## Acton's part-time fire fighters honoured for years of service

By FRANCES NIBLOCK The New Tanner

As proud spouses and families looked on a number of part-time fire fighters with the Halton Hills fire department received long and exemplary service medals at a recent ceremony at the Civic Centre.

Among those being honoured was Acton's Herb Dodds, who recently retired after 40 years of service, and David Shannon who has been a part time fire fighter for 25 years.

As she pinned the service medals on the fire fighters Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson noted that they proved their capability in their first class handling of two massive recent fires.

"I know how hard you worked not only at the Stewarttown fire when the little theatre burned but also in Acton at the Beardmore. complex fire last spring," Serjeantson said, adding that no one could have fought those fires any better than the local volunteers.

Chief Bill Cunningham,



**DEDICATED FIREFIGHTERS HONOURED: With** 65 years of volunteer fighting between them Acton's Davis Shannon (left) and Herb Dodds (right) received long and exemplary services awards from Fire Chief Bill Cunningham at a ceremony at the Civic Centre. -Frances Niblock photo

volunteer their time to help save lives, noted that the ceremony was an effort to recognize in a very tangible and honourable way the time that the men offer their community.

Cunningham said that the community should be very grateful to the part-time fire fighters and made special mention of Acton's Herb Dodds.

clearly proud of the men who "Some of you have hung in there for 40 years - it's remarkable and we're probably sitting here tonight looking at the last person that will retire in this department with that many years of service. I don't ever see that happening again," Cunningham said as he also offered special thanks to the partners of the fire fighters who "pull up the slack" when the pagers

rush out to protect the community.

Following the ceremony Cunningham said while the part-time fire fighting force does an excellent job, there is "pressure to augment the part-time fire fighters with full time people."

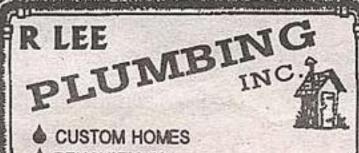
"It's a fairly significant issue during the day when a lot of the part-time people are out of town or can't leave their full-time jobs," Cunningham said, adding that they continually monitor the key factor of response times to ensure there is an adequate level of service.

When asked if there is any common trait or characteristic among the part-time firemen in Halton Hills, Cunningham said they all have two things in common.

"They are dedicated and caring about the people in their community because it's a tremendous commitment, not only the number of alarms that they have to answer, but there's tremendous pressure on them to keep up with their training and to maintain the standards of that training," Cunningham said.

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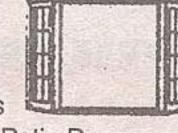
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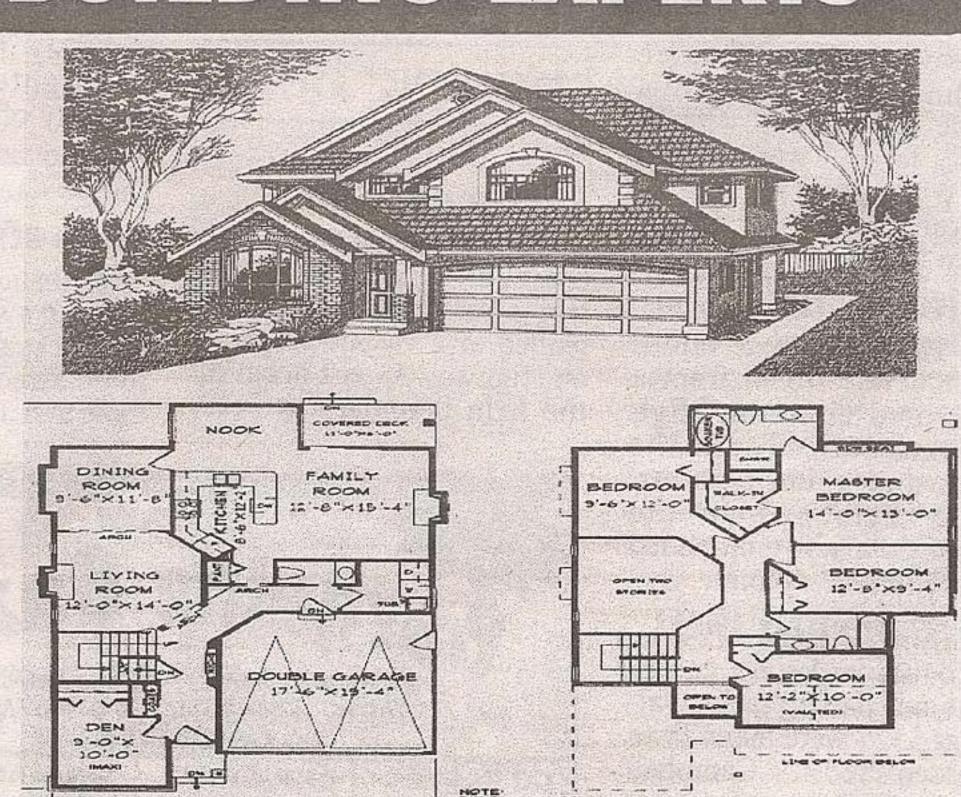
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