

Young boy recognized for alerting his family to fire

By **FANNIE SUNSHINE**
The Champion

Scott Dumencu is one brave nine-year-old boy.

After dozing off shortly after midnight May 28, Scott woke up around 2 a.m. to see smoke travelling through an open window of his Derry Road home. Moments later, the smoke detector went off.

"At first I thought someone was cooking," he said. "We always leave the window open and the fan on. When I saw the curtain flashing (flames) I knew I had to get my parents and brothers."

So he dashed to his parents' room and woke them up. Then they woke the other two boys and headed for safety outside.

"I watched TV and they told you what to do (in case of a fire)," Scott said. "I was thinking if I should get my brothers up first or my parents. I got my parents up first because I thought they would know what to do."

Asked if he thought of leaving the house without alerting his parents or brothers, he shook his head.

"I didn't want to get out. I've thought about fires and what I would do (in the situation) and I thought I would get my parents out."

The fire travelled to the attic,



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Milton Professional Firefighters Local 3168 president Mark Cross (left) and vice-president Don Stewart present Scott Dumencu his Recognition Award at Central Station.

causing \$75,000 damage.

Because of his bravery, the Milton Professional Fire Fighters Association presented Scott with a Recognition Award Wednesday night at Central Station on Steeles Avenue in front of 20 friends and family members.

Scott said he was "very shocked" to be recognized.

"We can't stress enough the importance of having working smoke alarms on every floor (of the home)," said Milton Fire Captain Mark Cross, who presented the award to Scott.

Captain Cross said this was the first time the station handed out a recognition award.

"We're going to be doing this anytime a young person is involved with alerting the family of a fire," he said. "It's extraordinary — he's only nine years old. It's difficult to know how to react. He was quick on his feet and it's worth the recognition."

Scott's mother Sue said it was exciting for her son to be recognized by the fire department.

"It's very emotional. It's a frightening thing to go through."

THIS WEEKEND

ACTON FALL FAIR

**Friday, Saturday and Sunday
September 14, 15, 16**

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**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2001
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Education Day for Schools
(Seniors & Pre-School Children welcome)
Children must be accompanied by an adult
Educational displays, wagon rides, demonstrations,
4:00 p.m.

Gates Open to Public

Full midway in operation, exotic and domestic birds in poultry barn, exhibits which include schoolwork, baking, canned and preserves, plants and flowers, vegetables, junior exhibits, antiques, 4-H, needle-crafts, crafts & hobbies and special display classes and the K&N JEN petting zoo featuring more than 65 animals

6:00 p.m. Heavy Horse Pull

8:00 p.m. Miss Acton Fall Fair Pageant

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2001
8 a.m. Gates open**

A full day of events including midway, beef cattle show, junior 4-H show, poultry show, petting zoo, English & Western Gymkhana and games show, miniature horse show, light horse show, field exhibits and displays, horse-shoe pitching, heavy horse show, and KEN JEN petting zoo

12:00 Noon

Gigantic parade to Fairgrounds from McKenzie-Smith school features the ACTON CITIZENS BAND, marching bands, floats, clowns,

Call 853-2544 to register

Northern Borders Flyball & Canine Performance Team

6:30 p.m. Garden Tractor Pull

8:30 p.m. Highway Truck Pull

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2001

Daily events featuring Antique Tractor Pull, 4 x 4 Truck Pull, Mini Pedal Pull, Dairy Cattle Show, Pet Show, Homecrafts and Field Exhibits, English Horses, Western Horse Show, midway, poultry barn, petting zoo

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