill in everybody's mind the importance of Fire Prevention. Each year, one week is set aside for everybody to recognize the importance of Fire Prevention, whether it be at work, home, school or church. But why should it only be one week and not fifty-two weeks of the year? Fire Prevention should not stop being practised or recognized on October 12, but should carry on to October 12 the following year and the years to follow. Fire may happen, no matter how cautious the public is, but it can be guaranteed that the loss of life and property would be less if we eliminated the fires due to carelessness, and implemented fire safety plans. So many times it has been heard, "If I had only known what to do". Learn what to do, educate yourself, ask questions, read our pamphlets and practise what they say.

Fire Prevention, like a lot of things, is only as rewarding as you make it, recognize it October 6 - October 12 and the other fifty-one weeks of the year as well.

This year, Halton Hills Fire Department is working in conjunction with McDonald's Restaurants in the "Get Out, Alive" Program and approximately 5000 worksheets were distributed to public schools within Halton Hills. The children were to take these worksheets home and urge Mom and Dad to sit down and help form an escape plan from the home in the event of a fire. Now is one more chance to institute and practise a little piece of preventative action in the home. Don't only read or look at the worksheet, do what the kids ask and complete the worksheet as well as the Drill. Go out of your way and participate in the program, and participate year around in prevention.

Halton Hills Fire Department participates year around, why don't you join us in the fight against fire. Like everything else, fire has its place, let's work together and keep it there.

Thank you, and have a fire safe year.

*David Ford*

David Ford,  
Fire Prevention Officer,  
Halton Hills Fire Department.

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