

# Everyday Heroes

## Bill and Lyle Stokes

To actually get Bill and Lyle Stokes to sit and talk about themselves is a task that's easier said than done. The two brothers deny that there's anything special about them, despite their recent anniversary as fire fighters. For the past 21 years, Bill and Lyle have dropped whatever they've been doing, whether it's a special family occasion or tending their farms, to fight fires, aid accident victims or perform high level rescues on the escarpment. Yet they insist that they're both just ordinary men.

Bill and Lyle Stokes were born and raised in Campbellville, along with their older brother Doug. Doug also recently displayed his sense of community when he donated two acres of land for the new fire hall to be built. Bill went to work for the Halton Region Conservation Authority (H.R.C.A.) directly after high school and still enjoys his work at Mountsberg. He credits the H.R.C.A. for allowing him the time off whenever he needs it to fulfill his firefighting commitment.

Although unmarried and living at home when he joined Milton Station #2, as was Lyle, he met his future wife Jill when she was working as a summer student for the H.R.C.A. He laughs when he talks about being more nerv-

ous about his final test in fire college at Gravenhurst than he was about his own wedding, both of which took place the same week 21 years ago. Today, Bill and Jill have three children, Katie, Pat and Mike and live on the century farm which has belonged to his mother's family for generations. They've also taken over the family business of breeding and raising horses. Now the District Chief of Milton Station #2, (Lyle serves as a Deputy), Bill insists that a lot of the credit goes to his wife and children, both for their understanding and their support of the times he can't be there and also for the times they pick up the workload on the farm so that he can be out saving lives and property.

Bill and Jill's wedding marked a significant event in Lyle's life as well. While serving as an usher for his brother he met Jill's bridesmaid Debbie, now his wife of 18 years and mother of his two children Steve and Lynn. Lyle also credits his family for all the support they've shown him over his many years of firefighting. He speaks of years when Christmas celebrations had to be held two days later because he was tending fires, and of cultivating his farmland at midnight with lights on his tractor because, as he says, "that's

BY DONNA DANIELLI  
CAMPBELLVILLE & AREA

just what you have to do sometimes."

Lyle studied at Guelph University after high school and received his two year diploma in agriculture. After working for Polysar and H.R.C.A., he began working for Consumers Glass, a job he got the same day he married Debbie. It's not unusual to see Lyle go straight to work and put in a full day after firefighting all night.

Not only do both men attend 130-140 calls per year and train for several hours each Monday night, but they also take the time for community events such as the Brookville Fun Fair, to teach fire safety and promote community awareness.

When asked what changes they've seen in firefighting over the last 21 years, both Bill and Lyle commented on the increasing need for advanced breathing apparatus. "Fire fighters used to be called 'smoke-eaters' before we had air packs," says Lyle. Bill adds, "We're now far more aware of cancer causing agents in the smoke than we were 21 years ago."

Bill and Lyle are both uncomfortable with being labeled as Everyday Heroes. "Even though you worry about losing a firefighter, there are a lot of dangers that everyone

faces everyday in their cars and homes. I'm not a hero," says Lyle. "War veterans are heroes."

Bill agrees with his brother, saying, "I wouldn't consider us heroes. We're just doing our job like anyone else.

We've just been doing it a little longer."

All I know is that my family and I feel a little bit safer knowing dedicated men like Bill and Lyle Stokes are watching out for us, and will be there whenever needed.



PHOTO BY RON KINDT

**FULL GEAR** - District Chief Bill and Deputy Chief Lyle Stokes with Milton Fire Department Pumper #21 at the Campbellville Fire Hall.

# Antiques in Elora

SPECIAL TO THE COMPASS

Antiques in Elora, taking place July 24, 25 & 26 1998 in the Elora Community Centre Arena, is definitely not "just another Antique Show!" Featuring 40 exceptional dealers, many showing in this area for the first time, Antiques in Elora promises to be a unique show with an incredible selection of antiques and collectibles in every price range.

The promoters of the show have taken nearly a full year to organize this special event selectively inviting dealers in a broad range of categories to ensure a blend of high quality, affordable antiques and unique collectibles. Costume and Estate Jewelry, Canadiana, Pressed Glass, Tools, Fishing Memorabilia, Books, Depression Glass, Textiles, Art, Toys and Victoriana plus a great selection of Country, Victorian & Fine Formal Furnishings are just a few of

the categories being represented. With well known dealers in attendance such as Butler Creek Antiques (Country Furniture), Patty George (Pressed Glass), Out of the Attic Antiques and Valley Tiques (Victoriana), The Glass Keepers (Depression Glass), White on White (Linen and Lace), Dale's Hollow (Country Furniture) and Boszack Antiques (Fine Formal Furnishings) plus many others, it will be impossible to leave the show empty handed.

A special attraction of this year's show and sale will be a display of spectacular "Estate Jewelry" presented by "Star of India," this jewelry is of the finest quality. Judy Hrabb promises to dazzle and delight with sparkling gems mounted in broaches, rings, pins and ear rings. Judy provides a written appraisal on each piece she sells. In addition to their vintage jewelry, Star of

India also offers a great selection of Victorian accessories including purses, hat pins and more. Christmas is only a few months away, and a piece of heirloom quality jewelry would make a perfect gift for that special someone!

An antique show should be a fun and educational outing for the entire family, and with this in mind the show promoters have arranged an identification and appraisal clinic to run each day of the show. Bring your family heirlooms or a good photograph and our panel of experts will do their best to give a brief verbal description and value. There is no cost for this service, please limit yourself to two items. A donation of a non-perishable food item for the Guelph Food Bank would be appreciated. The I.D. clinic will take place on Friday from 5 p.m. - 7 p.m., Saturday 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. and again on Sunday from 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Antiques in Elora takes place in the Community Centre Arena on David St. Friday, July 24, 3 p.m. - 8 p.m., Saturday July 25, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sunday July 26 from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Weekend admission to the show is just \$3 for adults with children admitted free. Ample, free parking is provided on site. The show is easy to find, just follow the yellow signs!

While in Elora please be sure to visit the many unique shops and restaurants in the downtown core, and don't forget to drop into the Elora Antique Warehouse. Take a little time to explore the Wellington County Museum and the famous Elora Gorge, one of Canada's most spectacular views.

For information on the Antique Show please telephone Dale's Hollow Antiques at 519-767-2094 or fax 519-767-1105.

VINCENT'S ART  
& ANTIQUES

39 Main Street, Campbellville

also

Art of the Heart Gallery

**We Buy Estates**

Open 11am to 5 pm, Wed to Sun  
905-854-1244

THE

**EARLY HOUSE**  
6 SHOPS UNDER 1 ROOF

54 Main Street, Campbellville

Something for every  
inquisitive browser:

**Antique furniture  
and collectables**

**New & vintage jewellery**

**Crafts & home decor,  
pottery**

**Fresh Exposure  
Pauline's Reflections  
Mill Cottage Antiques  
Forget Me Knot Antiques**

Open 11 am - 5:00 p.m.  
Friday to Sunday

(905) 854-1667

**\$3.00 Weekend Admission**

**Appraisal Clinic all three days**

**40 Dealers**

## Antiques in Elora

### Show and Sale

### July 24, 25 & 26, 1998

Friday 3 - 8 Saturday 10 - 5 Sunday 11 - 5

Join us for a fabulous time in the  
Elora Community Centre Arena  
David St., Elora, Ontario

Information: 519-767-2094

Dale's Hollow  
**ANTIQUES**

