

BURN-OUT!



The Georgetown fire department were out in force to extinguish and reset fires at a house scheduled for demolition across from Maple Lodge Farms March 6. The fire department carefully prepared the old house then burned it to the ground.

After first extinguishing the flames, the burn was good practice for the volunteers. Here, the firefighters extinguish the last of the smoldering flames. (Herald photo)



For a change the Georgetown fire department got to start a fire on March 6. Here, they prepare an old building to set a blaze before putting the flames out. But one fireman drew the assignment of balancing himself on top of the building to knock a hole through the roof. (Herald photo)



The Georgetown fire department burned down a building scheduled for demolition across from Maple Lodge Farms March 6. But first they made sure they had enough water to put out the flames. Here, the water tanker fills up a water tank erected to make sure they didn't run out of water. (Herald photo)



A lone firefighter puts the final flames out after a practice burn by the Georgetown fire department at a home scheduled to be demolished across from Maple Lodge Farms March 6.

FIREFIIGHTERS IN TRAINING

Recruits wait on sidelines for starting assignment

By CHERYL MOODER
Herald Staff

Dressed in full fire gear, six men crawled beneath and around overturned tables in search of stuffed mannequins.

No, it was not Halloween at the firehall but rather one of many exercises used in training new recruits to be voluntary firemen.

Training takes a minimum of six months with weekly sessions of three hours each.

The last batch of recruits, who began Jan. 15, were hired when six openings came up in the department.

People hear of openings either through word of mouth or by advertisements in the newspaper or yearly notices such as the last one put out by the Chamber of Commerce, Captain Kevin McNelly said. The fire department is always looking for new applicants wanting to volunteer their services as firemen.

Fire officials look at an applicant's availability first when choosing new members for the fire department, said the training officer for the current recruits. Most calls come during the day and firefighters have to be available.

MEDICALS

Other than that, if the male or female applicants are over 19, can physically pass the fire department medical and fit in well with the other 45 members of the fire team they will be considered for hiring.

Basically when the recruits first come in, Capt. McNelly said, they are taught what goes on at the fire hall and what is expected of them.

For example, in the early sessions recruits are told what they are to do when their pager goes off, what the different trucks are and which truck is used for which fire and how to use the breathing apparatus.

Recruits are also taught how to use the hoses and different ways to climb ladders.

More in-depth sessions deal with how to fight different fires, search and rescue and auto extrication.

Included in their classroom work are general duties around the fire hall such as filling oxygen tanks and washing the trucks. Recruits do not go on calls yet.

IN TRAINING

If there is a big fire, Capt. McNelly said, a senior person will take the firemen in training to the scene so they can observe what goes on.

On Saturday, when a house, which was donated to the fire department, was burned, recruits went to watch the other volunteer firemen put out the blaze.

The main method of teaching recruits is through experience and to take the time and go through the steps, Capt. McNelly said.

New recruit Jim Manning, who owns Childschool in Georgetown, still forgets everytime his pager goes off even though he has had the device since beginning Jan. 15. "I still jump," he said.

Growing up in Vaughan Township, Mr. Manning developed a fascination with the men behind the hoses. As a kid he spent time at the firehall and got to know a lot of the firemen.

When he saw the ad in the Chamber of Commerce yearly

notice he thought it sounded like an interesting thing to do.

SIX SESSIONS

So far Mr. Manning has gone through six sessions learning such things as how to use the breathing apparatus and search and rescue.

When you go into a mock fire situation they tape a garbage bag

Kodak Canada, finds being a volunteer fireman an exciting and challenging job.

A desire to change careers initiated the Georgetown man into applying for a position as a volunteer fireman. Mr. Pollock is considering becoming a full-time fireman.

On Jan. 15 Mr. Pollock received

Recruits have to have all their courses, a first aid course and CPR training before becoming a trained firefighter, the training officer said.

PICK UP DUMMY

Search and rescue situations also surprised the Georgetown man. When entering the house Mr. Pollock said he thought, "I can just walk in and pick up the dummy."

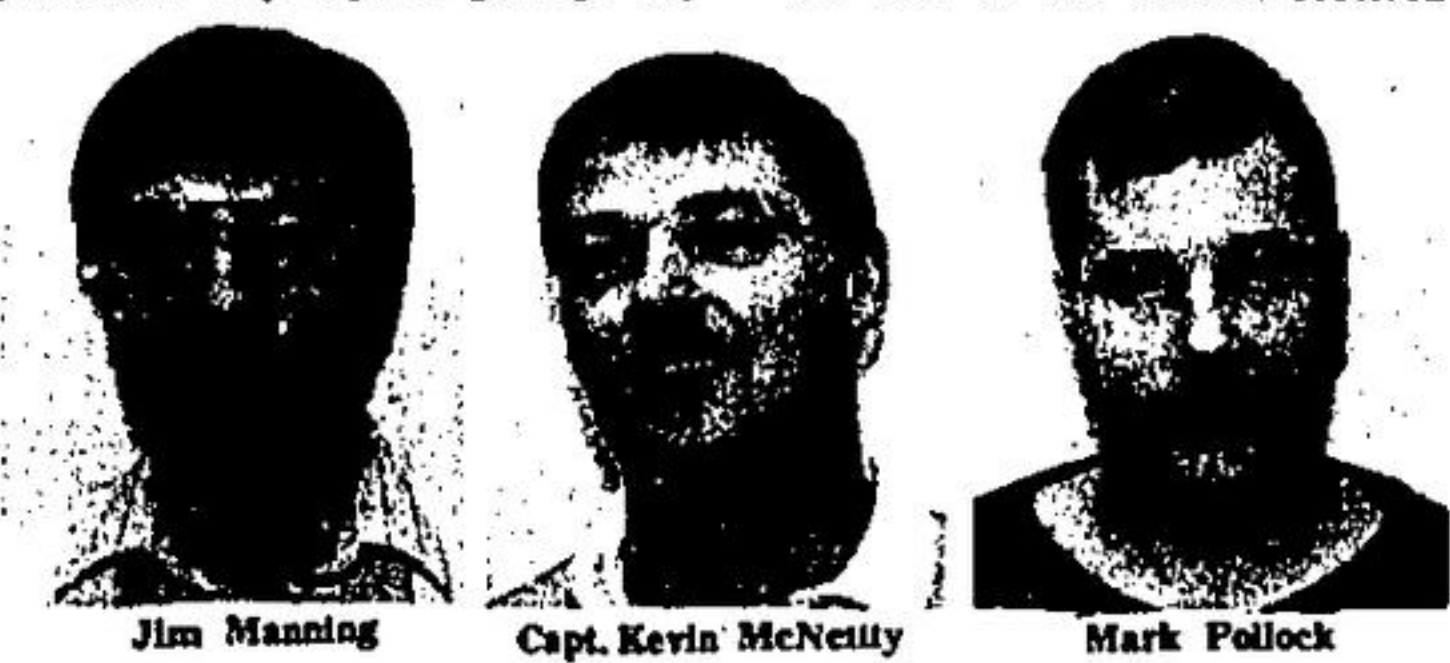
In reality though it is not so easy. You have to stay low and crawl around in the pitch black, Mr. Manning said. You do not know what you may find. Things such as broken beer bottles may be scattered on the floor.

You are told that when you are in a fire you do not make decisions inside as to what to bring out, Mr. Pollock said. You bring out anything such as dolls, that resemble human life.

"When you cannot see you cannot second guess," he said. Recruits are now learning how to hook up the hoses to fire hydrants. Fire trucks only carry 500 gallons, Capt. McNelly said.

The hardest part of training for Mr. Pollock, he said, was to stay at the firehouse while everyone else went for a run to check out a call.

Mr. Manning found crawling



Jim Manning

Capt. Kevin McNelly

Mark Pollock

over your head, he said. Recruits are sent into a prepared room where tables have been overturned and told to find any victims.

A second simulated search and rescue situation was set up outside, Mr. Manning said. Straw filled dummies were hidden in the burning Maple Lodge house Saturday for firemen to find.

Mr. Manning and his classmates had to take a truck apart and identify the equipment.

"I find it very interesting," the new recruit said. "I find the whole thing quite a challenge."

To do a good job takes commitment, Mr. Manning said. He keeps his pager on 24 hours a day seven days a week.

The recruit said he should respond to at least half the calls which come in.

SHIFT WORK

Another recruit Mark Pollock, who does shift work in Toronto for

his pager, hat, gloves, helmet, coat and boots. The recruits were given a basic initiation and told what was expected of them to do a proper job.

Capt. McNelly said training officers teach recruits they have to do it safely or not to do it at all.

Mr. Pollock feels it just takes common sense. It is better to get to the fire hall safely than to get killed trying to get there.

The training sessions are more than Mr. Pollock expected them to be. He thought he would only have to slap on a mask, grab a hose and be on his way to fight fires, he said.

Instead he realized training is something you have to keep up on, even when you are fully trained. "You have to keep up on it or you fall behind quickly," Mr. Pollock said. "It is actually like going back to school."

Training sessions are put on a schedule so if a recruit misses a session he can make up for it later.

26 Guelph St.
Georgetown, Ont.
877-9896
Division of Helton
Floor Fashions Ltd.

FARRAD AUDIO
QUALITY STEREO SYSTEMS & ACCESSORIES FOR YOUR HOME & AUTOMOTIVE RECORDS & TAPES & CDs
Sales • Service • Installation

ONE-STOP CAR CARE.

- DRY CLEANING INTERIORS
- FABRIC PROTECTOR
- VINYL ROOF REVITALIZING
- TOUCH-UP PAINT
- SPLASH GUARDS
- WINDOW TINTING
- PRESERV-A-SHINE
- SUNROOFS
- RUST PROOFING
- CAR COVERS
- RUNNING BOARDS
- PIN-STRIPING

SAME DAY SERVICE

DEEZEE FREE RUNNING BOARDS INSTALLATION

SUNROOF SALE CONTINUES

From **\$149⁰⁰** installed
While Supplies Last!

FOR FREE ESTIMATE, CALL OR DROP IN AT

TIDY CAR
KEEPING CARS IN SHAPE WORLDWIDE

286 Guelph St., Georgetown
873-0570

OPEN: Monday-Thursday 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
Friday 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Saturday until 4:00 p.m.

VISA
MasterCard

SAME DAY TAX RETURNS

101 Guelph St. Georgetown
877-2217

PHOTO REPRINTS

Available at The Herald
Office in either 8"x10" or 5"x7" Sizes.

theHERALD
43 Guelph St., Georgetown - 877-2201

J.V. Clothing
Men's • Ladies • Childrens
ALTERATIONS & REPAIRS
877-1598

COOK'S **SUNOCO**
WE'LL TAKE Good Care of your Car

TIRE SALE

NEW & USED TIRES **18⁰⁰** and up
Free installation with two or more tires.
USED SNOW TIRES IN STOCK!

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
Licenced Mechanic
Brakes — Tune-ups
Exhaust — Minor Repairs.

89 Guelph St., Georgetown
877-5501

Pictures & Presents

ANNUAL FRAMING SALE

March 4th to March 26

20% OFF

All Custom Framing
Including: Limited Edition Prints
Needlepoint
Paper Tole
Diplomas
Photographs

Pictures & Presents
124 Main St. S.
DOWNTOWN GEORGETOWN 877-7654