

# 65 years of safety

Mention the Ontario Safety League and most people would probably look at you blankly. If it's a motorist you're talking to he might indicate that he belongs to 'it', thinking that you really meant to talk about the Motor League.

It's not too surprising when you look at it. Although the Ontario Safety League has been around for 65 years, it is not usually a high profile organization, preferring to work behind the scenes for the most part. Few people would realize, for example, that the majority of commercial Driving School Instructors are OSL trained, or that high school Driving Instructors take a course

originated by the League. Mention Elmer, the Safety Elephant and the majority of adults would hardly think to connect him with OSL . . . "Gee, is he still around . . I remember . Elmer from school."

So what is the Ontario Safety League? It is a non-profit, nongovernment, public service organization dedicated to safety education and the development of accident prevention programs in three areas: Traffic, Outdoor Recreation, and Family (Home and Child) Safety.

These were the primary objectives of the group of concerned citizens who first met

Instructor Gerry German offers personal instruction to students on the CSC/OSL Motorcycle Training Course at Sheridan College and the Downsview Air Base. The course offers 20 hours of instruction in basic skills, accident avoldance and advanced handling techniques.

on September 15, 1913, to form the OSL. For the first decade the League remained primarily a safety Toronto-oriented organization but then received its letters patent as the provincial safety body.

Today, the League enjoys the stature of one of the leading safety organizations in North America, operating some forty programs within the province. Fifteen thousand professional drivers are enrolled in the OSL Safe Driver Award program, designed especially commercial fleet operations. The League also organized and administers the popular "Pro Drivers" - driver training courses for young people in Mississauga and Metro Toronto. Visitors to Algonquin Provincial Park may have seen the League's canoe-camping demonstration units offering free instruction and advice each summer. Snowmobile enthusiasts who have taken the Snowmobile: Training Course at any one of: the Club locations across the province will not be surprised to learn that their student. handbook and course materials were developed by the League which has maintained an interest in this activity for many years. Then there are the school safety posters now being mailed to every grade school in the province, together with a teacher's

lesson guide. That's only a handful of the programs, but they indicate the wide range of services available from the Ontario Safety League.

"We're always trying to improve and update our services," explains Steve Andrunyk, OSL's President and General Manager, "and certainly the League is not the same as it was twenty or even ten years ago."

"Technological, changes and changes in life styles mean program changes for us. Perhaps some services become obsolete and are dropped, new ones are developed as the need arises. But it all-costs money."

Andrunyk emphasizes that only twelve per cent of the League's budget is made up by grants and donations from government, industry and business, and private individuals. The remainder comes from the purchase of safety programs and materials.

As long as there is a need, there will be an Ontario Safety League, Andrunyk states, and as long as man is the careless individual he is - there will be a need.

# The Bionic Nose

# Smoke Detectors For The Home

Each year, fire claims some eight hundred lives in Canada almost thirty-five per cent of those deaths occur in Ontario.

According to the Ontario Safety League, home fire deaths could be drastically reduced if every home and apartment had at least one "bionic nose": a home smoke detector.

The Ontario Fire Marshal's statistics indicate that a high percentage of home fire fatalities occur during the family sleeping hours when human vigilance is at its lowest. Many of the victims probably never knew of the impending danger but slept soundly in their beds while smoke and poison gases soundlessly snuffed out life. Those who did awaken found a nightmare environment of choking fumes and superheated gases. An oxygenstarved brain, blurred vision, and seared lungs brought pain, disorientation, and death.

Smoke detectors monitor the air as opposed to heat detectors popular in industrial situations which monitor temperatures. The heat detector's usefulness as a home safety device is limited. Most home fires smoke and smolder for some time before heat in the surrounding area builds up significantly.

Smoke detectors, on the other hand, operate by monitoring the surrounding air - electronically "seeing" or "sniffing" it and sounding an alarm at the first

"sniff" of trouble. In fact, "typical" dwelling test fires indicate that smoke detectors usually activate long before the surrounding temperatures rise even a few degrees. They allow the family to escape before fire fouls the air with smothering, which lethal gases accompany the smoke.

A good "bionic nose" can be picked up for between \$30 and \$60. However, the Ontario Safety League notes that there are no federal standards for fire alarms and warns that unscrupulous inferior products, giving homeowners a false sense of security.

Home smoke detectors are easy to install and blend into any room decor - much the same as your home's thermostat or apartment "talk box". Since the detector is of greatest value when everyone is asleep, the best location would be on the ceiling in the area or hallway outside the bedrooms. Depending on the configuration of your house or apartment, more than one smoke detector may be needed.

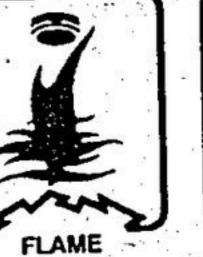
The Ontario Safety League notes that a smoke detector is of no real value unless everyone in the family knows the proper action to take when the alarm sounds! The League recommends that every household should have a planned and practiced escape plan. If you are unsure about escape routes, ask your local fire department for assistance in mapping them out.

# Whatagood nosedoes

## THE FOUR CONDITIONS OF FIRE









This beginning stage in-volves almost invisible and sometimes odorless porticles of combustion and can lest minutes or days depending on the material

The smoke or smoldering condition produces visible smoke with geses, some times toxic. This stoge may last for hours or

The flame stage takes minutes or seconds. Visible smoke and flame ore a major threat.

This stope involves visible flame, smoke and high host. This extremely donpersus condition can

### FIRE HAS FOUR RECOGNIZABLE CONDITIONS:

INCIPIENT STAGE

\*When only invisible products of combustion are given off.

SMOULDERING STAGE

· When only smoke is visible

FIRE STAGE

· When actual fire exists and heat comes quickly

HEAT STAGE

\*When uncontrolled heat and rapidly expanding air completes the dangerous combination.

#### TYPES OF DETECTORS

The earlier occupants of a home can be alerted to smoke & fire, the better are their chances of survival. Detection of smoke, the first stage of fire, has proven the most reliable way of sensing fire, providing occupants with a good chance . for escape.

#### IONIZATION SMOKE DETECTORS

They respond to invisible products of combustion emitted in the first stage of fire - the incipient stage - where there is little or no visible smoke. They will respond to the other three stages of fire.

#### PHOTOELECTRIC SMOKE DETECTORS

They respond to visible smoke of the smouldering type where there is still no flame or significant heat. While both units will successfully detect fire, the ionization device is capable of giving earlier warning in a broader range of fires. There is a third type of detector - the thermal detector - which reacts to heat at the last stage of combustion, the heat stage. This detector, while a popular commercial type, should NOT be used in a private home. IT IS A PROPERTY PROTECTOR - NOT A LIFE SAVER!