

This Week in Fire!

By Norm Gladish
MNR Fire Prevention Technician

The holiday weekend has passed quietly from the point of view of the Ontario Provincial Fire Centre in Sault Ste. Marie. Opening season for pickerel is always a concern because of the number of people and tourists heading for the province's lakes and forests. However, as of last Monday, only eight fires were burning in Ontario. One of these was not under control. Only one fire occurred in our region (North Central); none started in the Terrace Bay District.

The total number of hectares burned to date is 24,363. The Kenora 14 fire accounts for the greater part of this area (22,700 hectares). Though no longer expanding, this fire, which started April 30, is still being manned. High winds are keeping fire fighters busy putting out "flare-ups" and patrolling the perimeter. The remaining 1,663 hectares were burned by 361 fires.

Don't let this quiet situation allow you to become complacent about campfires or burning. Limited precipitation and high winds in our area have kept forest conditions dry. A few sunny days could cause the fire danger to climb rapidly to extreme.

Have you ever wondered what causes fires? Lightning is the only

natural cause and is responsible for only 30% of all forest fires. People cause the remainder. If we know who these people are and from what sources ignition is caused managers can then determine what fire prevention measures should be directed to the cause of the problems.

Studies have revealed that careless smokers are responsible for more forest fires than any other group of forest users. Nearly one-quarter of all fires caused by people are ignited through careless use of smoking materials. It should be no surprise then, that we have legislation in Ontario that prohibits smoking while walking or working in forested areas.

Carelessly attended campfires rank second, starting 19% of all people-caused fires. While the numbers of campers and outdoor recreationists using our forests has increased, the number of fires caused by this group has dropped slightly. Perhaps this indicates a growing awareness of the need for fire safety among the public.

Residents (and cottagers) burning grass, brush or rubbish trigger another 13% of fires, as do the railways.

Many fires can be traced to children playing with matches. Parents and teachers can help in this area by impressing the danger of fire on children.

"ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT FOREST FIRES!"

Know the difference between lifejackets and 'PFDs'

The Law requires that one Department of Transport approved lifejacket or Personal Flotation Device (PFD) be carried for each person on board your boat. This law also applies to sailboards and water scooters. But that alone won't help if you unexpectedly fall into the water. Lifejackets and PFDs are survival aids which are designed to be worn at all times — they can't save your life sitting in the bottom on your boat or back on shore.

Lifejackets and PFDs differ in several major respects. The main feature of lifejackets is their ability to turn an unconscious person over to a face-up position to ensure a clear passage for breathing.

PFDs are designed to keep a conscious person afloat, but have less buoyancy and turning ability than lifejackets. PFDs provide greater insulative capacity and protection against hypothermia than do lifejackets.

Regardless of whether you are using a PFD or a lifejacket, all flotation gear must be approved by the federal Department of Transport (DCT). Only those safety aids with a DOT stamp are approved. The label on your PFD is your assurance of consistent high standards in design and fabrication.

After years of research and improvements, today's PFDs are more comfortable, safer, and even attractive. They are available in a wide variety of styles and sizes designed specifically for activities such as fishing, canoeing, sailing, water skiing and windsurfing. Each has unique design features to accommodate the rigors of each particular water activity.

Most PFDs come in several sizes for specific body weights and chest sizes. If you already have lifejackets and PFDs on your craft, make sure each passenger is wearing the proper size and also ensure that they are worn properly

and adjusted correctly. Improper size or adjustment could result in your PFD or lifejacket slipping off your body when you need it.

It's important to understand how to get the most from your PFD.. before you really need it. When purchasing a new PFD or lifejacket, check to see that the following requirements are met:

— Department of Transport (DOT) approval label;

— Red, Yellow or Orange in colour;

— Sturdy snaps, ties and zip-pers;

— Fits snugly but can easily be put on and taken off;

— Warm and comfortable with freedom of movement.

Try your lifejacket/PFD out in the water to become familiar with how it works. It should feel comfortable whether on your front or back and allow you to float with your face out of the water. Your PFD should not "ride up" onto your shoulders. Practice swimming to discover the best way to propel yourself.

When purchasing a PFD for your child, check to see that it has a label stating DOT approval; a collar for head support; a safety strap between the legs to prevent it from slipping over your child's head; neck and waist ties; and a grab strap on the collar. Make sure that the PFD is comfortable, yet snug. Do not buy too large a size hoping the child will grow into it. In a controlled setting, have your child swim wearing their PFD. That way the child learns to feel comfortable with it on. Explain how it works and why it must be worn, and of course, set a good example by wearing yours too! Remember, a lifejacket is not a substitute for adult supervision.

Finally, attaching plastic or brass whistles to pull tabs of PFDs or the straps of lifejackets is strongly recommended. In the event of an accident, the thrill of a whistle can be heard much further than a human voice and will save your breath in the long run.

Lifejackets and PFDs are designed as survival aids. In the ultimate analysis, the probability of their working properly is proportional to the degree of knowledge and the amount of practice you have in using them. The Red Cross reminds you to take the time to learn about water safety. Courses in Small Craft and Water Safety are available from your local branch of the Red Cross.

June 5 - 11 is National Water Safety/Safe boating Week. The Canadian Red Cross Society strongly urges you to wear your lifejacket or PFD when participating in water activities this summer. A lifejacket or PFD can save your life — but only if you wear it

CWL celebrates the Living Rosary

Our parish wanted to do something special to express our love for Mary, the mother of Jesus, in this Marian Year.

The ladies of the C.W.L. along with the children of St. Martin of Tours' School gathered together to celebrate the Living Rosary.

The Rosary is a prayer in honour of Mary. The word Rosary means "Roses" — a garland of Roses — beautiful spiritual roses that we wanted to offer Mary.

Singing "Ave, Ave, Ave, Maria" the procession of students, C.W.L. ladies and Father Campbell entered the Church and formed the "Living Rosary".

Mary was crowned as everyone sang "Immaculate Mary".

As the joyful mysteries were announced we meditated on Mary's Story.

— on the joyful events of her life as the Mother of Jesus;

— Ave, Ave, Ave, Maria was sung at the end of each decade.

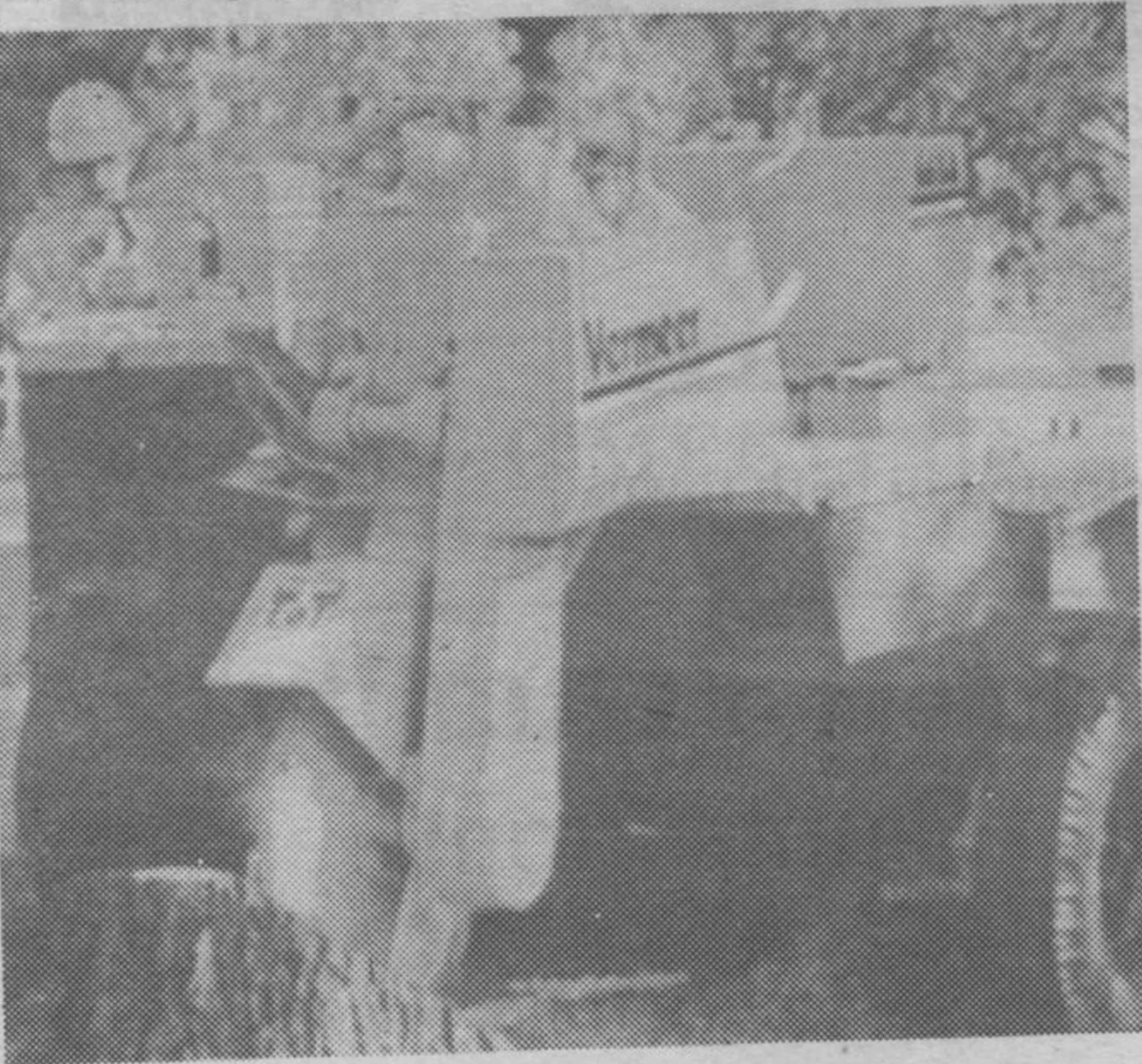
Following the Rosary a very meaningful reflection was presented! (One of the messages from Our Lady of Medjugorje was read.)

Our joyful celebration came to close with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and blessing the children and all those who attended with Father walking among the people and making the Sign of the Cross over them with the Monstrance. Everyone joined in the singing of "Hail Holy Queen Enthroned Above".

It was a special gift that we offered to Mary! I'm sure she was very pleased with our efforts and that she will pray for each of us! It was a wonderful experience working and praying with children. It was a Special day for St. Martin's Parish and for St. Martin School. Many thanks to all who helped.

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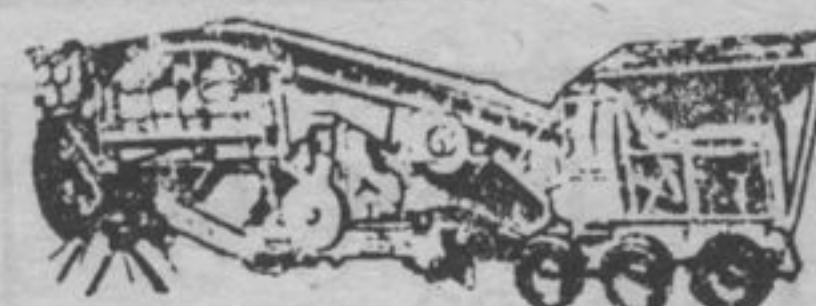
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