

above the living-room and kitchen and heard a crackle in the attic. When he heard someone yell, "Fire", he went out of the washroom and saw smoke in the area of the stairs leading from the second floor to the attic. A third student was standing outside the shower when he heard someone yell, "Fire", and he opened the stair door to the attic and saw smoke and immediately got dressed and ran outside. An attempt was made to telephone the Rosseau Fire Department, but the fire had apparently damaged the telephone cable and one of the students had to walk approximately one-half mile to notify the Fire Department. Upon arrival, the Fire Fighters found fire in the space behind the interior attic wall finish, and due to the lack of self-contained breathing apparatus, they were unable to remain in the area due to the dense smoke. Subsequently, the building was a total loss.

CAUSE OF FIRE:

This fire originated in the attic and the evidence of the Fire Fighters indicates that it was burning in the space behind the interior attic wall finish. Presumably, the fire could occur in this concealed wall space because of defective electrical wiring or possibly, because of the heat of the chimney to which the oil-fired steam boiler was connected. Although a definite cause could not be established, there is no evidence to indicate that the fire was of other than accidental origin.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that:

1. Any re-construction comply with the rules for residential schools found in the Ontario Building Fire Safety Design standard, as approved by the Ministry of Education.
2. The Fire Department purchase self-contained breathing apparatus, as recommended in OFM Municipal Fire Protection Survey for the Village of Rosseau, 1969.
3. Consideration be given to having a direct alarm connection to Fire Department headquarters for such occupancies in isolated locations.

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