



### FIRE SAFETY TIPS

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# FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

Special pullout section



Halton Hills firefighters perform a wide variety of emergency services from fire safety education (left: David Bouskill changes a smoke alarm battery) to battling fires and responding to automobile accidents. This week is Fire Prevention Week and the fire de-

partment is reminding all residents of the importance of having working smoke alarms in your home.

*File photos*

## Fire Prevention Week highlights an alarming situation

“Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With,” is the theme of Fire Prevention Week that begins Sunday and runs through Saturday (Oct. 9).

The week was established to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 that killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless and destroyed more than 17,400 structures and 2,000 acres. The fire began Oct. 8, but did most of its damage Oct. 9. The Peshtigo Fire, America’s most devastating forest fire, also occurred Oct. 8, 1871.

Eight decades of fire prevention and public education since the two fires led to the mandatory

smoke alarm law.

A recent amendment by the Province of Ontario and Fire Marshal of Ontario now requires a working smoke alarm on every level of the home.

As of March 1, 2006 this amendment applies to single family, semi-detached and town homes, whether owner occupied or rented.

“The citizens of Halton Hills should be aware that only working smoke alarms can save lives,” said Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette.

Despite the law, the Fire Department still dis-

covers homes without a working smoke alarm.

“For the minimal cost of a \$10 smoke alarm, the life of a family member could be saved in the event of a fire,” said Bonnette.

Halton Hills Fire Department kicked off Fire Prevention Week with an open house at its new 53 Maple Ave. station Sunday, and will open up both new stations (Maple Ave. and the Headquarters Station 14007 10 Sideroad) to the public Monday through Thursday from 5 to 8 p.m. for viewing of equipment, apparatus and meeting with Fire Department personnel. Everybody is welcome.



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