

FIRE PREVENTION PAYS OFF

Fire hall expansion is nearly complete

STOUFFVILLE — The major expansion project at Stouffville's fire hall site, should be completed by the end of this month, Chief Walter Smith told The Tribune. The tendered price was \$262,809.00.

office space for the chief, the deputy-chief and a fire prevention officer. The training area could be used as a dormitory should several full-time firefighters be hired. This won't occur, Chief

Smith said, until after the Duvorton Development becomes a reality.

Chief Smith sees little likelihood of further expansion at this location. He predicts the Town will turn its

attention to the Vandorf area where industrial build-up is anticipated.

The expanded fire station in Stouffville, will be equipped with a much-needed hose-drying tower. This will

be useful, particularly during the winter when the draining of hose lines is most difficult. The addition was also constructed with the handicapped in mind. There are no steps, only ramps, so a

wheelchair can be manoeuvred in and out of the building with ease. Chief Smith sees the possibility of a handicapped person filling the position of dispatcher some time in the future.

The larger facility will accommodate six vehicles including a new aerial ladder expected in 1984. Delivery of a new pumper-tanker, costing \$112,000, is expected shortly. The tanker, presently in use, will be placed in service at a sub-station located between Ballantrae and Musselman's Lake. This department should be equipped and ready to operate early in '83, Chief Smith said.

The enlarged Stouffville depot will provide

People who substitute heat detectors for smoke detectors hoping they will provide an early alert in case of fire are playing Russian Roulette with their lives, warns Ontario Consumer Minister Dr. Robert Elgie.

Dr. Elgie said his ministry has learned

that some unscrupulous salespeople are using high pressure scare tactics to sell expensive heat detectors as complete fire protection for the home.

"They are offering free demonstrations to show how heat detectors can save lives. They end the demonstration by showing tragic or gruesome pictures of a family that has just lost a loved one in a fire. At this point many people will buy heat detectors to prevent a similar tragedy from happening to their families."

The heat detectors are being sold door-to-door for \$130 each. Smoke alarms can be bought for \$15 to \$25 each.

Dr. Elgie said these salespeople are misrepresenting their product if they say or imply that heat detectors guarantee life safety in the houses.

"This just isn't true. Heat detectors are not adequate substitutes for smoke alarms. Heat detectors react to heat rather than smoke, and usually take much longer to activate. By the time they do go off a family could be dead of smoke inhalation."

Dr. Elgie said that detectors are commonly used in commercial and industrial build-

ings to minimize property damage due to fire and heat and that smoke detectors have proven to be effective in providing an early warning of fire conditions in houses.

There are two types of smoke detectors on the market: ionization and photoelectric. Ionization type detectors are triggered by

products of combustion gases, often before there is any other indication of fire. Photoelectric detectors set off an alarm when smoke interferes with the flow of light into the unit. Units for home use include battery-operated, plug-in and direct wired electrical powered models.

The ministry has

produced an information sheet and pamphlet about smoke detectors, their installation, operation and maintenance. For more information write to:

Consumer Information Centre, Ontario Ministry of Consumer Relations, 555 Yonge Street, Toronto.

Detectors suspect

Ballantrae-Lake area New station next year

The much-discussed fire sub-station to serve the areas of Ballantrae and Musselman's Lake, should become a reality early in 1983.

This is the opinion of Chief Walter Smith as plans move ahead. Initially, the McLennan building near the corner of Aurora Sideroad and Conc. 9 will be used to accommodate equipment.

Nine volunteers have completed basic training. The men include: Ron Robb, Rod Rose, Ted McLennan, Ian MacVarish, Carl Inley, Eric Blundon,

Warren Foster, Jim White and Larry Grove. Mr Robb, a brigade captain in Toronto, has helped considerably in establishing the new unit, Chief Smith said.

New brigade members will be paid on a per-call basis, and at the same rate as in Stouffville. Each will also carry "beepers", small portable alarm systems, that tell of a fire's location.

Stouffville's fire units will serve as back-up on all calls until the new station is completely self-operating, explained Chief Smith.

Drop in fire calls

Fire prevention is the theme for the period Oct. 3 to 10.

This is Fire Prevention Week.

However, it would seem residents of Whitchurch-Stouffville are practicing fire prevention 52 weeks instead of one. Calls are down dramatically.

So far in 1982 (to Sept. 23), the Town brigade has answered 124 alarms. Last year at the same time, units had been called 160 times.

Chief Walter Smith says the drop isn't related to any one type of fire but "across-the-board".

He notes that fewer people are starting out-

side fires without first obtaining permission and meeting all safety requirements. This, he feels, has cut down on the number of calls. To

Save lives

Fire Chief Walter Smith strongly advocates the installation of smoke detectors in every Whitchurch-Stouffville home. Chief Smith told The Tribune, he believes most home-owners are "sold" on them too.

He's confident the

majority of householders already have them.

The cost of a single unit is very reasonable now, he points out—\$20 to \$25 for a good one.

Smoke detectors have saved thousands of dollars in property, he says, and many lives.



This is Fire Prevention Week in Whitchurch-Stouffville and across Ontario. Chief Walter Smith sees a new awareness here, with calls down considerably compared to 1981. Proper care and control of outside fires and installation of smoke detectors could be two main reasons, he says.

—Jim Thomas.



Let's work together! YOU can play a big part in reducing the danger of fires by keeping aware of the safety procedures. Know that carelessness is a major cause in many fires, and take extra care. Find out what else you can do at home... and on the job!

WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

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