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•  
**See page 21**

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# Six Honeyfield homes destroyed by flames

*Believe fire started from propane heater*

By Frances Niblock



**LIFE MEMBERS:** Newly appointed Life Member of Branch 197 of the Royal Canadian Legion, Joyce Buchanan, cuts the cake at the 73rd anniversary celebration last Saturday. Assisting were Life Member colleagues Ed Footitt, Ab Irwin and Gord McCutcheon.-Ted Tyler photo.

Easterly winds were whipping flames 75-foot high when Acton firefighters arrived on Bonnette Drive at 1:18 Saturday morning to find three, possibly four, partially built homes in the Honeyfield subdivision fully engulfed by a fire that remained under investigation at press time.

On Tuesday, Halton Hills fire safety specialist Dave Ford said the "preliminary investigating was focusing on the installation/placement of propane fuelled Salamanders (portable heaters) in the basement of Lot 202, for the purpose of drying and curing concrete," Ford said, adding the investigation involves staff from the Technical Standards and Safety Authority who interviewed construction workers on site, on Tuesday.

"As you can appreciate, with the amount of damage, debris and working conditions and information to be sorted, the process can be very long and tedious," Ford said.

Earlier he said they brought the fire under control "fairly quickly" by setting up water curtains on either end of the burning row of six houses. One house on either end of the row suffered heat damage.

Burning embers hitting her bedroom window at the neighbouring Christian Reformed Church parsonage alerted 10-year-old Kendra Vander Kooij to the blaze, and she woke her mother, Sue.

"It really was scary because there was like a rain of burning embers coming down and I was really concerned about the roofs catching fire," Vander Kooij said on Tuesday.

"Fortunately, the rain had wet everything down and I think God protected us in that way, but I still thought 'up on the roof,'" she said, explaining that her husband, the Reverend Ray Vander Kooij, went up on the roof with a 10-gallon bucket of water to douse burning embers, some of which also ended up on the church roof.

On Monday, Monmar Homes president Alfio

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**TOP coach Paul Edwards** honoured at Day of Champions. See Page 19 for more photos.



Branch 197 observes 73rd anniversary. See Page 13.

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