

The Ingersoll Fire Department

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INGERSOLL

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R.H. Carroll
1863 - 1871
First Chief Engineer for the
Village of Ingersoll

James Brady
1871 - 1883
Chief at the time of great fire of
1872. Original brigade member.

Robert Vance
1883 - 1888
Original brigade member.

George Cragg
1888 - 1899
Chemicals first used while he
was Chief Engineer.

Roderick Sutherland
1899 - 1920
Served on the Fire Department
longest to that date. (30 years)

John Radford
1920 - 1927
First piece of motorized equip-
ment purchased while he was
chief.

John Williams
1927 - 1930
First full-time chief, second
piece of motorized equipment
purchase. 1927 Stewart.

A. B. Handley
1930 - 1935
Twelve hour fire of Wood's
Mill.

H. Gillespie
1935 - 1942
While serving as chief went to
war with the Commonwealth Air
Training Wing. WW2.

Fred C. Ellis
1942 - 1955
Served as a volunteer, full-time
fireman and full-time chief, total
of 35 years served with his sons
Don, Bill, and Tom.

A.H. Schaefer
1955 - 1960
Prior to becoming chief he was
a volunteer fireman, and municip-
al buildings caretaker.

Leslie G. Harlow
1960 - 1978
Served for 30 years as a volun-
teer and member of full-time
staff.

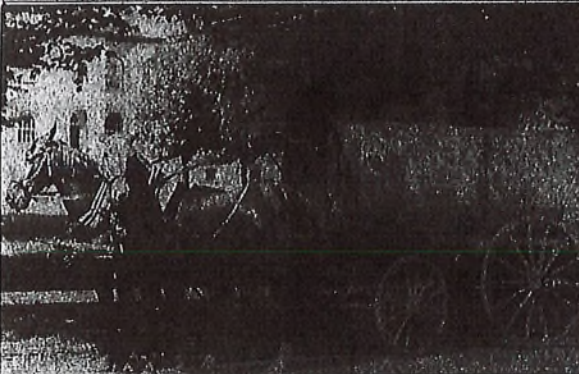
Kenneth Campbell
1978 - 1990
Started as a volunteer in 1949,
full-time officer in 1963, chief
from 1978 to retirement in
1990.

*Compiled and researched by
Kenneth Campbell, retired Fire
Chief.*

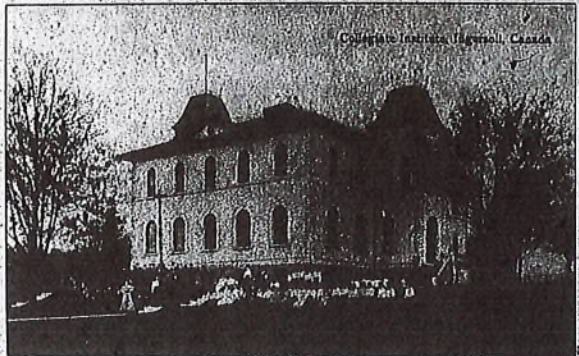
*(Editor's Note: A fascinating
history of the Ingersoll Fire
Department has been compiled
by retired Fire Chief Kenneth
Campbell. It will appear on
page two of our regular paper
soon.)*



INGERSOLL... Memories of Oxford on the Thames



What a sight! The Ingersoll Fire Department's team of horses is pulling the department's water tank. Should there be a fire, the horses would be unhitched from this and hitched up to the cart carrying the hoses and other firefighting equipment. The photo appears to have been taken in front of the old Borden Company which may be where the water tank was filled. The driver has been identified as James E. Shekell. (Photo courtesy of Ken Campbell)



Former ICI plant, Ingersoll, Canada

This ICI postcard has an interesting history, dated July 10, 1910. It is addressed to a Miss B. de Mills, Steaton, Ont., and is signed by "Nora". The letter was sent to the Ingersoll District Chamber of Commerce from the Sault Ste. Marie Museum. Sylvia Robbitt, a volunteer with the museum explains that the postcard was part of the collection of Mr. Betty Young which was given to them. The museum was authorized to send the cards to cities that might be interested. Former ICI and ICI students will be gathering in Ingersoll the May 16 weekend for a high school reunion. (Photo courtesy Sault Ste. Marie Museum)

Do you remember?

Sunday afternoon band concerts in Memorial Park... the three day Agricultural Fair at Victoria Park every fall... getting most of a day off when the fire chief came to your school to watch a fire drill... the sound of coal going down a chute to your basement?

Bread and milk being delivered to your door by a man driving a

horse and cart... milk in a bottle with all the cream at the top to be spooned out for coffee... having a jar passed around your classroom with cream in it? Each person shook it 30 times and with luck by the time it got back to the teacher it was butter (a science lesson)... buying war savings stamps at school?

The magnificent old post office and Bill Land always working so

hard to keep the floors and everything else spotless... the creaks and groans of the gym at the old high school... the smell of leather in the harness shop run by Fire Chief Dick Ellis at the rear of the old fire hall... the red light that was turned on at the corner of Thames and King Street to let the police officer on duty know that he was needed... running boards on all cars?

What ever happened to....

Ken Whiteford

Lynda (Archer) Whiteford

Ken Whiteford is a community planner with the County of Oxford. The son of Bulk Whiteford, 166 Bell Street, he attended Princess Elizabeth and V.M.S. and then IDCI. He considers one of his highlights in Ingersoll taking part in one of the first walks-a-thons in the province. He walked to Stratford. Ken left Ingersoll in 1971.

Lynda Whiteford is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Archer, 40 Noxoh Street. A graduate of VMS and IDCI, she recalls working with Alexandra Robins and Dave Connell to initiate the Candy Stripper volunteer program at Alexandra Hospital in the mid 1960s. Lynda also left Ingersoll in 1971. Today she is a homemaker and an active community volunteer.

They have two children, Brad, 15 and Shayna, 12. The Whitefords return to Ingersoll two or three times every month. They see growth, particularly Cami, as the biggest change in their home town. "Small town qualities" is what remains the same in their eyes.

Current address:
21 Gardiner Place
Woodstock, Ont. N4S 8J1

Roger Shelton

Although he has enjoyed an extremely successful career as a biochemist, Shelton insists one of the most memorable things he did while residing here was to score a perfect geometry paper in Grade 10 at IDCI. "My first and last!"

The son of Beth and Fred Shelton of R.R. 5 Ingersoll, he attended Forder's Corner School, IDCI and the University of Western Ontario.

Now retired, he pursues many hobbies including Las Vegas gambling, mainly blackjack.

Shelton often returns to Ingersoll to visit his mother, who now resides in Woodstock; his sister, Mary Long; and his brother Charles of R.R. 5 Ingersoll. The Cami plant is the biggest change in his eyes and he thinks, except for the fire area, most of the town has remained the same.

Shelton has an interesting observation to make. "The elimination of most fences in the rural area has greatly enhanced the natural beauty of the country side."

Current address:
3370 Fairmeads Road
Pasadena, California 91107



1933 Chevrolet CA Deluxe Roadster Convertible

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P16580R-13	\$45	P16580R-13 XA4	\$70
P16580R-13	\$52	P17580R-13 XA4	\$72
P18575R-14	\$54	P18580R-13 XH WW	\$83
P19576R-14	\$55	P18576R-14 XH WW	\$86
P20575R-14	\$60	P18976R-14 XZY WW	\$96
P20576R-14	\$64		
P20576R-18	\$62		
P21676R-15	\$66		
P22676R-16	\$68	P20676R-15 XH WW	\$105
P23575R-16	\$70	P21676R-15 XA WW	\$108

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<p>LUBE, OIL & FILTER \$19.95</p> <p>BRAKES 2 WHEEL DRUM BRAKE SERVICE WITH COUPON \$49.95 SHOES INSTALLED</p> <p>BRAKES 2 WHEEL DISC BRAKE SERVICE WITH COUPON \$56.95 NEW PADS INSTALLED</p>	<p>GOVERNMENT SAFETY INSPECTIONS \$29.95</p>
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201 BELL ST. INGERSOLL 485-1846

NOSTALGIC NOTES

Readers will note that more space has been allotted on page two for bicentennial features. This move has been made in response to the overwhelming interest shown in features and pictures published by *The Ingersoll Times* since January.

It is also part of the commitment made by publisher Freeman Farrington to make *The Times* an active partner in the community's year-long celebration of its 200th anniversary.

Watch for *The Ingersoll Times* Bicentennial Edition part II to be published in June. Yvonne Holmes Molt will begin *The Times* office Thursdays to discuss story ideas and pictures.

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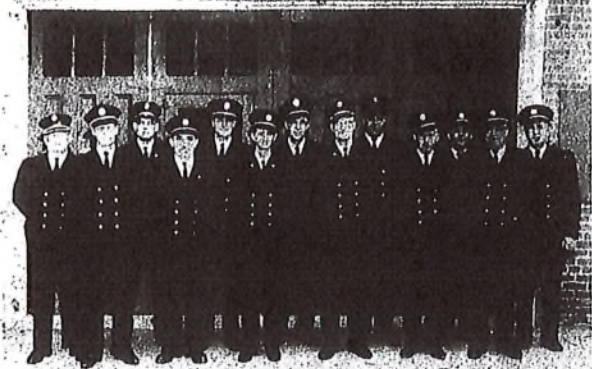
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200th Anniversary
INGERSOLL... Memories of Oxford on the Thames

INGERSOLL FIRE DEPT.



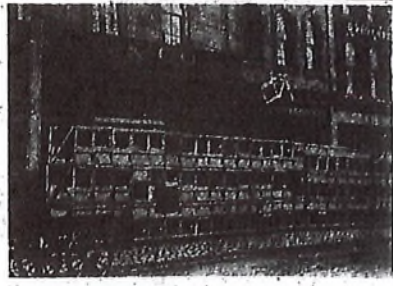
Fire fighters in Ingersoll have a lengthy and honourable history. This Centennial Year (1967) shows the regular and volunteer firefighters in front of their King St. West headquarters, who were an important part of the old town hall. Front Row (left to right) W.B. Ellis, D.L. McClay, J.E. Empp, I.G. Harlow, N.L. Blamher, H.D. Fugard. Back Row: M.I. Baker, K.D. Campbell, W.N. Empp, C.P. Crane, C.G. Mills, H.W. Hakes and J.C. Mine. (Photo courtesy Ken Campbell)



("SYNONYMS")

It was midnight on the ocean,
 Not a star or car was in sight,
 The sun was shining brightly and
 It rained all day that night.
 'Twas a summer's day in winter,
 The snowflakes fell like glass,
 A barefoot boy, with shoes on
 Blood sitting on the grass.
 'Twas evening and the rising sun
 Was smiling in the west,
 And the little fishes in the trees,
 Were huddling in their nest.
 The rain was pouring down,
 The moon was shining bright;
 And everything that you could see
 Was hidden, out of sight.
 While the organ played potatoes
 'Lard was rendered by the choir,
 As the sexton sang "The diabolical"
 Someone sat the church on fire.
 "Holy Smoke!" the preacher shouted
 In the rain he lost his hair;
 Now his head, resembles heaven
 For there is no parting there.

Rey Pecke (Squirrel Krull)



These beautiful post cards form an interesting contrast. The busy photo of a car load of 120 White sewing machines, purchased by Bowman and Co. dealers in sewing machines, pianos, organs, phonographs and sporting goods in Woodstock and Ingersoll is a reminder of a thriving time in early commerce here. It was mailed from Ingersoll in 1908. Smith's Pond in all its former glory, created a lovely oasis in the middle of Ingersoll. The post card was published by F.H. Brewster, Ingersoll. (Photos courtesy of Guy Johnson)



Ingersoll Chief of Police Walter Holmes attended the Canadian Police Chiefs' Convention in British Columbia in 1922. Posing in front of a popular tourist attraction are Chief Holmes, his daughter Sybil and her lundentied friend, and his wife Hanna. (Photo courtesy of Davis Lee Burton Fleming)

FROM
HEALY'S
 GROCERIES, FRUITS, CONFECTIONERY
 AND CAKES
 NEAR POST OFFICE INGERBOLL, ONT.
 PHONE 246...
 BY HECKE, MY MERCHANT

Healy's Grocery Store is still talked about by long time Ingersoll residents. This business card will bring back many memories. Hopefully the back of the card will cause a gentle chuckle or two. It must have done 80 years ago.

The cavalry is here!

Firearms, medals, cavalry drill books, a canteen and an officer's sword are only some of the intriguing items in the Ingersoll Times showcase display this month. The interesting artifacts are on display courtesy of Bernie Rose, year of Ingersoll, Colonel of the Michigan cavalry regiment that look part in Heringe Days. Interspersed with these items are a number of pictures taken of the cavalry officers at various functions. And your eyes are not playing tricks on you; that is President Lincoln and General Custer and Wild Bill Cody!

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The Ingersoll Times
 The Dorchester Signalist
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A CAMPER'S DREAM

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P18580R-13	\$52
P18575R-14	\$54
P18575R-14	\$55
P20576R-14	\$60
P21575R-14	\$64
P20575R-15	\$62
P21575R-15	\$66
P22576R-15	\$68
P23575R-16	\$70

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P15580R-13 XYVA	\$65
P16580R-13 XA4	\$70
P17580R-13 XA4	\$75
P18580R-13 XH WW	\$85
P18575R-14 XH WW	\$89
P19575R-14 XZY WW	\$95
P20575R-15 XH WW	\$102
P21575R-15 XA4 WW	\$105

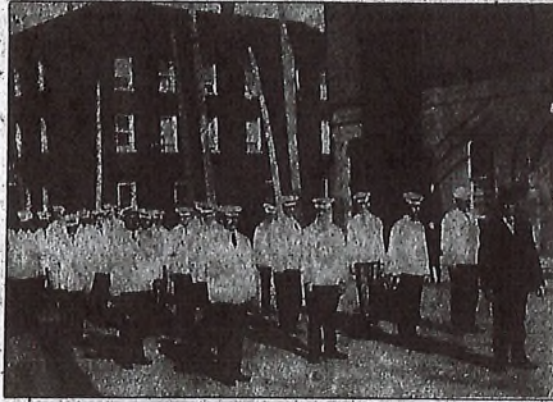
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 INGERBOLL
 485-1666



These marvellous photos came from the collection of former fire chief Ken Campbell. Obviously, they are firefighters from another era. What were the occasions? Who are the firefighters? What is the occasion of the muster in front of the old town hall? The Ingersoll Times welcomes written comments. (photos courtesy of Ken Campbell)



occasion of the muster in front of the old town hall? The Ingersoll Times welcomes written comments. (photos courtesy of Ken Campbell)

Looking back . . .

A marvellous old program, brought to the Ingersoll Times by Greenville Douglas, evokes nostalgic memories of old garden parties and general beauty contests.

The program is from the July 1948 Thamesford Annual Monster Garden Party and Beauty Contest. Featured on the cover is a photo of the 1947 winner, Miss Kipp, of Princeton, Ont., who won last year's Beauty title for Oxford at the Thamesford Beauty Contest and went on to win Western Ontario's title later in the year.

"Can Oxford retain this honor for our locality?" the brochure asks. "Blondes, brunettes, and red-heads once again have the opportunity of competing for the Oxford title at Thamesford -- the lucky girl will be

eligible to compete in the grand Miss Western Ontario contest. Fill in the entry blank now -- it may open the way to a new and remunerative career."

Advertisers are a mix of familiar names and part of the community's history. Included are Kintore boxes, "largest manufacturer of cheeseboxes in Western Ontario" and Oliver Hardware, promoting Beauty washers.

Familiar ads are for Neilson's malted milk chocolate bars and Coca Cola.

Other advertisers include: Geo. Hogg & Sons Ltd., feed and flour manufacturers, Thamesford; New Idea Furnaces, Ingersoll; Wallace Bros. Lumber Yards, Thamesford and Embro and Riverside Poultry, Ingersoll and Kintore, Thamesford.

Also supporting their Thamesford Y's Men's Club with ads on the program were: Ingersoll Machine & Tool Co., Oxford County's Radio Station CKOX, Hoksack's garage, Thamesford; Morrow Screw & Nut Co. Ltd. and the Wm. Stone Sons Ltd., fertilizer plant, both of Ingersoll.

Town councillor Cindy Murphy resigns

By JEFF TRIBE

The Town of Ingersoll is looking for a councillor.

Citing "personal concerns", councillor Cindy Murphy has resigned, effective Oct. 1, 1993.

Contacted yesterday morning, Murphy said her decision was "very" tough. "It took a lot of thought."

"It was the right thing to do for the time, I'll put it that way."

Although declining to give her reason or reasons at this time, Murphy did say she enjoyed her tenure on council.

"Very much so, and I certainly learned a lot."

At Monday night's public works and planning committee meeting, town council had several options to replace her vacant seat.

A by-election was one possibility that was given no support, as prohibitively expensive (\$14,000 was one figure given) for essentially a one-year term.

Another option was to appoint the runner-up in the last municipal election. Non-elected candidates from 1991, in order of standing, are: John Fortner, Gail MacKay,

Vera Collins, Don Dreyer, Don Phillips and Robert Collins.

But the planning board has recommended a third option, namely advertising the position for qualified residents. Interested parties are invited to send applications and background resumes to clerk-administrator Ted Hunt by 12 noon, Friday, Oct. 15, 1993.

Councillor Michael Hennessy requested a recorded vote on the motion, recommending this path of action.

Voting for the motion were mayor Brian Rodenhurst, deputy mayor Jack Warden and councillors Dave

Warden and Paul Holbrough. Councillors Hennessy and Norm Bain were opposed. The motion was carried by a 4-2 margin.

Although Jack Warden admitted there has been an "unwritten rule" in the past of taking the top name off the list, he suggested opening up the process was not a bad thing.

"I think it fairer if you advertise it," he said. "Not only the ones who stood up to be counted, but any interested people."

Bain, who voted against the motion, said he would have preferred taking the top name on the list.

"There's no written law you've got to, but they've put their names forward to the people and got support. I think they should be considered first."

"Of course, you don't know if they are interested until you ask them, but they've got votes, some people wanted them."

Bain said there was liable to be controversy whichever way the new councillor is chosen.

"We'll get it whichever way it goes. If five apply, we pick one. There will be four put out. That's life, you win some, you lose some."

"We'll see what happens, what response we get," Jack Warden concluded. "Personally, when it does come in a vote, I'll be looking strongly at a person who did stand up to be counted in the last election."

Market Square project

(Continued from Page 1)

purchase optional extras, such as central vac, Jacuzzi tubs or marble and hardwood flooring.

"The reason for pre-sales is that I can guarantee you the best price," he added. "A developer that builds on speculation -- the only thing they can guarantee you is a standard unit."

"By building on pre-sales, you can guarantee a custom unit. Give the person what they want, they're the ones coming up with the money."

Which, for a 1,300-square-foot unit is \$137,500 on the third floor, or fifth floor, or \$140,500 for a second- or sixth-floor unit. Condo fees are slated to be around \$115 per month.

Ingersoll-Oxford Realty is acting as the agent for Market Square. Minke had praise for the organization, along with the town, singling out Dorcas and engineer Eric Booth.

"They've attracted us here. We can build anywhere, but Ingersoll is one of the warmest communities

I've dealt with. I've got more plans for Ingersoll, we get things done here."

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TIRE SERVICE
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MICHELIN
BECAUSE TO MUCH IS BEING ON YOUR TIRES

History of Fire Department from 1871

In 1871 the Ingersoll fire department was equipped with two hand power engines and two hose reels, about 1500 feet of hose; one hook and ladder wagon; six pike poles and one large hook for pulling down frame buildings; 100 feet of rope and 12 wooden pails. The fire chief at this time was Patrick Hearn and he had 30 volunteers, while the citizens assisted in cases of emergency. The place was dependent on tanks placed in different streets to catch the ditch water, for its water supply. Sometimes wells were used. One large tank was underground on the west side of the market building, called the town hall. The water supply for the west end was from the King pond; for the south, from Smith's pond, for the north from the Thames river and for the east from Carroll's and Stuart's ponds on Canterbury Street. For the centre of the town, water supply came from the Partlo pond where the Memorial park is to-day. One engine was stationed at the market building, and one in a brick building (30 x 40) on the north of Thames street bridge. A triangle for the fire alarm was on the roof in the small tower.

The most disastrous fire in Ingersoll, which happened on the evening of May 7 at eight o'clock in 1872 started in the barn back of the hotel called "The Bummer's Roost" which stood where the post office stands to-day. The flames spread to other frame structures which swept as far as the brick store where T. N. Dunn's hardware stands to-day. These flames spread across the east side of Thames street and destroyed the building where the Wilson hardware stands to-day.

The next day fire broke out in the Boles block, now occupied by the group of restaurants opposite the post office, and cleaned out the corner building and those on Charles street to Water street. The fire was brought under control with the assistance of the London and Woodstock fire brigades and local citizens. J. Page lost his life at this time in the R. H. Young harness shop which stood where Wild's shoe store now stands. A moulder from Noxon's foundry was killed by a falling wall where Wilson's hardware store now stands.

The next destructive fire was in 1873 and was that which occurred on the south portion of King street east and which destroyed the business portion from the entrance to the Memorial park to the west as far as the corner brick block of C. P. Hall's jewelry store. This blaze extended as far as James Smith's residence which stands to-day north of the Cole Furniture factory. The post office was situated where the C. N. R. office is to-day. The fire broke out in Constable's printing office which stood where S. M. Douglas & Sons west-end store is now found.

C. P. Hall started to re-build on the corner of Thames and King where the post office now is found. At the time of the re-building, which commenced September 1874, Lord and Lady Dufferin visited in Ingersoll, passing by way of the King street route. In about five years, the largest portion of King street east was rebuilt.

The next fire was that which partly gutted the town market building and which occurred on the night of a fireman's ball. It was after these three fires that members of the town council opened their eyes to the fact that Ingersoll needed a better fire protection, so they purchased a steam fire engine and a new extension ladder. The salaried brigade was then organized, with the chief's remuneration being \$100 per year and \$2 per month for the volunteers, in 1881.

The firemen had to draw the steamer by hand until horses took their places. During the day, the driver, James Sherlock, in charge of the watering cart sprinkled the streets, and many a hectic time he had to arrive at the fire hall, unhitch from the cart and on to the steamer when this steamer was called into use.

The Ingersoll fire department was reorganized in 1926. A modern up-to-date fire pump and hook and ladder wagon was purchased, and a paid fire chief employed in the person of J. C. Williams, of London.

The new pumper did real service at the barns at the Oxford House (Kirwin) on October 21, 1927. This was a fire that appeared as though it might extend into very large proportions and very efficient work was done by the fire brigade at this time.

The Ingersoll fire department rendered splendid service at the La France Plushes, Woodstock on January 27, 1929, when they were called to help the Woodstock fire department.

The brigade was again called into action on October 14, 1927, to the Richardson jewelry store fire which occurred on the corner of Thames and King streets, which resulted in a fire loss of \$15,000. This fire was confined to the Richardson building.

The next dangerous fire was that which took place at Stone Fertilizers, with a loss of \$39,000. This was a most difficult fire to fight on account of the different gasses which were formed by the ingredient used in the manufacture of products of the Stone Company. The men soon had this fire under control, assisted by the splendid water pressure available at this time.

The fire department on March 29, 1933 was called out to Thamesford where a fire was in progress at the Oddfellows' hall. This looked as though it might assume large proportions in the village. The Ingersoll pumper was placed at the dam in the Thames River and pumped for five hours, rendering splendid service enabling the brigade to stop the flames from spreading to adjoining property.

On the night of February 23, 1934, the firemen were enjoying their annual dance when the alarm sounded for Keeler's furniture store. This fire showed every indication of being of a very serious nature, the store being situated in the heart of the business section. Once again the water supply played a wonderful part in minimizing the loss.

On April 4, 1934, the firemen were called to the Wood Milling Company at 1.08 A.M. By the time the fire department arrived at the mill, the fire had spread rapidly, driving the night miller out of the fourth story window over an elevator chain to the elevator. The fire department was hampered in the work by several bad explosions which occurred shortly after the brigade arrived. The fire department worked until the following noon and were successful in saving the frame elevator adjacent to the mill.

INGERSOLL FIGHTS FIRES

When Ingersoll was a village, the fire fighting system consisted of a bucket brigade which carried water from a nearby stream or from 100 wells. Nearly every home had a well at that time. As the village increased in size and importance a more efficient system was deemed advisable. The first fire Hall on Thames Street was by the river. The village council purchased two force pumps of the manual rocker-type. These pumps were two-cylindrical and the handles one on each side, were eight feet long, and with four men on each handle were worked up and down. With the suction hose placed in a supply of water and the handle operated up and down rapidly a stream of water could be thrown on the roof of a two storey building. For a convenient water supply at that time, a number of large cisterns were constructed between King and Charles Streets at the rear of the business block. (on west side of Thames Street) These reservoirs were kept supplied with water from the eaves of nearby buildings. The creek supplied water in case of fire on the east side of Thames Street.

Taking warning from the costly experience of the big fire of 1872 which destroyed eighty places of business in the town, the citizens insisted on having a more efficient fire department. It was during the big fire that the two manual rocker force pumps were kept continually in action throughout the night of the fire, by relays of local citizens and men who came in from the surrounding farms. One Young man (Jas. Mayberry - father of Mrs. Byron Jenvey) from Hagle's Corners rode a horse to town, dismounted, turned the horse homeward and let it go. He helped to operate one of the pumps that had been placed on the roof of a cottage on the south side of King Street near the creek. This pump threw water across King St. and helped to prevent the fire from jumping the street. The fire was stopped at King Street with assistance of the London and Woodstock fire brigades. these brigades came by G.T.R. with their firemen, teams and fire engines and gave good service. For a number of years immediately after the big fire, new brick buildings took the place of those burned and in 1878 the council (E.E. Chadwick - Mayor, R.A. Woodcock - Town Clerk) passed a bylaw for organization, equipment and maintenance of a fire brigade. A Silsby engine was very modern and popular at the time. A Silsby steam fire engine was purchased. John Warnoch was fire chief. The engine shallow upright brass boiler with multiple tubing could generate steam very rapidly. It was mounted on four strong steel tired wheels and hauled by a team of horses. In large towns and cities these engines were hauled by three horses hitched abreast. The Ingersoll Town Hall was almost a new building at the time and provision for fire fighting apparatus was provided. The Silsby engine was kept in the Hall. One of the volunteer firemen was appointed engine stoker. It was his duty to have the engine in readiness at all times in case of fire. Kindling and finely split wood was placed in the fire box, ready for a match, in case the fire alarm sounded. No doubt the fuel was well saturated with coal oil, judging by the black smoke that belched from the low smoke stack of the engine. When the fire alarm sounded the engine fire was started and by the time the team was hitched a good fire was roaring. Provision for the escape of smoke (on return to hall) was made by having a special smoke flume (Can still be seen) above the low smoke stack of the engine. The special flume went up through the roof of the fire Hall. As soon as the horses were hitched, the driver on the front seat, the doors were swung open and away went the team at full gallop. The stoker rode on a rear platform and kept the fire going. He was prevented from falling off by a guard rail around the platform. He Usually held to the guard rail with one hand and stoked the fire with the other. By the time the fire brigade arrived at the scene of the

fire there was sufficient steam to operate the pump. Of course the engine had to go to the nearest supply of water. The large suction hose was carried on the engine, usually wrapped around the frame and always attached at one end. Following the engine came the two-wheeled hose to reach the fire and a second reel would be needed.

It was an attractive sight to see the fire engine going to a fire. Horses galloping and smoke billowing from the short smoke stack. The streets were stone and gravel and fire often flew from the shoes of the horses when a stone was struck. Bystanders sometimes feared for the safety of corner stores when the team galloped around the corner. It required an experienced driver to handle an outfit of this kind. How proud the driver was of his team and engine.

THE HORSES

The horses were kept in stalls at the rear of the engine. Their bridles were always on their heads with the bit attached to the cheek strap. The first move was to bit the horses, then back each out of his stall and lead it forward to its side of the tongue of the engine. The harness was suspended from the ceiling and was so arranged that by releasing a few small ropes the harnesses would fall on the horses, the collars clasped at the bottom, a buckle fastened reins attached to bridles and they were ready to go. The traces were always attached to the whiffletrees. Horses soon learned their duties and soon understood the sound of the fire alarm gong. They became uneasy in their stalls, when an alarm sounded. The firemen and the citizens were proud of the horses.

THE FIRE ALARM

Alarms were sounded according to wards of the town. After several gongs were sounded to warn the volunteer firemen, the alarm ceased for a short time and then sounded the ward where the fire was located. One gong for ward one, two for ward two and three for ward three. This gave the fire brigade an indication of the way to go.

The Silsby engine served the town well for about twelve years and after standing idle for many years was sold to a tobacco grower in Norfolk Co. How unfortunate? What an antique it would have been to recall the past. Its day was over.

In 1890 a very efficient system of waterworks was established to supply the town with water for domestic purposes and for fire fighting purposes. The installation of this system supplied the home with water on tap and permitted residents to have bathrooms and inside toilets, dispensing with outside toilets and the household well. It also caused the construction of septic tanks and cess pools. Mr. Reid an engineer from New York planned the system. The construction of the system was done by Messrs. Moffatt, Hodgkins and Clark of Syracuse, N.Y. Mr. Leitch supervised the work from Glengary Co. Water was obtained from springs in West Oxford township about three miles west of the town. A pumping station was installed on the Hamilton Road, two miles west of the town, and water forced through large iron pipes to a huge standpipe reservoir on a high elevation on Wonham Street South. This water tower was originally 120 feet high and had a capacity of 130,000 gallons of water. In the installation of this system, fire hydrants were placed at strategic locations. To fight fires it was still necessary to have firehoses which could be attached to the hydrants to conduct water to the fire. The fire team was retained, a new hose wagon purchased which could carry firement, ladders, hose and chemical tanks and other equipment used by a fire brigade.

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In 1919 the brigade was motorized. A modern pumper ^{made in Tillsonburg.} with many new ^{new engine put in fire pumper after an accident.} attachments was purchased by the council. A ladder truck with long ladders became a part of the fire brigade when necessary.

By 1930 it appeared that the original supply of water was running low and in 1931, two twelve inch wells were drilled on Merritt St. One to a depth of 360 ft. when the drill became diverted and stuck, the other to a depth of 460 ft. without trouble. In 1932 a pump house was erected over the wells. The pump house contains two pumps of 500 gals. per minute for regular duty as well as one gas pump and one electric pump each have a capacity of 1400 gals. per minute, for emergency use in case of large fires. For economic reasons and to maintain a low rate of fire insurance in Ingersoll, the council in 1932 constructed an underground water reservoir immediately north of the water standpipe. Its capacity is 750,000 gallons. This water can be turned into the mains in case of necessity. For a further supply of water for the town, a well was drilled

in 1946 - near the pump house on the Hamilton road to a depth of 380 ft. It is almost a flowing well. In 1950 a water aerating plant was built west of the pump house to remove sulphur odor from the water from the new well. This plant has a capacity of 500,000 gallons.

The cost, including the well, was \$28,000. The contractor was the Schwenger Construction Co. that built the Hospital. The plant, known as the "Bowman Reservoir" was named in honor of John Bowman, who began his services on the P.U. Commission in 1934. *Retired Jan. 1964. - succeeded by Ross Fawcett - Ex mayor.*

Ingersoll has an up-to-date fire fighting department and an abundance of water. A new fire engine was purchased in Aug. 1958 at a cost of \$15,800. The old engine was stored in a building on Water St. *Saw Ingersoll book*

A well was dug on South Side of Cemetery Lane - near Rural Cemetery. in 1964 - a good well - connected to all main system -
In 1951, a transformer substation was erected on King St. W. This red brick building was constructed and equipped by the Ontario Hydro Electric Power Commission for the local Commission. The complete cost of building and equipment was \$79,000. It was named the C.A. Love station in honor of C.A. Love, druggist, who began as a Commissioner in 1940 - - - *retired Dec 1964*

Notes, -

The old hose wagon ended its existence on the Meek farm, on No. 19 highway.

A horse drawn revolving broom, a street sweeper, used several years and then placed in the shed on Water St. It was sold as junk.

The big heavy steam roller, used in levelling and packing gravel roads, went also as junk.

The big water tank, used for sprinkling streets, rusted badly and it was sold as junk. The well built wagon which carried the tank was sold to a farmer.

The motor street sweeper, bought in 1955 from Stratford for \$500. It had an initial cost of \$12,000. Ingersoll spent \$2,000. on repairs, used it for two summers then placed it in storage. *This street sweeper used in 1967/1968*

When the waterworks system was fully installed, a test was conducted at Smith's pond to find out if water from a hydrant had a force equal to that pumped by the Silsby steam fire engine. The engine was much the better

*Jordan Roberts
Brentford
driller
W.C. Crellin
concrete
W.C. McKay
brick work*



Ingersoll Fire Department in 1913 consisted of a horse-drawn wagon, two extinguishers, wooden ladders and an assortment of small hoses. A

coal oil lantern was the facsimile of today's flashing lights. Driving the team is the late Howard McEwen who resided on Avonlea Street in Ingersoll.

Ingersoll firemen dedicated to community for 111 years

By KEN CAMPBELL
Fire Captain

The Ingersoll Fire Brigade was started in April of 1863, when the Village of Ingersoll passed By-law 78. The Fire Brigade was formed for the prevention of fires, and the preservation of property.

R. H. Carroll was named the first Chief Engineer (Fire Chief) for the Village of Ingersoll. The Chief Engineer had sole and absolute control of all the apparatus belonging to the Fire Brigade. He was also in command of all the Officers and men on the Department. The Brigade consisted of fire companies, property saving companies, hook and ladder companies and a committee for the governing of same.

When a fire broke out in the Village, it was lawful for the Chief Engineer or the Officer in command to ask the assistance of any male inhabitant between the ages of 16 and 60 to assist in the operating of any piece of

fire-fighting equipment.

The firemen depended on water in those days to extinguish fires as we do to-day, now we have hydrants placed around Town, but a hundred years ago the men depended upon water from reservoirs, wells, and the river as their source of water supply.

CHIMNEY FIRES

Most of the residents in those days used wood for heating and cooking, so a great number of chimney fires was the result. It was a common sight to see a ladder at the side of a house and one on the roof near the chimney so a fire could be put out as soon as possible. The populace also kept a bucket or two of water or snow handy.

In order to promote attendance at fires, a premium was awarded to the fire company who were first at the greatest number of fires during the year. The members of the Fire Brigade were paid 50 cents a month plus whatever premium

was due them.

The firemen were summoned to a fire by the ringing of a large bell. This bell would ring for a considerable length of time, then stop, then sound once if the fire was in Ward One, twice if in Ward Two and three times if in Ward Three.

The fighting of fires was a serious business in the early days of Ingersoll, just as it is today. When the alarm sounded the firemen would respond, even if dressed in his best clothes, or while getting a shave or haircut. These were dedicated men and I would like to think that the present day firefighter is equally dedicated.

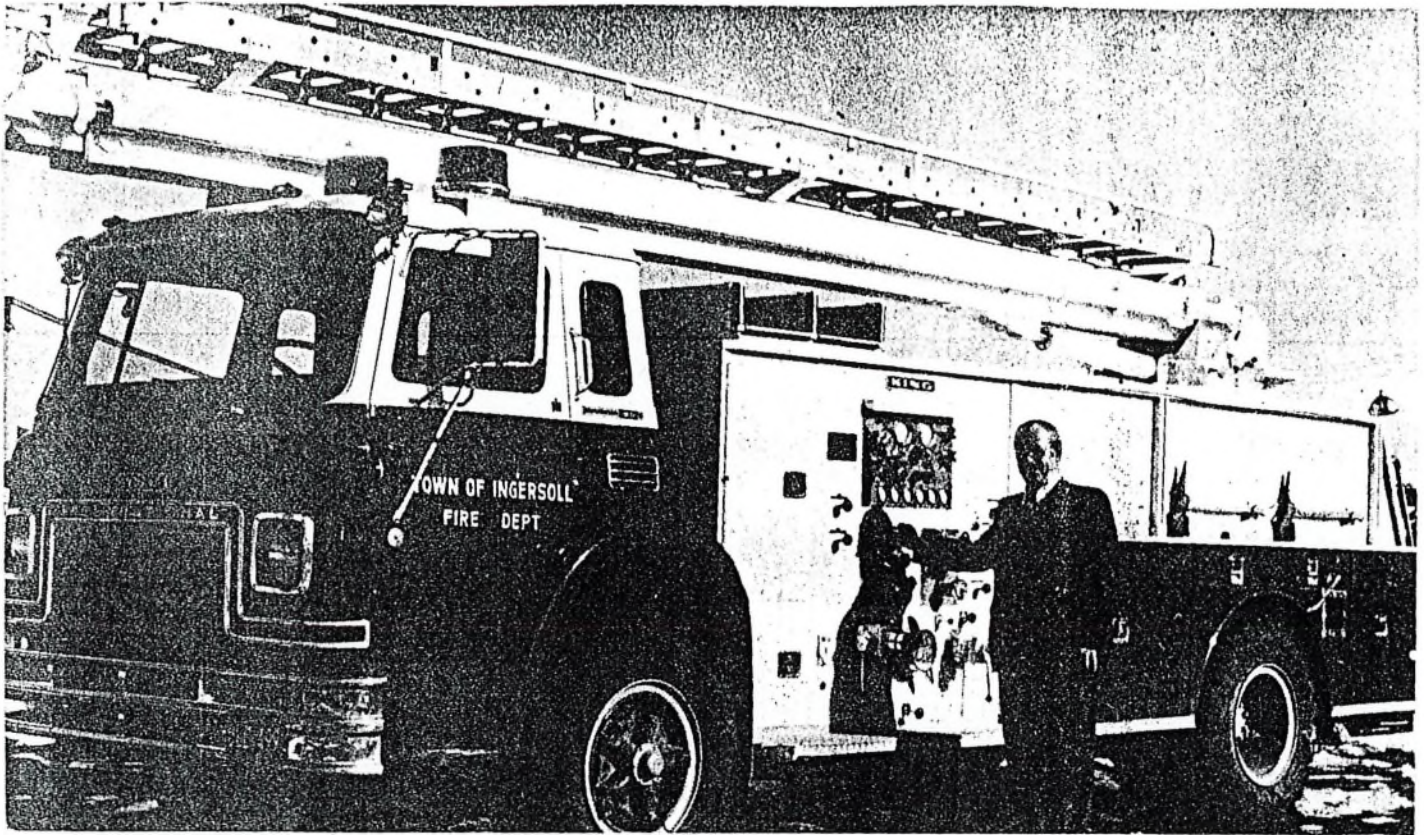
In November of 1873, Ingersoll purchased its first real piece of fire-fighting equipment. It was a Silsby Steam Engine, a modern piece of machinery for those days, complete with a rotary pump and hose.

The introduction of horses to the fire brigade was another great event for the firemen.

Many of the firemen fought the coming of the horses to the fire service, and many their going in later years. The horses were housed in the Fire Station, and became special pets of the firemen. It was a sad day when one of them was retired. These horses were among the best kept, if not the best.

No sight was more thrilling than a team of galloping horses, sparks flying from the metal wheels and the horses feet as they pulled a fire engine down the street. The smoke pouring from the steam engine, the clanging bell and the whistle, all united to make an impression never to be forgotten.

Ingersoll's Fire Department is one of the Departments in Oxford County that work under the Mutual Aid System. In 1954, this organization was formed and has been in existence ever since. When a serious fire breaks out in a community men and apparatus can be called from a neighboring community



Ingersoll will be taking delivery of its new \$83,000 fire truck on Friday, following completion this week of renovations that will permit it to be housed in the town's fire hall. Above, Howard MacKay, production manager at King-Seagrave Limited in

Woodstock, suppliers of the vehicle, makes a final inspection. The truck has a 50-foot hydraulic ladder with a moveable water tower.

New fire truck ready to go

A new fire truck, complete with hydraulic ladder and moveable water tower will arrive in town on Friday afternoon to join the Ingersoll fire department. The big question at the moment is however -- will it fit into the firehall?

It is the height of the new truck which is causing all the concern. According to Keith Glover, product manager of fire apparatus at King-Seagrave of Woodstock where the truck was built, the actual height of the truck is ten feet, five inches at the front and ten feet, seven inches at the back.

The public works department has been renovating the entrance to the fire hall to accommodate the truck. The old door was about

a foot and a half too short, so a new door which rolls up to the ceiling was installed. Cross-beams inside the fire hall must be removed before Friday as well. According to Steve Kovacic, town engineer, the renovations will provide a clearance of ten feet eight inches, which is the greatest possible clearance which can be given.

Meanwhile, back in Woodstock, Mr. Glover felt confident that when the truck arrives it will stand about ten feet, six inches, allowing for compression of the springs after being fully loaded with equipment and making the journey from Woodstock.

The town commissioned King-Seagrave to build the \$83,000 truck about a year ago. It is

equipped with "telesquirt", a moveable water tower which extends automatically with the hydraulic ladder to a height of 50 feet. It also has a 500-gallon water tank, compared to the 80-gallon tank on the 1946 Ford ladder truck, which it will replace.

"On the old truck the ladders had to be put up manually and it took six men to do it," Deputy-chief, Max Barker observed. "With this new truck everything is done automatically. No one has to carry the hose up the ladder because it is already up there ready for action. The time saved using this new equipment will make quite a difference," he said.

Asked about the future of the old truck, the deputy-chief said

that it will probably be sold at public auction. His own suggestion was that it be turned into a float to be used in conjunction with the Ingersoll Wine and Cheese Festival.

The old truck still has a shiny new appearance. On Capt. Ken Campbell's advice, Ingersoll decided against paying an extra \$315 to get the new truck undercoated. Capt. Campbell told council that the fire department has never needed to have body-work done on their trucks because they wash them after each run.

Town council also announced that a ceremony for the arrival of the new truck will take place about 1:15 on Friday afternoon at the fire hall.

Town's new fire truck arrives

"Chances are that never in a lifetime will we see another new fire truck brought in to town," These words by Ken Campbell, Ingersoll's assistant fire chief, explain the pomp and ceremony that attended arrival of Ingersoll's new fire truck in market square at 1:15 p.m. Friday.

There it was at last a gigantic thing of beauty. The red and white enamel body glistened in the sun's rays that bounced back from the gleaming chrome appointments on the truck.

The new King Seagrave combination telesquirt truck with its 50 foot watertower and 50 foot aerial ladder, left Woodstock shortly before 1 p.m. It was met at Centreville by a police escort, the Ingersoll fire departments' regular pumper truck, the 1927 antique pumper truck, that comes out only for special parades, and the ladder truck it has replaced, that goes up for bids at the police auction April 26.

When the cavalcade arrived at market square, Mayor Gordon Henry, Fire Chief Les Harlow, and fire and police committee chairman Jack Warden were waiting to receive the keys of the new truck from Howard MacKay.

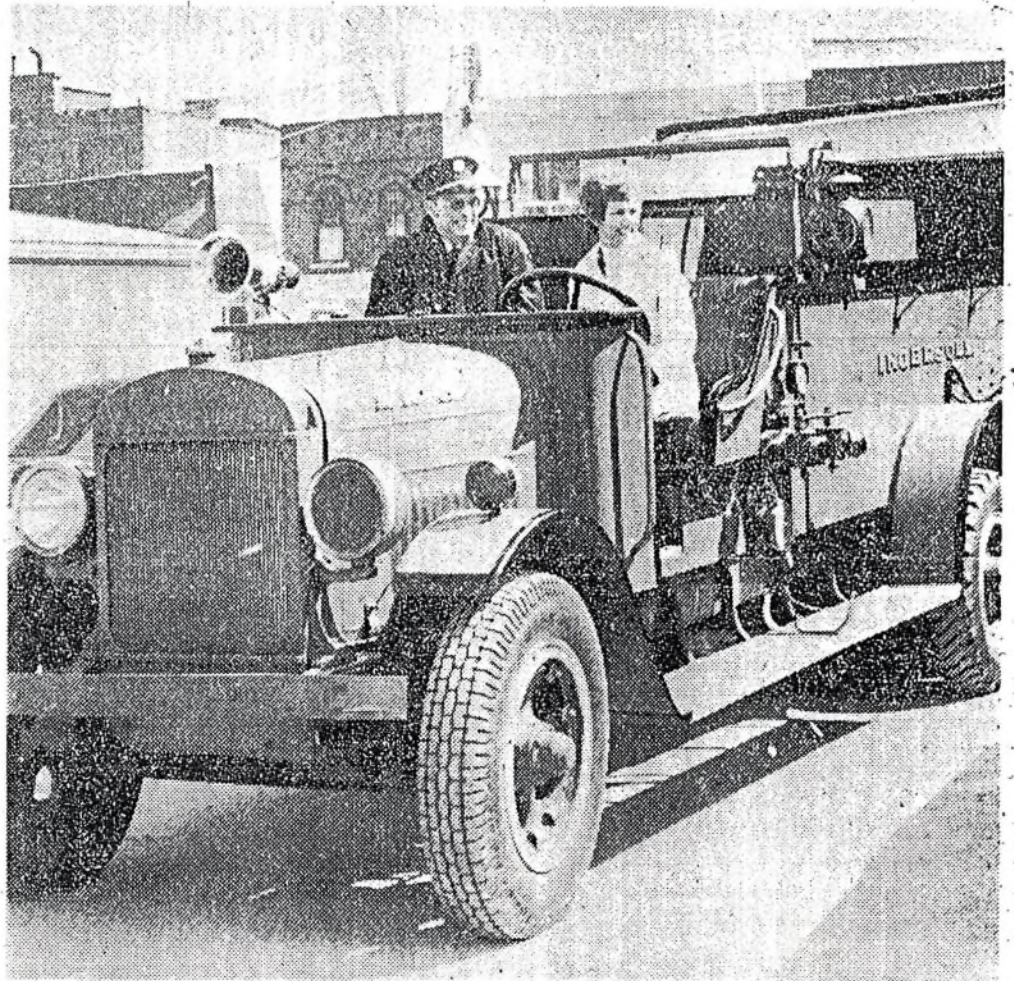
After this ceremony, there was a show for the spectators. Volunteer fireman Jack Milne scrambled to the end of the 50-foot ladder. Slowly and smoothly the ladder was slid out and up, high above the rooftop of the police station.

As the crowd watched below, the long white ladder with the blue jacketed figure at its tip swung slowly over the crowd.

After the show, firemen, police officers, and civic officials were like kids with a new toy. They were in the cab trying out the sound system. They tested the siren. They opened doors, and peered into the belly of the truck. They pushed and poked at valves and knobs on the gleaming chrome control panel at the side of the truck. And above them, all the while the red lights whirled around and around on the roof of the truck.

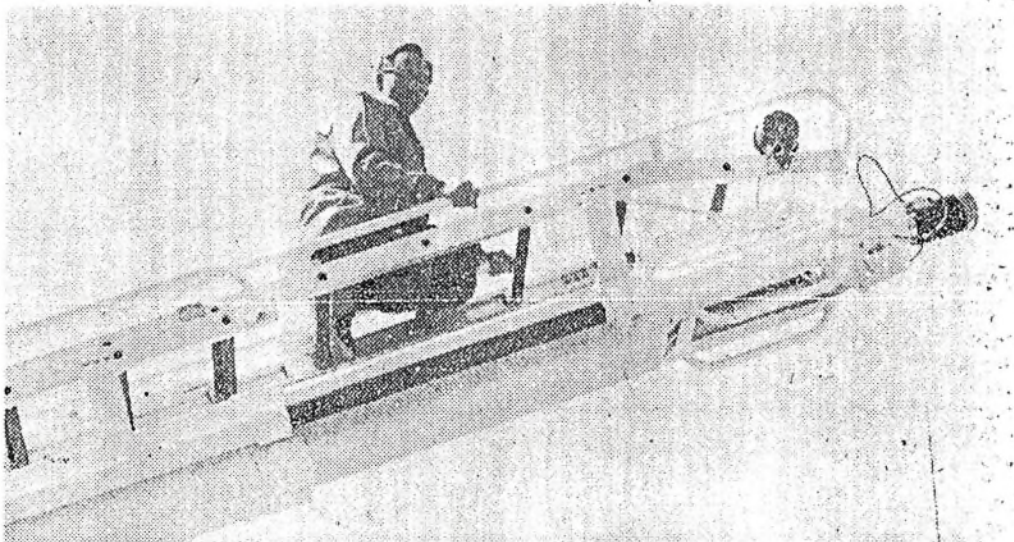
Suddenly Marian Coyle, a member of the police and fire committee, pointed to the little 1927 pumper, alone in a corner. "Look, nobody is paying any attention to it." Then she and firefighter Ken Campbell laughed, jumped in the front seat, and posed for photographers.

It was a gay time on the old town square, the day that the big, bright, beautiful new fire truck arrived in Ingersoll. But Mayor Gordon Henry said, "It's ironic. You're glad you got it. But you hope you'll never have to use it."



Councillor Marian Coyle behind the wheel of the antique 1927 pumper truck with Assistant Fire Chief Ken Campbell at her side

(Staff photo)



Volunteer fire fighter Jack Milne becomes air bourne on 50 foot ladder

(Staff photo)



Ingersoll's 1946 ladder truck went to highest bidder Max Underhill of Port Burwell for \$3,850 during the police auction held Saturday morning. Above, at the left, the new owner inspects his purchase, while auctioneer William Hawkins gives the old fire truck a farewell pat.

Fire truck leaves town

Bargain-hunters and auction-lovers filled the town square in Ingersoll Saturday morning and among them spent a total of \$5,720 in an auction sale sponsored by the police department.

The big item that generated major interest was the town's 1946 ladder truck, the last thing to come under the auctioneer's

gavel. Crowds gathered around to follow the bidding which opened at \$1,000 and rose rapidly to the final selling price of \$3,850.

A Port Burwell man, Max Underhill, held out for the highest bid against two Ingersoll residents and a third unidentified man. A member of the Port Burwell Lion's Club, he will make the truck available, he said, for

use by club members for parades and special events.

And he indicated one of those special events may be Ingersoll's Cheese and Wine Festival parade, a possibility that might offer some consolation to those who expressed disappointment at seeing the antique fire truck leave town.

Also auctioned off Saturday was the 1973 police cruiser that went for \$1,225, and about 25 bicycles, several tires, and miscellaneous items that included a baby's stroller and an old police siren.

For those who lost out on their bid for bargains at the auction, a couple of blocks away, St. James Anglican Church was holding its spring jumble sale.

"Carelessness" causes fires; cleanliness and carefulness will prevent fires." That is the logo on the Ingersoll Fire Department's letterhead. It also sums up Fire Chief Les Harlow's advice to town residents for fire prevention week, and every week, year in and year out.

Chief Harlow is recuperating from a back operation and will probably not be back on the job for several weeks. But he did talk to the Daily Sentinel-Review about fire prevention, and how it was everyone's responsibility to stop fires and save lives.

"People should have their heating systems checked by a competent person each year, at this time; to make sure it is in good working order," he said. "And electric wiring should be checked, particularly if fuses keep blowing, because this is a signal that there is overloading."

He said homes should be kept clear of rubbish. He advised town residents not to burn leaves, but instead to put them in bags, or other containers, for pickup by town employees.

Chief Harlow also warned against using aerosol spray cans near heat, or a lighted cigarette.

"Light a match to those sprays, and you have a torch," he said.

Capt. Ken Campbell, the historian of the three-man local fire department provided some statistics which point up the need for fire prevention.

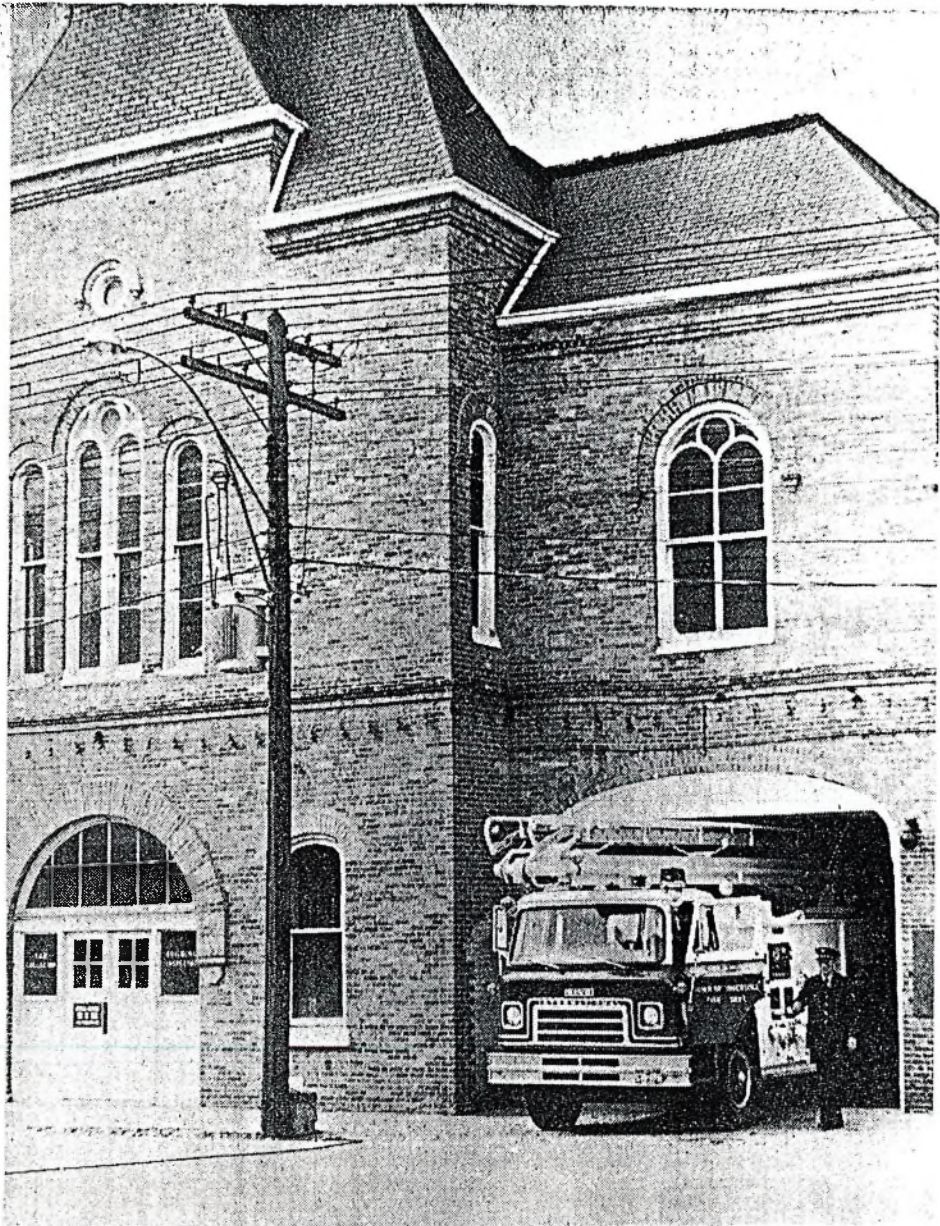
GRIM STATISTICS

During the first six months of this year, fires took 143 lives in Ontario. Three of those fire fatalities were in Ingersoll -- two children and a man. It is the highest number of fatalities that either Chief Harlow or Capt. Campbell can remember in any year here.

During 1974 the Ingersoll Fire Department answered calls to 83 fires. And by the end of June this year, they were called to 39.

The department has three regular firemen, Chief Harlow, Deputy Chief Max Barker and Capt. Campbell. In addition, there are 13 volunteer firemen. The volunteer firemen all have other full-time jobs. They respond to fire calls, and also take over a regular night shift, from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m., every 13th night.

Once a month they hold practice sessions. Chief Harlow said these practices are designed to help volunteer's keep



Capt. Ken Campbell beside Ingersoll Fire department's new King Seagrave combination tele-squirt truck outside the Fire Hall in Ingersoll.

(Staff Photo)

their driving up; learn the pumps; where things are on trucks; location of streets and also location of town hydrants.

Chief Harlow said there is "no big turn-over" of volunteers. They come from all walks of life. There are mechanics, body men and machinists among the Ingersoll group.

Ingersoll's firefighters, in addition to answering alarms in town, also go to Beachville and Thamesford fires.

ACTIVE IN COMMUNITY

The local fire department has planned no special activities for fire prevention because with the chief away, the deputy chief and captain are splitting the day

shift. But during the year, they engage in many community activities:

Each year they act as Santa's helpers. A storage room at the fire hall is filled with toys that the firemen wash, repaint and renovate. They later will hand them to the local Salvation Army for distribution to children of needy families this Christmas. The toys are brought in to the local fire department all through the year for their annual toy rejuvenation project.

Sentinel Review Oct 9 '75

Fire prevention responsibility for everyone: Ingersoll chief

Chief reports big changes for town's fire department

The past year saw some changes in Ingersoll Fire Department's volunteer personnel, Fire Chief Les Harlow said. With the exception of one firefighter, who moved the changes resulted from council's decision March 15, 1976 making it mandatory for all firefighters to live within one mile of the town limits, and to work in the town. Four volunteer firemen were hired last year to replace four members who resigned.

The Ingersoll Fire Department consists of three full-time members, and 13 volunteer members. The full-time staff are on duty during the day, while the volunteers are on duty during the night. In this way the Fire Hall is manned twenty-four hours a day, every day of the year.

Last year the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office adopted a new system for collecting information about fires. Chief Les Harlow and Captain Ken Campbell of the Ingersoll Fire Department attended a training session about the new system in Woodstock conducted by a member of the Fire Marshal's staff.

With adoption of the new system the Provincial Government's Data Processing Centre in Toronto is able to record in great detail facts on fire incidents which had not been possible in the past.

After one year in operation, Chief Harlow said the system has proven most valuable in keeping records up to date.

The Ingersoll Fire Department made 54 calls last year, 18 fewer than in 1975. One call was answered under the Mutual Aid System in 1976 for the South-West Oxford Fire Department (Beachville).

The estimated fire loss last year was \$178,875.

The fire department gave fire prevention talks to residents of senior citizens' apartments.

Fire drill practice was carried out at all elementary schools, along with short talks on fire prevention.

A total of 147 school children with 12 teachers toured the Fire Department last year.

Members of the Ingersoll Fire Department are:

- Chief Les Harlow
- Assistant chief Max Barker
- Captain Kenneth Campbell
- Volunteer captain Jack Milne

- Firefighters: Norman Blancher
- John Emper
- Harold Harkes
- Cecil Crane

- Gerald Hutson
- Anthony Eden
- Wayne Barnett
- Robert McClintock

- William Empey
- Wilson George
- Edward Hunt
- Laurie Learn

SENTINEL REVIEW
April 1977

Ken Campbell is the new fire chief

Ken Campbell, a 29 year plus veteran of the local fire department, was named as Ingersoll's new fire chief at a Monday night meeting of town council.

Chosen by a three man committee of Fire Chief Les Harlow, Town Clerk Gerry Staples and Police and Fire Protection Committee Chairman and Town Councillor Wayne Campbell, the new fire chief will officially begin his duties on December 1, 1978.

In a Tuesday morning interview, Mr. Campbell said "I haven't heard any thing officially yet, only what I've read in the

paper this morning. And they've got it all wrong."

The Metcalfe Street resident and father of six said, "I'm just waiting for confirmation."

Although pleased with the position, Mr. Campbell confessed "I've been around the place too long to get excited about it." He said he foresees no immediate changes in the operation.

According to Mr. Campbell, there will be an addition to the staff at the end of December. Staff will not increase, however, it will merely change.

"I'm pleased to see that we can promote our own people", Councillor Jack Warden told fellow councillors Monday night. It was noted that the present fire chief, Les Harlow, will be retiring from the force on December 31, after years in the fire fighting business.

Good-bye Fire Chief Harlow!!!

BY YVONNE HOLMES MOTT

Fire Chief Les Harlow vows that when he leaves the fire hall Friday he will be doing it with a smile on his face. Although Ingersoll's fire chief does not officially retire until the end of December, he has such an accumulation of holidays that he has never got around to taking, that he will be finished work this week.

The smile will be there for two reasons. First, he is obviously looking forward to his retirement and enjoying a life of being free to do whatever he wishes, wherever he wishes and secondly, because he is leaving the department with a good feeling. The men of his department are the first to agree that he deserves to have that good feeling.

Chief Harlow is proud of his record and he has every reason to be. His 36 years as a fire-fighter, with 30 of them spent in Ingersoll have been years of service to his community. During his 18 year tenure as chief he has been a leader whose quiet efficiency and dedication to his profession has earned the admiration and friendship as well as the devotion of all his men.

"I'm leaving without any regrets" he observed with his quiet smile, "I have enjoyed my work and I have enjoyed the men who worked with me and—yes, you can say that I am proud of my record."

Fire Chief Les Harlow has spent all his life in Oxford County. He was born in Hickson and went to school there until his family moved to Norwich.

school in Norwich and also attended high school there. After high school he worked back in Hickson for a year as a butcher and then farmed for a year, before going to work in the Norwich Broom Factory, where he stayed for 10 years.

While he was working at the broom factory, he became a volunteer fireman with the Norwich Fire Department and served with them from 1934 to 1940.

In 1941 he, like many other Canadians, enlisted in the army. Starting as an infantryman, he became a corporal in the 25th Armoured Tank Brigade, when his entire brigade changed from infantry to tank. He was sent to various postings in Canada and then went overseas in 1942. He

returned to Canada in 1943, coming to Ingersoll where his wife Marjorie had moved so that she could be with her own family while her husband was overseas. Ingersoll has been Les' home ever since and he has served it well.

His first Ingersoll job in 1943 was at the former Morrow Screw and Nut Company and on September 1, 1948 while still at Morrrows, he became a volunteer fireman. He served first under the late Fire Chief Dick Ellis and then under the late Chief Alf Schaeffer.

In December 1960 Les Harlow was appointed Ingersoll's fire chief. His department consists of full time fire-fighters Captain Ken Campbell, who will succeed him as chief, and assistant chief Max Barker and 13 volunteers.

Les has seen many changes over his fire-fighting years. He feels that fire fighting is much more hazardous than it was when he began, because of all the chemicals and plastics that are in every environment.

"Although new equipment, much more sophisticated equipment, has come along to help, the fires are much more hazardous because of the deadly smoke from plast-

While chief he has seen two new fire trucks bought for the department, has increased the volunteers by three and has initiated and carried out a valuable fire prevention program within the town. Regular inspections on industrial and commercial property are carried out and he conducts inspections of private properties whenever requested. He has also carried out an extensive program with school children, both visiting them and having them visit the fire hall. Not only has he spoken at the schools, observed fire drills and conferred with teachers and principals, but he has gone to countless meetings involving children, such as guides, brownies, scouts and cubs and given them all his advice on fire prevention.

Chief Harlow feels that the town has responded well to his efforts and that he has been able, with the co-operation of many people, to give the citizens a better look at fire safety and prevention in general.

Training his own men has been another important part of his program. Although there are schools for firemen, such as the fire marshalls school at Gravenhurst, he has found it very difficult to arrange to have his volunteers

he has taken the responsibility of training his men himself.

If he could make one wish come true it would be to have a new fire hall for the town. He feels the department desperately needs a new building in a new location. There are many reasons for this, but he cites as his two main reasons the traffic situation on King Street, which not only slows down getting the trucks out when there is a call, but also creates a dangerous traffic condition. His second reason is the amount of energy loss which has to be a concern in this day of energy restraint.

"The energy loss in heat here is pitiful" he pointed out. He also added that much more space is needed, both for fire fighting equipment and for the men themselves.

Meanwhile, in two more days Les Harlow's life is going to change drastically. After all these years he is going to be able to sit down at home to read a paper or a book, or to enjoy a meal, without wondering whether he will ever finish it. When he goes to bed at night, he isn't going to have to wonder whether he will be out in the cold, fighting a fire, before the night is over. It will be a drastic

is prepared to meet the change though and plans to take life "day by day as it comes, until I get oriented to not listening for the alarm."

Les and his wife Marjorie are both looking forward to his retirement. Very proud of their dad, but also pleased that he is going to have time to do some of the many things he enjoys around their family. Donna Anderson, of Putnam; Robert of Cambridge, who is an auto body mechanic and Bill of Brantford, an OPI officer. There are also eight grandchildren and three great grandchildren who are counting on seeing a great deal more of their grandfather.

The Harlow's are enthusiastic campers and enjoy travelling which they hope to be able to do a considerable amount more of than time has permitted in the past. Les is also a great reader and a bit of history buff, which results in him being extremely well read in the history of southern U.S.A.

INGERSOLL TIMES
November 29 1978

FIRE
DEPARTMENT

FIRE
DEPARTMENT



A hot cup of coffee is always a welcome sight to a firefighter especially after long hours of fighting a fire in the dark and in the cold. This picture was taken after the Thames Street fire in 1954 that destroyed Swartz' service station. Firefighter Harlow is on the right.



A much younger and very dapper Captain Les Harlow appears in a 1952 fire department picture.

Code of Ethics for volunteer fire fighters

I fully realize and accept the responsibility of being a volunteer fire fighter, and shall perform the duties assigned to me.

I shall respond promptly to all alarms of fire.

I will obey the orders of the officer in charge.

I shall do my share of the work that is required in loading hose, cleaning apparatus and equipment.

I shall report to the fire hall immediately after each call in order to help put the equipment and apparatus in shape for the next call.

I shall do my work at fires and drills in a quick, orderly manner.

I shall refrain from using profane or immoral language while working at fires

and in and around the fire hall.

I shall report for drills, practice earnestly and do my part in making our fire department an efficient fire-fighting organization.

I shall be loyal to my officers and my department and shall conduct myself at all times in a manner that is in keeping with the responsibilities of a fire fighter.

I shall remember that I am in the eyes of the public on and off duty and shall conduct myself accordingly.

If at any time I feel that I cannot comply with the rules and regulations of the department, I shall voluntarily resign.

INGERSOLL TIMES
November 29, 1972

By ARMITA JANES
Sentinel-Review staff writer
INGERSOLL: "When it came to choosing a new fire chief, the town didn't have far to look.

It would be difficult, if not impossible, to find anyone with more qualifications than 51-year-old Capt. Ken Campbell who takes over the job from retiring Chief Les Harlow Friday.

Campbell began chasing fires for the Ingersoll Fire Department 29 years ago as a volunteer, July 1, 1949. He joined the full-time staff with the rank of captain in April, 1963.

"Ken was more than qualified for the job," said Wayne Campbell, chairman of the fire committee. "He had shown great initiative by taking almost every qualifying training course during his employment."

But Campbell has other plus factors.

He knows Ingersoll like a book.

There's hardly a house in town that he hasn't been in.

Campbell, when in high school, used to pedal groceries and meat from stores located in the police building across from the present fire hall.

He also pedalled milk in town.

Campbell has his roots in Ingersoll in a way few can match.

Laughing, he tells you that he now sleeps in the same bed he was born in.

Somewhat of a history buff, Campbell has a collection of antique firefighting equipment tucked away in a room that houses the department's 1927 Stewart pumper in the Old Town Hall.

The old pumper now is brought out only for parades, but the antique equipment goes unnoticed.

Campbell would like to see these things on display somewhere as a mini-fire museum.

There have been many changes since he joined the Ingersoll fire department — not the least of them wages.

Volunteers 30 years ago were paid \$10 a month. Today they receive \$100.

They fought fires in the old days without the protection of breathing apparatus.

And their firefighting equipment consisted of a ladder truck and pumper. Now the department has a telesquirt truck with a 50-foot ladder that reaches five stories — higher than any building in town.

Campbell used to be called to fires by the telephone operator — now there is instant communication by radio between the department and its firefighters.



CHIEF KEN Campbell: He's seen many a change in firefighting methods.

Volunteers today, Campbell said, are better trained by attending regular monthly practice sessions.

And today more training aids flow in from the fire marshal's office, insurance companies and safety supply companies, he said.

Firefighters today are more involved with the community than they were 30 years ago.

For example, the Ingersoll Fire Department takes part in the town's annual Cheese and Wine Festival and the old-fashioned Christmas party.

In addition, the fire chief speaks at the YMCA's babysitting course, visits elementary schools to talk about fire safety and con-

ducts tours through the department for school children and all branches of the scouting movement.

Campbell likes to see the "kids come in early" because if they learn about fire safety when they are small he believes "it will stick with them the rest of their lives."

There used to be a great many chimney fires when Campbell joined the fire department and it concerns him that they are making a comeback.

The high cost of energy has revived popularity of wood-burning stoves and fireplaces, he said, and people are careless — not keeping chimneys cleaned out as they should.

One of the most difficult things about a firefighter's job, he said, is dealing with elderly fire victims who have lost all their cherished possessions collected over a lifetime.

The worst fire Campbell ever fought was the burning of the former arena on Charles Street E. where the Kentucky Fried Chicken store now stands.

Firefighters were never able to get the blaze under control, he said. It just "burned itself out."

Cause of the fire was never determined, he said, possibly because 20 years ago there was not the use made of the fire marshal's office that there is today.

Fire damage up in 1978

INGERSOLL. — The Ingersoll Fire Department answered fewer alarms last year — 56 compared to 64 in 1977 — but the estimated fire loss rose to \$55,655 compared to \$38,100 the previous year, according to the annual report of Fire Chief Ken Campbell.

The busiest month of the year was June when firefighters answered 10 alarms. The least number of alarms came in February and December, when two fire calls were made in each month.

The past year saw some changes in the department. Les Harlow retired as fire chief after serving 30 years, 18 as head of Ingersoll Fire Department.

Wilson George retired as a volunteer firefighter and Robert Richardson was hired to replace him.

Last year, the communication system was updated. All firefighters were given new alert monitor sets. In addition to these sets carried by all staff members, there is a set at the Ingersoll Police Department and at Ingersoll Machine and Tool Company.

Twelve fire drills were conducted at schools, Alexandra Hospital and the two nursing homes. The department made 167 fire inspections and 830 tests on the alarm panel during the year.

Fire prevention talks were given to babysitting classes and senior citizens. Talks were also given to 145 children, leaders and teachers from schools and Scout and Cub packs who toured the fire hall during the past year.

Campbell is enthusiastic about a new audio-vision system being used for in-service training of all full and part-time staff members. The reason for his enthusiasm is that the 35mm filmstrip and cassette players are Canadian — produced by Ontario firefighters to demonstrate problems peculiar to Canada and the proper way to handle them.

Firefighter Edward Hunt and Chief Campbell were both awarded certificates in basic firefighting practices following attendance at a course at the regional firefighting school held at the Woodstock Fire Department.

The Ingersoll Firefighter club's entry in the 1978 Cheese and Wine Festival Queen contest — Cindy Paton — was chosen Queen of the Festival.

Chief Ken Campbell talked to children at the town's old-fashioned Christmas party and handed them fire safety literature.

Ingersoll Fire Department is a member of Oxford County Mutual Aid. Members attended meetings and training sessions last year at Woodstock, Princeton, Burgessville, Uniondale, Otterville, Innerkip, Tillsonburg, Oxford Centre, Thamesford, Norwich and Hickson.

SRINWEL - REVIEW
February 2, 1979

'78 Fire damage totals over \$55,000 claims Fire Chief in annual report

Fire damage totalled \$55,655 stated Fire Chief Ken Campbell's 1978 summary report presented at a regular meeting of the Police and Fire Protection Committee Thursday.

Chief Campbell stated that although firefighters were not called to duty as often as in 1977, damage in fires was higher in 1978. He also reported that false alarms were received more often this year than any other year.

In reviewing the year's activities in the fire department Chief Campbell who said the report was '11 parts' former Fire Chief Les Harlow's and 'one part' his own, said the Ingersoll Volunteer Firefighters are

"in my opinion, among the best in Oxford County." He also recognized each volunteers concern for fire safety within their own occupations. "Our volunteer firefighters, most of whom are employed as 'blue collar' workers, realize what a fire loss could mean to their employment so I am sure they are constantly on guard for anything that could become a potential fire hazard."

During the year of 1978 the firefighters lost Chief Les Harlow and a volunteer, Wilson George who resigned and was replaced by Robert Richardson.

The Fire Department responded to 56 calls in 1978, six dwellings, 11 grass, seven

cars and trucks, seven rubbish, eight commercial, 12 miscellaneous, one train, two merchantile and two emergency class stated the report. Ten false alarms were also reported.

Nineteen hundred and seventy-eight also saw the update of the fire department's communication system when new alert monitor sets were supplied to all the firefighters. The report also stated that sets are located at the police office and the Ingersoll Machine and Tool Company. Campbell also sighted water supplies as an increasing problem that will be faced by local government and the Fire Department as residential and the industrial park areas expand. Campbell said he has

studied proposed expansions at Tower-view, Golden Gardens and Princess Park subdivisions to insure that developers have proposed proper planning from fire hydrant placements of which he said was excellent. He stated that industrial proposals included properly spaced hydrants also. The present 256 hydrants in Ingersoll are constantly maintained and checked added Campbell. The town also has six operating pump houses and a 625 gallon raised tank at the corner of Wonham and Holcroft Streets.

The fire department also meets regularly with other departments in Oxford County throughout the year as they belong to the Oxford County Mutual Aid.

INGERSOLL TIMES
February 7, 1979

FIRE DEPT

Number of fire calls down but damage total increased

INGERSOLL — The Ingersoll Fire Department answered fewer alarms last year—56 compared to 64 in 1977—but the estimated fire loss rose to \$55,655 compared to \$38,100 the previous year according to the annual report of Fire Chief Ken Campbell.

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County-wide fire communications system urged for Oxford

County council's public works committee decided Thursday to hire an Ottawa consultant to design a county-wide fire communications system.

Leroy Lees, a consulting engineer with BHV Communications Ltd., told the committee he would submit three alternative

systems to the county.

County fire co-ordinator Charles Young has attempted for more than a year to establish a paging and radio-dispatched system for the 20 volunteer fire stations in Oxford. Council budgeted about \$50,000 towards the system this year.

Only Tillsonburg and Ingersoll departments now have a radio-controlled dispatch system but Young would like all rural departments dispatched through the Woodstock department.

Lees estimated the technical portion of the report would cost about \$4,000.

"The technical problems are simple," Lees said. "It's the political problems that are difficult."

Asked if a county system was an improvement over a township system, Lees replied Ontario "would have a lot better system if the province gave that answer 25 years ago. We'd be better off than the mish-

mosh we have now."

Meanwhile, Wallis Hammond, Zorra Township mayor, said he has learned of mutual aid problems between his township and Ingersoll in the past.

Hammond said he knew of two occasions in the past three years when Ingersoll was called to a fire in his township but did not

attempt to extinguish the flames.

Young said he was not aware of any mutual aid problems adding a new system went into effect three months ago that should eliminate any further difficulties.

"If it isn't working I'd like to know about it," Young said.

Ingersoll fire hall to host open house

'Fantastic' and 'great' were just two adjectives describing Fire Chief Kenneth Campbell's proposal to hold an open house at the fire hall during Fire Prevention Week.

"Although I feel fire prevention week is 52 weeks of the year," Chief Campbell said, "I think it would be good for our public image to hold an open house."

The proposed open house would be held October 13, the last day of fire-prevention week. A tour of the firehall, films and literature would be available to the public.

To the best of the chief's recollection this would be Ingersoll's first open house. The idea was greeted enthusiastically by all committee members and if it works this year, a two-day open house next year might be a possibility.

Local firemen donated \$50 out of their fund to have their old 1927 fire engine looked at. The committee agreed to match up to \$50 to the old engine's cause, with hopes of getting it working again.

"I'd like to see it maintained," Councillor Jack Warden stressed. "It's a part of our history."

The old engine is back on the road as it turns out. It was put back in working

order over the weekend at a cost of less than \$50 dollars.

The fire engine was made here in Ingersoll. It is a Stewart body and has an Erinfox motor and features foot brakes and brass gears. It was made at the old wagon works where Witty Bus lines is now located.

August was a good month for lack of firecalls. The station received only four calls, the most serious was a house fire at Golden Acres causing an estimated \$300 damage.

The committee also granted Chief Campbell permission to attend two courses this fall. One course is on fire crime detection and the other is a fire chiefs management course.

New truck for IFD

The town of Ingersoll was startled by the scream of sirens Friday afternoon, but there was no national disaster taking place. It was all in fun, as the town's new fire truck arrived, escorted by the entire Ingersoll fire department fleet.

Leading the fast-paced procession was the town's 1927 antique pumper, while the new ladder truck, built by King-Seagrave Ltd. of Woodstock drew up a formidable rear. The parade swung into the town square, where a crowd gathered to view the red and white machine and see a demonstration of its modern equipment, which includes a 50-ft. hydraulic extending ladder, teamed with a moveable water tower. The mechanism is called "Tele-squirt".

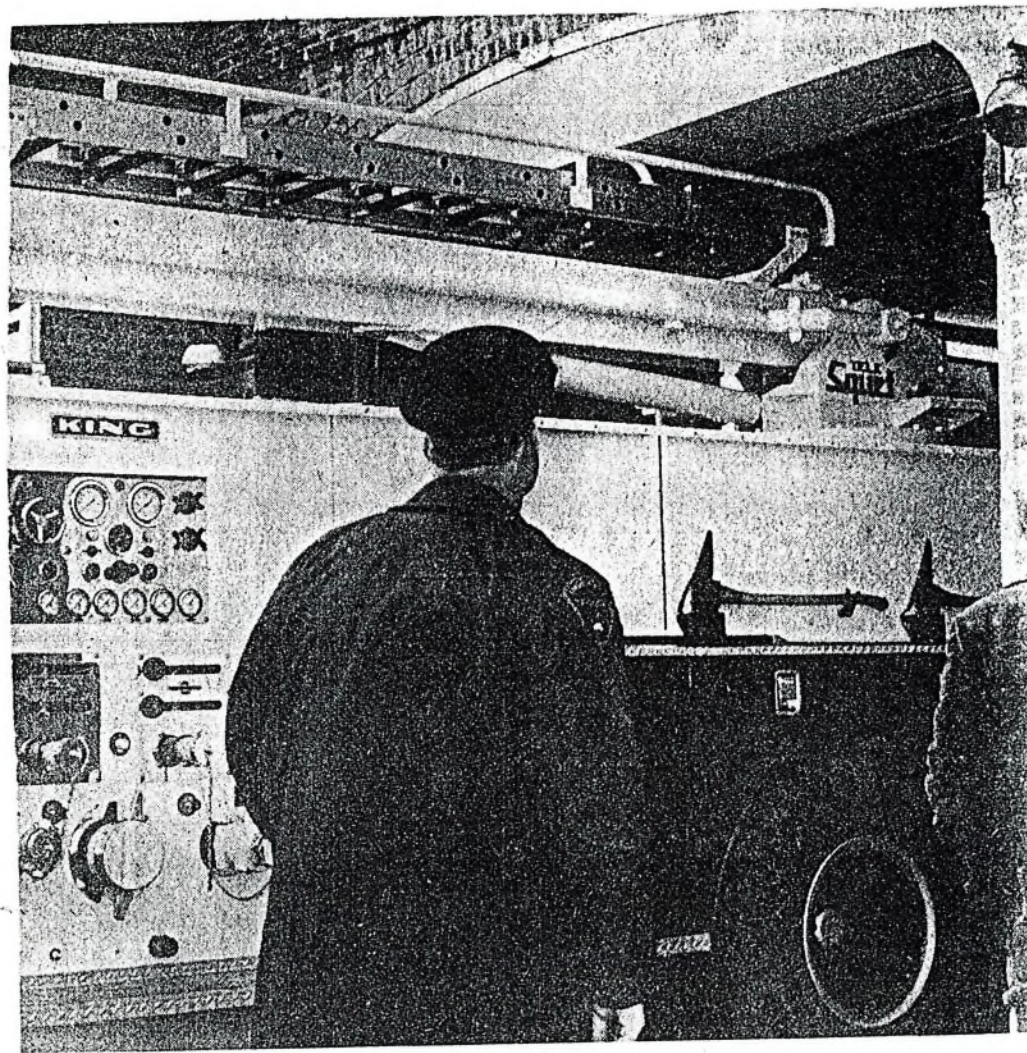
After the keys for the truck were officially turned over to Fire Chief Les Harlow, the ladder was extended and rotated high above the town square, with volunteer fireman, Jack Milne going along for the ride.

Once the formalities and the demonstration had concluded, the truck was driven around to the front of the fire hall, where it tried the fire hall entrance on for size. Slowly the truck was backed into the hall and it appeared as if it was going to scrape against the roll-away door overhead until someone quickly propped up the end of the door with a plank. With plank in place, the truck easily backed into the firehall with at least an inch or two of clearance to spare.

The problem with the door was erased early this week when a spring was installed at the top of the door so that when it rolls up,

the back end is pulled upwards, allowing the necessary clearance for the new truck, which is about a foot and a half higher than either of the other trucks which occupied the hall.

The 1946 Ford ladder truck, which the new truck replaced, will go on sale at a municipal auction which is being held on Saturday, April 26.



It was a close fit for the town's new fire truck as it tried the entrance to the fire hall on for size Friday afternoon.

Fire Hall's record a source of pride

Ingersoll Fire Department has a record it's citizens can be proud of. It has earned an enviable reputation throughout the province and much of the reason for that reputation is the fact that Fire Chief Ken Campbell believes every week of the year is fire prevention week.

Like his predecessor, former fire chief Les Harlow, Chief Campbell makes a point of promoting fire safety not only during national fire safety week, this year scheduled from October 7 to 13, but year round.

Campbell and his crew can be seen daily, alerting and informing residents of fire hazards, updated fire detectors and fire prevention equipment.

The last major fire seen in Ingersoll was in November 1979 when a McKenan Street home was devastated by flames after a furnace exploded.

It's been four years since a life was lost in a blaze, however. In March 1975 two children died in a fire, believed caused by faulty wiring. In June that same year, a life was lost when a Thames Street South apartment building, located where the News and Camera Centre now stands, caught fire.

Many will remember the various major fires over the years - the Corbett Feed Building, The Planning Mill blaze, and the arena fire. Few will realize, however, just how many fires have been prevented because Ingersoll's fire department took time to caution the public about fire safety. And because many people have learned to practise fire safety.

Throughout national fire prevention week, the Ingersoll Fire Department will continue efforts to inform the public on fire safety. Chief Campbell will be visiting various schools in the town, cautioning children on the dangers of fires and practising fire drills.

On October 13, the fire department will stage an open house and invites the general public to attend.

Ingersoll's three full-time and 13 volunteer firemen encourage you to be fire safety conscious. Not only during national fire prevention week, but throughout the year. It only takes a little effort and in the long run, it just might be worth it!

Fire Hall open house crowd means it'll return next year

BY MARGARET BOYD

About 100 people attended Ingersoll Fire Department's first Open House on Saturday, making it successful enough to

"keep it going" next year, Fire Chief Ken Campbell, said.

The open house was held in recognition of National Fire Prevention Week. Ingersoll residents were able to tour the hall and firemen demonstrated equipment on the fire trucks. Films on fire safety and prevention were shown in the hall. Coffee and soft drinks were available.

"People seemed to be enjoying themselves and they were enthused about the Open House," Fireman Jerry Hutson said. "One of the purposes of holding an Open House is to let the public know how the fire department is run. We also stress that public relations and teaching fire prevention is a big part of our work."

Among those attending the Open House were Trudy McLelland, Cheese and Wine Festival Queen; Doug Harris, Mayor of Ingersoll; Ted Hunt, Industrial Commissioner. Fireman Jerry Hutson, Jack Milne, Bob Richardson and Chief

Campbell were on hand to answer questions.

The old fire truck, one of the original trucks used by the town's fire department, dating back to 1927, was prominently displayed in front of the hall. It has recently had some mechanical work done on it and appeared in the Cheese and Wine parade this year.

Films shown during the Open House were on fire hazards in the home, electrical hazards, family planning for escape, smoke detectors and fire extinguishers.

Scott airpicks and breathing apparatus used by firemen, were demonstrated. A "scarecrow" was fixed up with what a firefighter wears.

"Ingersoll residents seem to be conscious of fire safety," volunteer fireman John Bell said. In recent years there have been few serious fires.

Fire hall open house successful

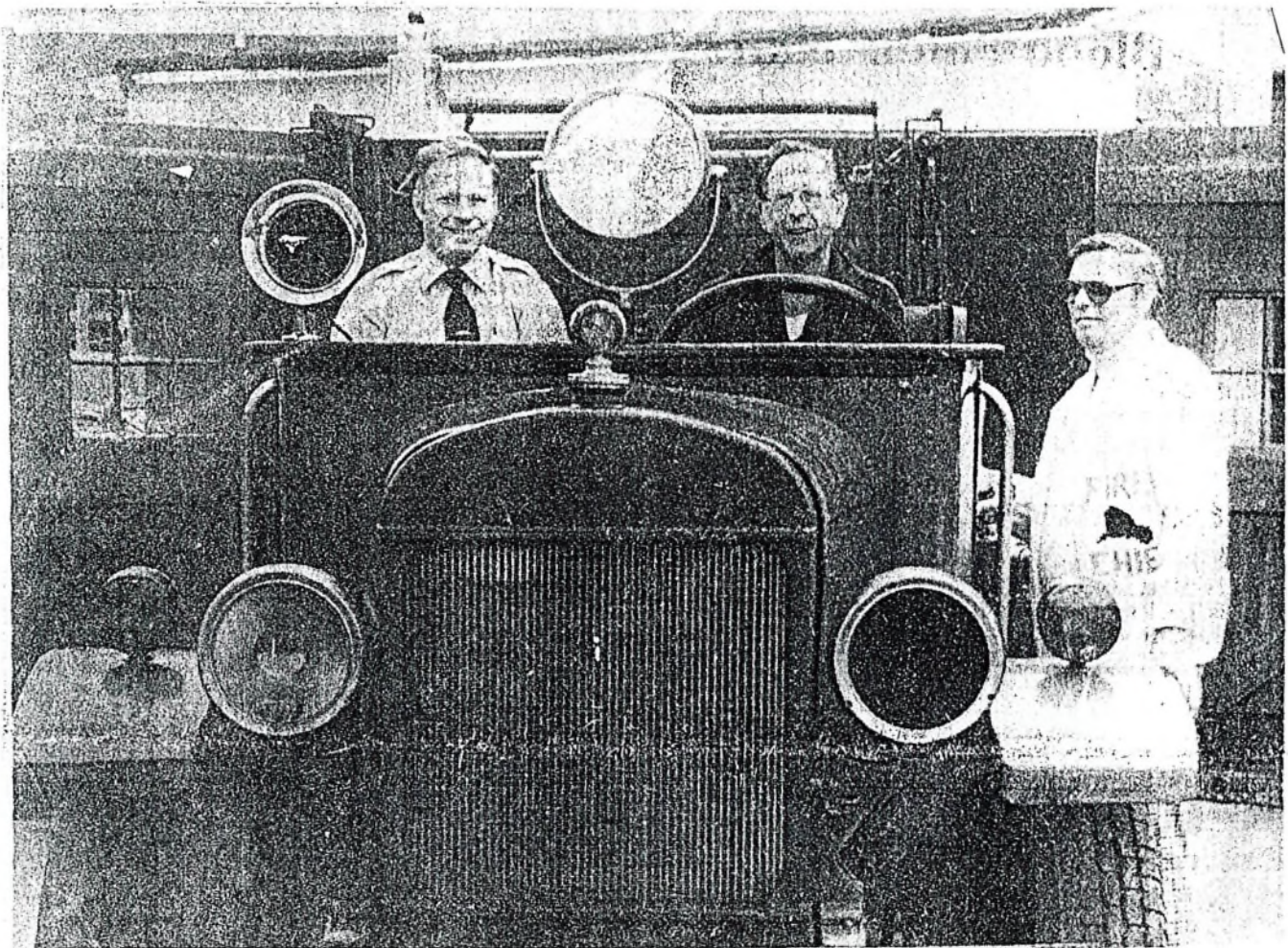
Firemen also explained how emergency calls are transmitted to alert other firemen and volunteer firemen. The fireman on duty radios the message and then turns all other incoming calls to the police. Firemen carry two way radios at all times. The police will often clear the way for the fire trucks when an emergency call comes, Mr. Bell said.

One problem that the fire department encounters is prank calls. If the fire truck is sent to a false alarm when a serious fire

is happening elsewhere, it slows the fire department down, Mr. Bell said.

Fire Chief Campbell conducted fire drills at all elementary schools in Ingersoll last week and spoke to students on the importance of making every week fire prevention week.

Firemen at the Fire Hall would be willing to show people around the hall at any time, Mr. Bell said. The public is invited to drop by the hall if they have a question or want some information on fire prevention.



The old 1927 fire truck was on display in front of the Fire Hall during the first Open House, held last Saturday. Fireman Jerry Hutson, senior volunteer firefighter Jack Milne and Fire Chief Ken Campbell showed off the truck which recently had mechanical work done to it. About 100 people attended the Open House, making it successful

enough to continue again next year, according to Chief Campbell.

The Open House was only one of many activities carried out by the local fire department during national fire prevention week. As well as the Saturday afternoon affair, fire drills and safety inspections were completed.

INGERSOLL TIMES
October 17, 1979

INGERSOLL TIMES
October 17, 1979

Traditions of fire service kept alive

BY KENNETH CAMPBELL, FIRE CHIEF

The Fire Service has a wonderful heritage of unselfish tradition. With a background of heroic deeds. All of which are symbolized by the uniforms, badges and insignias worn by the present day Firefighter.

Why did the Firefighters badge take its present shape? Where was this badge first used?

Why did the Firefighters badge take its present shape? Where was this badge first used?

The emblem of the Fire Service is the Cross, referred to as the Maltese Cross. It symbolizes all the traditions and the ideals of the Fire Service. A symbol is a visible sign, representing a quality or an object. For instance the flag of our country is the symbol of Canada where ever it flies. The scales or balances, represent justice.

The Knights of the Crusades were men who wore the insignia of Cross with honor to themselves, with loyalty to God and to Country; and with charity even unto their enemies. The arms and the tree of that cross are of equal length. They widen as they extend from a central point. The edges usually curve slightly. The emblem of the Fire Service Cross differs slightly from the true Maltese Cross which is usually indented at the end of the tree or arms. When it was used originally, it belonged to the Christian Knights who shielded the weak. It fittingly portrays the protecting power of the Knights, so as a symbol of the Fire Service it signifies the protecting power of the men of this Service.

The shield worn by the Knight was protective armour. History tells us that a shield upon a coat of arms implies a "defender." Thus we find the badges of the Fire Service in many instances in the form of a shield, containing the emblem of the Cross upon the shield or upon the crest. The Knights wore protective armour to shield them against their enemy. The Fire Service is protective armour, a defender of those in need, protection from fire, and a guard for those whose lives are in danger, a shield against men's most merciless foe, Fire.

Among the decorations found on fire badges is a rope or cord forming a border. This cord or rope is unbroken, signifying unbroken service and loyalty. The crossed arms, axes and ladders in the form of the "Saltier" of St. Andrew's Cross are symbolic of resolution and a reward for such as have scaled the walls of cities, a decoration reserved for the bravest. In the Fire Service we find, upon the badges of Fire Chiefs and other Officers, the crossed trumpets, axes, and ladders, signifying the rank and service. In the Fire Service the truck companies have crossed axes; and the engine companies have crossed nozzles.

Birds are also used as emblems in the Fire Service, we usually take it for granted that it is only one kind of bird. However, there are two. The first bird is the Phoenix, which is not to be confused with the Eagle. Legend tells us that the Phoenix was consumed in flames, but emerges from the fire a young and beautiful bird in full plumage.

The Eagle is also used as a symbol in the Fire Service, usually found on the badges of Chief Officers. The Eagle is a bird admired by men, so we find him represented on the shield of ranking officers only, those who have authority to administer discipline. He is usually displayed on a shield with wings extended, like the arms of a Cross, signify protection and charity, and the beak and exposed talons, the enforcement of discipline.

This is the tradition upon which is formed the organization of the Fire Service, it is a tradition, unique and unshared by any other group, as symbolized by the Maltese Cross. Yesterday when our Fire Departments were new, traditions were fresh and new and were understood by almost every Firefighter.

Today when nothing seems sacred and little respect for history exists, I would certainly like to try and keep alive the wonderful heritage of unselfish traditions of the Fire Service.

Fire damage in Ingersoll in 1979 reached an estimated \$10,000, according to, Fire Chief Ken Campbell. There were a total of 61 fire calls for the year.

In January there were three calls, a truck fire on North Town Line Road, a grease fire in a home on Greenwood and steam from a window.

In February there was one false alarm from the Earl Street Senior Citizens building. The panel alarm was activated by work being done in the building.

March showed five calls, two were grass fires, one was a false alarm to King

Street East, a motor on a washer was on fire in a laundromat at King Street East and there was a kitchen cupboard fire at 292 King Street.

There were 11 calls in April. Three of the calls responded to by the fire

Fire damage estimated at \$10,000 for '79, total of 61 calls answered by department.

Fire Department

department were grass fires, two were false alarms at a John Street and Oakwood Street residence, and two were out-of-town on North Town Line Road and Clark's Road. There was a mattress fire on Whiting Street, a chimney fire at Hall Street and smoke in a house on Frances Street.

There were no fire calls in May.

In June, there were six calls, three grass fires, two grass fires and an old barn on Innes Street.

There were also six calls in July. The fire department was called to one car fire, two fires, two rubbish fires and a grease fire in an apartment on Thames Street North.

Four calls were responded to in August: one car fire, one rubbish fire and two dwelling fires. One dwelling fire was on Golden Place and the other was in a vacant house on Ingersoll Road.

In September there were four calls. There was one car fire, one rubbish fire on Ann Street, a dryer fire at the Oxford Street Nursing Home and a fire at a

Freuhauf Trailer Co. Ltd. shack on Ingersoll Street.

There were four fires in October. A corn field on Park Avenue kept the fire department busy Halloween night. Elsewhere, there was a dryer fire at the Oxford Street Nursing home, a scrap lumber fire on Ingersoll street and a car fire.

There were 11 fire calls in November. Three of the calls were car fires, one was a leaf fire and three were garbage fires on North Town Line Road, on Mutual Street at the arena, and on King Hiram Street. There was a false alarm at Tom and Gord's on Charles Street East, a gas leak at a house on John Street, a butane tank explosion at a Whiting Street address and gasoline on the road on King Street West.

There were six calls in December. The fire department was called to a chimney fire Christmas morning, a train-car accident on December 28, a grass fire and two sprinkler systems being activated during December.

INGERSOLL TIMES
January 9, 1980

By JOE KONECNY
Sentinel-Review staff writer
INGERSOLL — Like countless fire department heads across the country, local chief Ken Campbell would like to have Fire Safety Week expanded to an entire year.

Citizens can't be expected to grasp the fundamentals of fire safety in only seven days, he said.

Campbell is satisfied Gerald Hudson does a fine job when he lectures local public school students about fire hazards and safety during Fire Safety Week.

But the time factor and the need to adjust Hudson's advice to accommodate students' attention span leaves gaps in their fire knowledge, he said.

"It shouldn't just be this week . . . I'd like to think it's Fire Safety Week every week," Campbell added. "We need to remind people to be safe."

Hudson visited all Ingersoll public schools this week. The buildings were inspected for potential hazards, fire drills were conducted and then he staged brief lectures.

A similar service was provided last year at this time.

ONE TIP

But due to the brevity of the lectures, there's at least one safety tip Campbell thinks deserves added attention.

He cited as an example a false alarm case which occurred last Saturday.

The firefighter on duty received a call in the afternoon and after jotting down a Canterbury Street address dictated by a youthful voice, he "thought 'he numbers sounded funny'".

So, prior to answering the call, the firefighter notified police.

And just before the fire trucks hit the road, police told firefighters the address didn't exist.

Meanwhile, the boy called back and assaulted the firefighter with foul language.

"I would just like to talk to (students) about false alarms," Campbell said.

"It should never happen . . ." considering the potential injury to residents and firefighters which could result.

"And we could have had a call to go to the north end of town," he added, noting the length of the trip.

"The first few minutes are a critical time in all fires."

CYCLES

"But you've got to answer all calls even if you have an idea there isn't a fire," he said.

The pranksters strike in cycles, Campbell added.

Most false alarms occur when students are out of school during the summer, he said.

So far this year the local

department was recorded six false alarms, but during the past summer there was a low rate of the incidents.

"It used to be bad at one time," Campbell said.

A few years ago, the department was plagued by calls from a young source.

But one day the chief answered the telephone and informed the youth the call was being traced.

"We never got another call from that guy."

Campbell speculated pranksters commit the crime

because they're thrilled by the sight of fire trucks with flashing lights.

OPEN HOUSE

Citizens will have another chance to enhance their safety knowledge during Open House at the fire hall on Saturday, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Various fire-safety related films will be shown and countless pamphlets will be available.

"Even if one or two of the people who come out learn more, that's something to be

proud of."

Last year more than 100 people turned out and that crowd represented a good cross-section of age groups, Campbell added.

He said many children were accompanied by their parents. "I'd like to see more people come out this year."

Firefighters won't stage lectures during the open house, but they're eager to answer any questions.

"These are just to let people know what our job is like...we're here to help them."



INGERSOLL FIRE Chief Ken Campbell shows off the department's pride and glory, an antique fire truck once used locally. The truck

is one of many interesting items which can be seen during Open House at the fire hall Saturday. (Photo by Joe Konecny)

Fire safety - a year long project

Fire Dept.

*SENTINEL-REVIEW
October 10, 1980*

Fire calls up in 1980

There were no false alarms and no lives lost to fire in 1980 in Ingersoll, according to Fire Chief Ken Campbell, even though the number of fire calls was up.

There were 90 calls in 1980 compared to 65 in 1979 and 56 in 1978. The chief does not know the exact reason for this large increase but will be looking into it in the next

few days.

As well, the amount of fire loss in dollars is up from last year for both buildings and contents, said the chief.

There were two major fires in Ingersoll over the past year with Tom and Antoinette Scaiff losing everything when their home was lost to fire in the early months of 1980.

One of the senior citizens

apartment buildings on Earl Street suffered \$5,000 damage to fire in March of last year.

Chief Campbell said the most common cause of fire is human error and suggested to people they be careful in the extremely cold weather we are currently experiencing.

He said that thermostats are turned up higher and people throw more wood on the fire in this weather so they should be extra careful.

The chief does feel that despite his statistics for 1980 people are more fire prevention conscious now than they ever have been.

"People are a lot more knowledgeable and increased publicity has helped a lot."

INGERSOLL TIMES

January 7, 1981

Number of fire calls rises

Chief recalls past glories in his annual fire report

INGERSOLL — It was a sad day in April, 1926, when the Ingersoll Fire Department retired its team of horses in favor of a motorized emergency vehicle.

The purchase of a Model T, Hook and Ladder truck marked

the start of a new era, chief Ken Campbell said in his 1980 annual report.

And although many seasoned firefighters had fought against the use of horses when they were introduced to the service 53 years earlier, the change put a

dent in morale.

"No sight was more thrilling than a team of these galloping horses, sparks flying from the metal wheels and the horses feet, as they pulled the Silsby Steam Engine down the street," Campbell said.

"These horses were housed in the fire station and became special pets of the firemen.

"It was a sad day when one of the horses had to retire," he added in the report.

With the horses long gone, the department experienced a busy year in 1980, the report continues.

Not only did the numbers of fire calls rise during 1980, but the department's 16 firefighters spent an unprecedented number of hours training and providing fire-prevention information.

LECTURES

More than 650 people — including babysitters, students and members of the scouting movement — participated in tours and lectures provided by department officials.

Fire drills were conducted at all local schools during fire prevention week and, in addition, drills were also held at Alexandra Hospital, two local senior citizen centres and the centre for the handicapped.

Countless skill-improvement courses were attended by firefighters, Campbell added.

The department answered 90 fire calls last year, with 21 of those calls — the largest category — in response to pleas from local residential sectors.

The number of residential calls increased by seven com-

pared to statistics for 1979.

The department conducted 33 inspections last year, compared to 257 during the previous year.

DAMAGE

About \$55,000 damage was caused to buildings last year compared to \$2,025 in 1979. Four years ago, \$41,000 damage to buildings was logged.

Value of damage to building contents last year was about \$21,000. In 1979, that figure was near \$12,000. A year earlier, fire caused \$9,000 damage to building contents.

More than 350 hours were spent fighting fires that burned for more than 50 hours, the report states.

Talk of a new building

Horse and buggy era exists at the fire hall says the chief

By JOE KONECNY
Sentinel-Review staff writer
INGERSOLL. — It's safe to say horse-drawn firefighting equipment is obsolete.

And obviously there's ample room to question the efficiency of such antiquated



CHIEF KEN CAMPBELL
...days are gone

equipment in modern municipalities such as Ingersoll.

Yet Ingersoll Fire Department Chief Ken Campbell said traces of the horse and buggy era still exist here.

The former town hall on the corner of King and Oxford Streets, built more than 100 years ago to accommodate the town's fathers and the fire department, reeks of the Golden

Age.

"The place was built when horses and buggies were used and those days are long gone," Campbell said in interview Friday.

He was addressing the protection committee's "split" stance on the need for a new or at least modernized fire hall. The committee addressed the concern at its meeting earlier this month.

Currently, the department's two emergency vehicles literally "scrape" the door arches when they're called into action, Campbell said.

A STRUGGLE

And once on the street, drivers must struggle through congested traffic at one of the busiest intersections in town.

Both inconveniences reflect the era when the structure was raised, Campbell said.

Neither complication has hampered the department's efficiency to date, but the possibility is still there, he said.

The protection committee entertained a suggestion to demolish the frame lean-to at the side of the old town hall in favor of a new structure.

Some time ago, town council approached building inspector Ted Hunt to request he probe the feasibility of building a new addition to the old town hall.

He employed a contractor to determine a "ball park" cost estimate.

The contractor reported the cost to build a cement-block addition, with two new bays of greater height fronting on the market

square, would be about \$75,000.

The proposed bays, with cement floors, will eliminate another problem which exists, Hunt said.

TANKER

The department's 10-ton tanker truck is now stored on a wooden floor bay facing King Street, he said. And there's some concern about the possibility of the tanker some day ending up in the basement beneath it.

Also, the wooden floor poses problems when firefighters clean the emergency vehicles because without floor drains, the task had to be done with rags in hand instead of with a hose, Hunt said.

So the issue boiled down to either replacing the wooden floor at a cost of about \$14,000 or building an addition, Hunt said.

"It's all still up in the air," Hunt said Friday. "Nothing has been finalized yet."

The protection committee requested Hunt return to its next meeting with more accurate cost estimates — and possibly design drawings — for further consideration before the town's budget is finalized.

At the same time, the committee pondered the feasibility of constructing a entirely new building.

NEW BUILDING

The committee believes a new building could be used to house the fire department alone, or it could be combined with the police department.

That thought originally emerged five years ago when

town council asked department heads to submit five-year forecasts of their needs, Campbell said. He wasn't the department chief then.

Campbell speculated the joint structure was suggested because it seemed



TED HUNT
...up in the air

more practical to spend money on a new building rather than the two older ones. The police station is about 60 years old.

That thought was reiterated at the recent committee meeting, he added.

"The talking stage is as far as it ever got," Hunt said.

Campbell favors building a new fire hall as long as its built away from the downtown core.

"If they build a new fire hall, great, but if they don't, I'll put up with what I've got."

Fire inspectors cover about one third of town

Summer students working as home fire inspectors during the course of the summer in Ingersoll didn't inspect as many homes as they would have liked nevertheless a third, or 591 homes were inspected for fire safety.

Tom McHugh, Jeanette Ruby, Sheila Mazerolle and John Mott did the inspection and Fire Chief Ken Campbell was very pleased with their work and the program.

"I think it went very well," he said. "It is a job we couldn't have done ourselves."

The four students were paired off and when the program finished last week they had visited every house in town. However, a majority of people were not home. For those not home cards were left inviting residents to give the fire hall a call if they wanted an inspection.

The final week of the program was left for call backs but minimal were made.

"We were expecting call backs but there haven't been any," Tom McHugh noted. "We left 500 or 600 call backs and we didn't have 10."

In spite of this the four inspectors found the program to be a success. Besides being a learning experience for them they hope that residents also gained from the program.

A little over half the homes inspected had smoke detectors the students found, something they feel all homes should have.

Some residents that did have detectors had unhooked them while cooking and then were not plugged back in. It provides a "false sense of security," Tom McHugh noted.

Reasons for not having a smoke detector varied with one resident explaining he is a non-smoker, so there is no need for a detector.

Basements were a cause of concern in many homes including an accumulation of papers, paint cans and oily rags.

"Almost everybody had that," Sheila Mazerolle noted.

Only 14 of the homes inspected had extension cords running under carpets and also a majority of the residents said their families had fire escape plans. Another good sign was a majority of the homes with fire places had screens in front of them.

All in all, the program was well received by the residents, although some felt no need for their homes to be inspected.

"People let us in and said they were glad to have us," Tom pointed out. "Only two or three said it was a stupid program, who thought of this?"

All four of the student inspectors hope that hazards pointed out in the 591 homes they inspected, have been rectified.

"If fire is thought of in terms of danger to human life," Tom McHugh explained, "and we saved one person, that's more than the program cost."

The program was made possible through a grant by the federal summer Canada Student employment program.

Chief Campbell when asked if he would apply for a similar grant next year said, "I don't know whether the program will be available but if there is one, I will apply for it again."

Fire losses here over \$69,200

Fire losses in Ingersoll so far this year have totalled more than \$69,200 and this week has been set aside as Fire Prevention Week in hopes of preventing further fire loss.

"It's a good week to remind people to be safe," Fire Chief Ken Campbell noted, quickly adding, "but people should be fire safe every day of the year."

"It's bad, it's high," the chief said of fire calls and losses. A lot of the losses he points out have been a direct result of carelessness.

As of last week the local

fire station had received 61 calls and that number is comparable to last year's 60 calls at this time. Last year there was \$64,000 in damage, or \$5,200 less than this year.

Careless smoking, a pot of grease in an oven, improper maintenance of cars, improperly installed gas furnaces, uncleaned chimneys and children with matches were just some of the causes of fires this year.

In an effort to make Ingersoll residents more fire conscious the local fire department hired four students to inspect for fire safety. A lot of advice handed out to residents was merely common sense but too often that common sense is not exercised, Chief Campbell suggested.

Another topical concern of the chief's is the use of wood burning stoves. A lot of people are turning to wood because of the high cost of energy and he has two very important reminders.

The first is a building permit is legally required if residents are going to install a free standing wood burning stove or a fire place. There are important regulations to be adhered to and for safety's sake, the chief urges the building inspector to be contacted.

"Another thing people don't realize is that they should contact their insurance company first if they are changing their heating systems," he said. "You should discuss it (changes) with your insurance company before you do anything."

There has not been a fire fatality since Chief Campbell became fire chief. He would very much like to

keep it that way. The last fatality was in June, 1976.

The Ingersoll Fire Department will be hosting its third annual open house on Saturday, October 10 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The fire station will be open for any inquiries residents may have. Tours of the local facility will be made, films will be shown and literature on all aspects of fire safety will be made available.

Fire Dept

Local fire department depends on volunteers

Three men are full time staff at the local fire department and the rest who provide fire safety for Ingersoll do it on a volunteer bases.

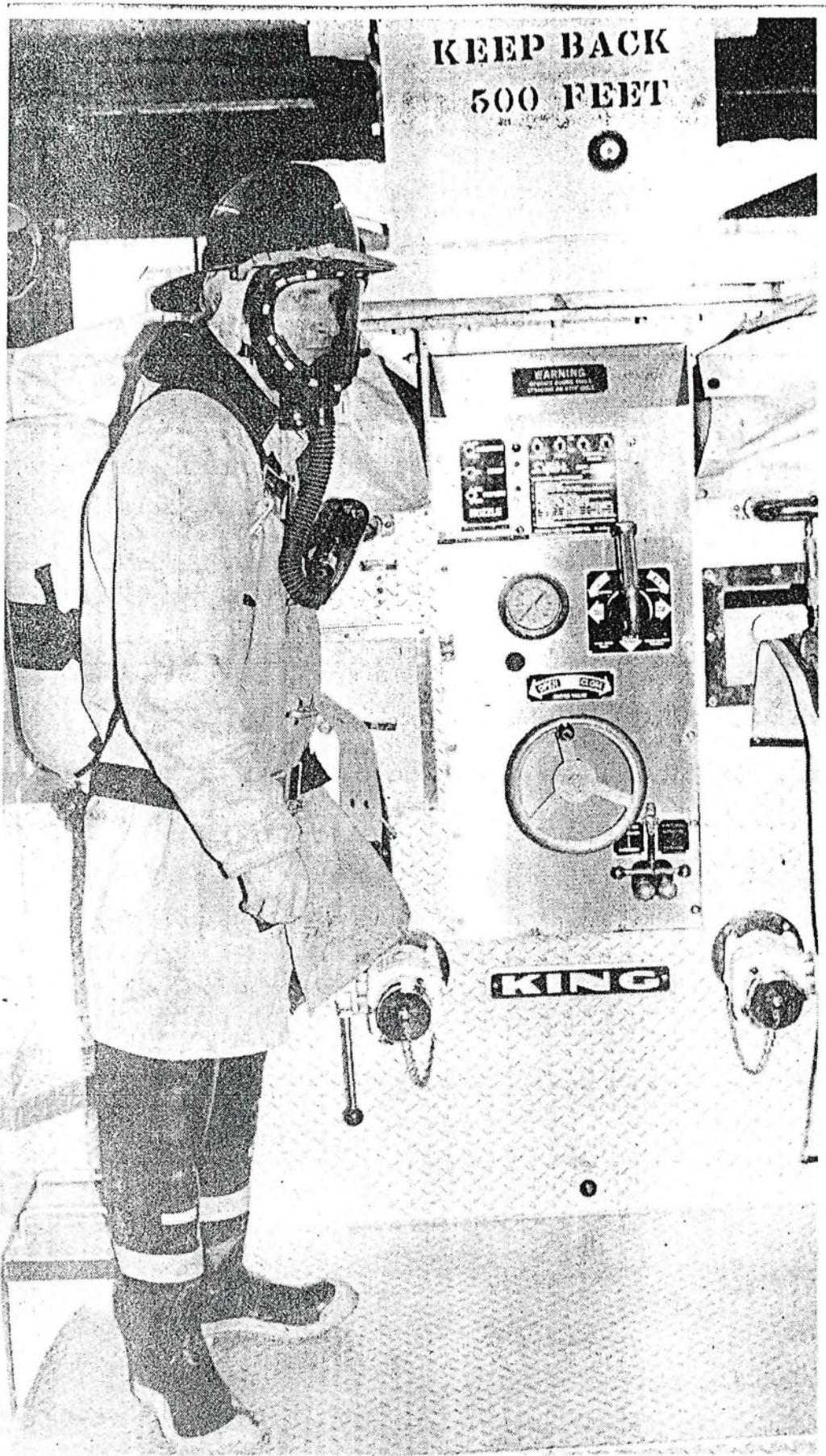
They receive some remuneration for their time but many sacrifice working hours and sometimes even holidays to further their knowledge in fire prevention and fire fighting.

On the full time staff are Fire Chief Kenneth Camp-

bell, Deputy Fire Chief Max Barker and Fire Captain Gerald Hutson.

Then there are the 13 others who round out the Ingersoll Fire Department. They are; Fire Captain John Milne, Wayne Barnett, John Bell, Scott Campbell, Cecil Crane, John Empey, Harold Harkes, Norman Blancher, Bob Richardson, Paul Davies, Ted Hunt, Joe Mutton and Darrel Parker.

INGERSOLL Times
October 7, 1981



Fire Dept.

VOLUNTEER FIREMAN, John Bell, demonstrates how it is done, with full gear, at the Ingersoll

Fire Station open house, Saturday, which marked the end of fire safety week.

(Staff photo by Liz Payne)

Local fire department opens doors to visitors

Ingersoll children and grown-ups who have always dreamed about being a fireman had a chance to see their fantasies come to life Saturday.

For the third year in a row the Ingersoll fire department held an open house in conjunction with fire prevention week.

About 50 people attended the

open house, which gave fire chief Ken Campbell and volunteers a chance to educate the public about fire safety as well.

The station's fire trucks and a variety of equipment were on display. Among equipment displayed was the station's new pulley for car accident rescues.

During the day-long open house a film on fire safety was shown and coffee was served to interested visitors.

The Ingersoll fire department has three full time staff members, the chief, deputy-chief, and captain, as well as 13 volunteers.

SENTINEL REVIEW
October 13, 1981

SENTINEL REVIEW
October 13, 1981

New equipment for fire hall

Fire Chief Ken Campbell was granted permission by the town's administration committee last week to buy a new base station for the department's radio system, after he reported the condition of the present one as very poor.

"The present base station for our radio system at the Fire Department has deteriorated to such a degree that I do not feel safe with it," stated a letter to the committee.

The letter dated February 24, went on to say, "the last few nights the present radio has been making so much noise the firefighters on duty have had trouble sleeping."

The chief told the committee he hoped not to replace the present base station

purchased in 1963, until 1983, "but I am afraid it will not last another year. We are going to have to do something about it."

After looking previously into prices, Chief Campbell said he can purchase a new base station, a 1980 or 1981 model, for \$944 on sale. He said the regular price would be \$3,000.

Fire Chief Campbell also reported to the committee on the department's activities for the month of February.

Chief Campbell attended the Oxford County Fire Department Association's monthly meeting held in Otterville. A constable from the Tillsonburg OPP gave a talk on bomb threat procedures.

William Exley from the Fire Marshalls Office attended the department's regular staff meeting and gave a talk on arson investigation. He also spoke to the group about the authority of a municipal fire chief as set

out in the Fire Marshalls Act.

Captain Gerald Hutson attended a seminar in London with Acting Police Chief Lionel Ulrich, which was sponsored by the Canadian Pacific Railway. The seminar dealt with procedures during a rail accident.

A Brownie and Cub Pack visited the Fire Station last month. They were shown films and given a tour of the premises by Firefighter Ted Hunt.

March fire calls

The Fire Department had three calls during March a false alarm, some overheated furnace pipes, and a mattress fire. The mattress fire took place at 178 Earl Street on March 16 and approximately \$500 damage was caused.

Also during March, the department conducted 26 inspections and did 42 panel tests.

Chief Ken Campbell attended the monthly meeting of the Oxford County Fire Departments Association held in Otterville. Ross Cordell of the Safety Supply Company showed a film and gave a talk on flammable liquids and how to lessen the risks to the firefighter. New fire equipment was also on display at the meeting.

Members of the Fire Department were given a tour of the Bordon Company as part of the department's familiarization program. Chief Campbell explained the program gives the firefighters a chance to see the layouts of buildings and the types of hazards found in local industries. The firefighters also get a chance to see the firefighting equipment companies have and to offer suggestions for improvements, said the chief.

Fire department has busy month

April was a busy month for Ingersoll fire department with 11 fires. On April 30, the department attended two fires, one which is still being investigated.

The department responded to a call to 130 Bond Street on April 30. Approximately \$15,000 damage was done in the blaze which is being investigated by the Fire Marshall's Office. That same day, there was a call to a garage fire at 106 Charles Street East. There was no damage.

On April 9, a grease fire at 91 Thames Street South caused approximately \$1,000 damage to the apartment. There was also some content damage. There were three dwelling calls, one mercantile, one industrial, two grass, three auto and truck, and three miscel-

laneous fire calls last month.

Also during the month, Firefighter Bob Richardson and Fire Chief Ken Campbell attended the monthly meeting of the Oxford County Fire Departments Association in Tillsonburg. Two representatives from King Seagraves Company of Woodstock gave a talk on fire department pumps and their maintenance.

At the monthly staff meeting of the Ingersoll department, members went on a tour of the Oxford Regional Nursing Home with a question and answer period with the home management staff.

A Beaver group and the leaders toured the station and were given a presentation by Firefighter Richardson.

Ingersoll Times
May 12, 1982

INGERSOLL TIMES
May 12, 1982

Access to southern section

Work begins on new fire hall

INGERSOLL — Next door to the town's major construction project — the Mutual Street bridge — work has started on a project which is indirectly tied to the bridge.

The town will move its fire department to an empty building on Mutual Street once the bridge is completed giving emergency vehicles a direct route to the southern part of town.

The work is being done through the Employment Incentive Program grant under which the province pays the

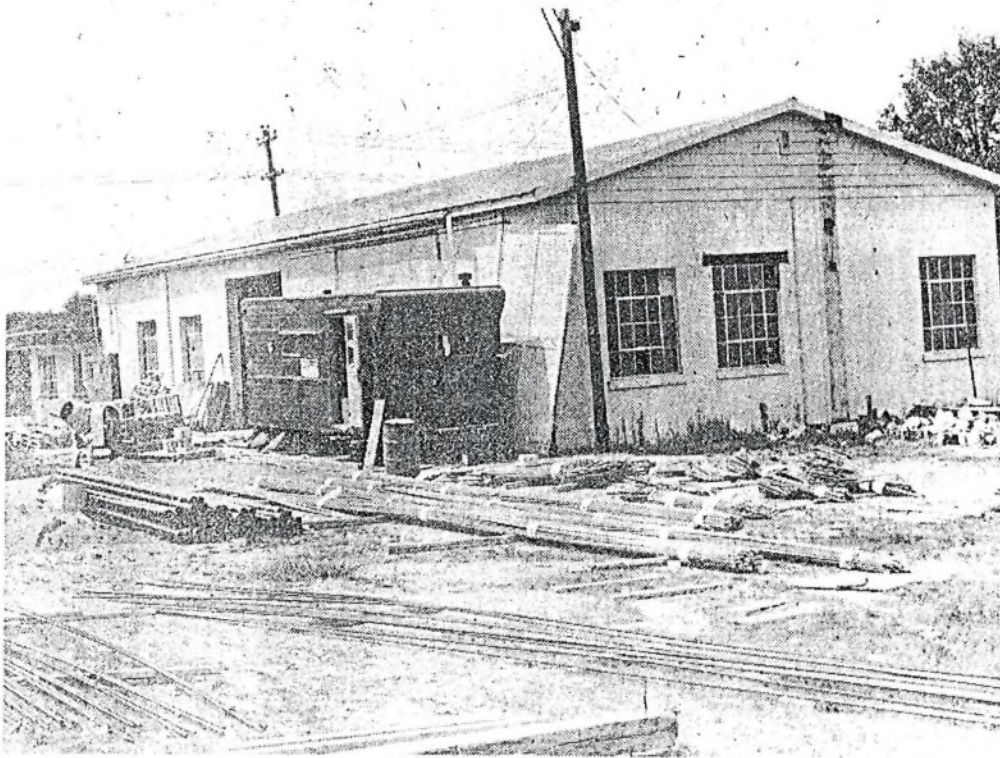
salaries while the town pays for materials.

So far, the three workers have blocked some windows and doors and constructed a new window and door. Development Commissioner Ted Hunt said the workers will probably move over to the police station next week to carry out some renovations there before cold weather.

Then, they will return to the fire hall which needs a new roof and floor, insulation, and some electrical and plumbing work. Hunt said the work will continue until the money runs out.

The town has also received funds for several projects, including the fire hall, under the Neighborhood Improvement Program. Because the town received less money than it had hoped, changes will have to be made in its plans.

As well, the town didn't include its share of the project's cost in this year's budget.



WORKERS ARE busy getting the new Ingersoll fire hall ready to be

occupied.

(Staff photo)

Sentinel - Review
August 25th 1982

New fire hall work started

BY CHERYL STEWART

The dream of a new fire hall is fast becoming a reality as work got underway on the new building on Mutual Street several weeks ago.

According to Town Development Officer Ted Hunt, three workers, hired through the Ontario Employment Incentive Program, have started some of the work at the new fire hall. Masonry work, blocking doors and windows and putting in new ones, a partition, and clearing out the building, have been crossed off the list of work to be done.

Still to be completed before the fire department can start to move in, is a new floor, heating system, ceiling, overhead doors, insulation and painting. Mr. Hunt said it is not known when the building will be ready or when the department will make the move from the old fire hall on King Street West.

In the next few weeks, the workers will be moving to the police department building to do renovations there, and after completion, will be moving back to work on the fire hall, said Mr. Hunt. He said the employment program runs into December

and the workers will be working on the fire hall for as long as possible.

Along with the new fire hall, work on the Mutual Street bridge is going smoothly and the completion date is still set for mid-October.

Town Engineer Eric Booth said there have been no interruptions in the bridge work. This week, he expects the concrete to be poured for the north abutments. This leaves the deck and the roadwork, including rebuilding the road between the two sets of railroad tracks and the construction of the sidewalks.

He also said no positive word has been received from the provincial government for additional funding for the bridge, which was requested.

At a special meeting of town council in June, it was decided to ask the government for an additional \$90,500 in supplementary subsidy funds for the project.

The town received word in June, a grant had been awarded to cover 80 per cent of the bridge cost to a maximum of \$284,000, but when tenders came in, there was a shortfall of funds.

Tenders called for June 7 ranged from \$193,243 to \$536,310, creating a minimum shortfall of \$36,000 in funds.

W.G. Kelly Construction of Seaforth is doing the bridge work.

With the removal of a transformer station from the rear of the police department building, an addition will be constructed to give the department more room. The police committee made this recommendation at its regular meeting Monday night and approved rough plans for the 25 foot, six inch by 14 foot addition.

Improvements to the building have been scheduled to begin since August 9 but because the Public Utilities Commission was removing the transformer, the work had to be delayed until this was completed.

The original improvements did not include the extra space, which will be a storage room and an interview room, but only a second exit, emergency lighting, a rest room for female staff, an exhaust fan in one of the washrooms, and fireproofing the furnace room.

The second exit is proposed for the north side of the building and will be constructed from the existing lunch room window. The addition will run alongside the second exit to Oxford Street.

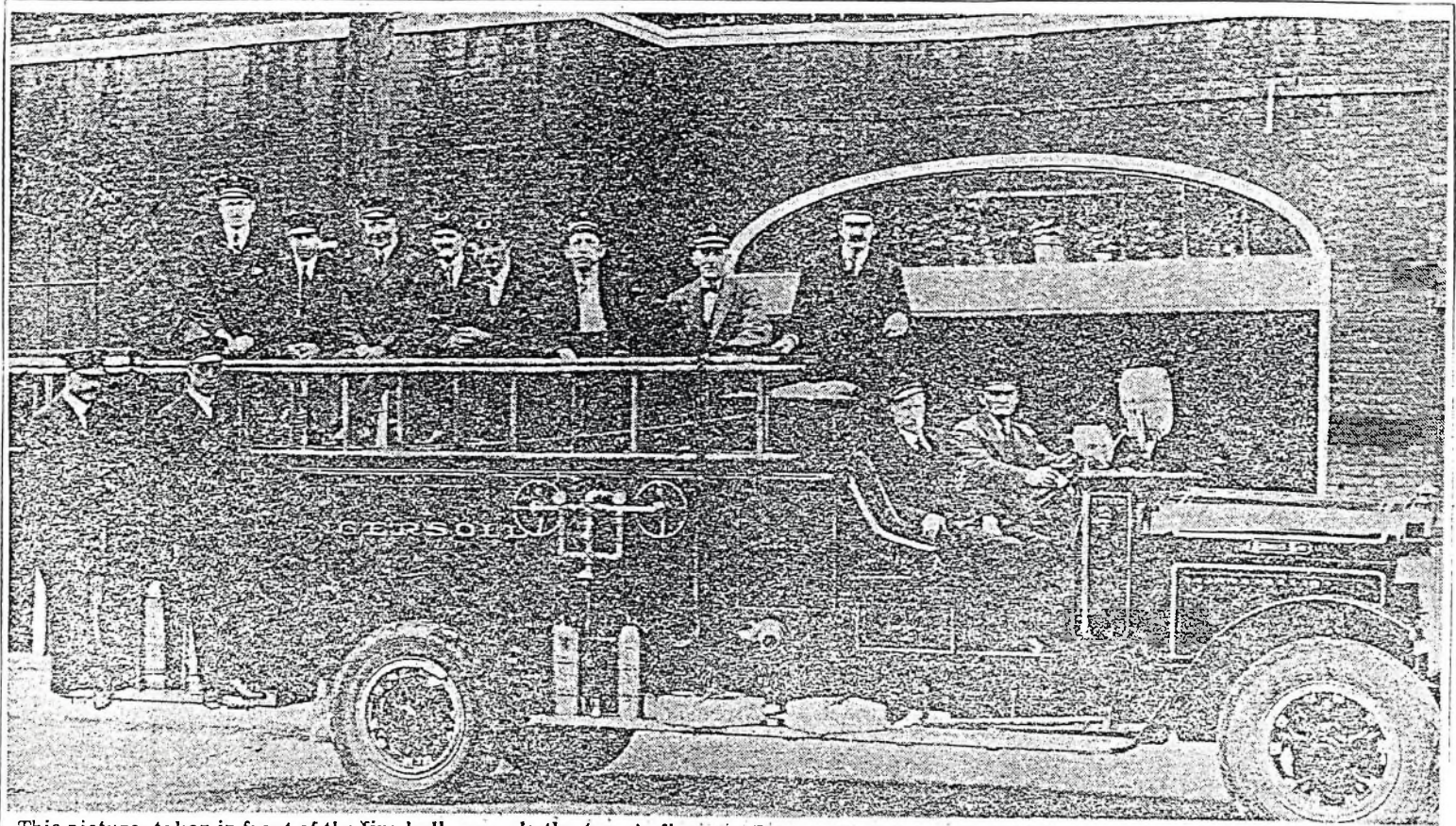
The estimated cost for material for the second exit is \$2,500 and \$6,500 for the addition, not including interior finishing. The labor is being done by three workers hired through the town's Ontario Employment Incentive Program.

Only \$5,500 has been budgeted for this work so the police committee decided to give the go ahead for as much of the work to be done as can be, with the allotted funds.

Money to complete it will be gained either by transferring it from other budgeted items or by waiting until next year's budget to complete the project.

Ingersoll Times
September 1st 1982

Fire Dept



This picture, taken in front of the fire hall, reveals the town's fire department as it was in 1927. Pictured here from left to right are firefighters E. Gray, R. Richardson, H. Noe, D. Noe, D. Markham,

B. Noe, H. Holland, F. Noe, F. Westlake, Mr. Hartsell, S. Radford and W. MacMillan.

Ingersoll Times
October 13th 1982

Fire calls are down, losses up in 1982

There were fewer fire calls in 1982 compared to 1981, but the estimated fire loss is greater. Fire Chief Ken Campbell estimated the 1981 fire loss at \$107,000 for 77 calls. In 1982, there were 69 calls with an estimated total fire loss of \$125,000.

"A lot of the fires last year could have been prevented," said the chief. "They were carelessness. There are only three things that cause fires--men, women and children."

He said many fires were caused by careless smoking, carelessness in the kitchen and the improper use of equipment which caused a fire.

There were several big fires in 1982. On April 30, the department was called to 130 Bond Street for a house fire. Damage was estimated at \$20,000 for the building and \$5,000 for contents.

On June 23, there was a fire at DeBruyne Feed and Farm Supply, 109 Wonham Street. There was \$5,000 estimated damage.

An \$8,000 blaze occurred July 6 at 76 King Street West. The house was vacant at the time.

There was a house fire October 18 at 83 King Street East. Approximately \$30,000 was caused in the fire. Arson is suspected.

On November 11, the department was called to 134 Culloden Road. A double

garage was burned with contents of gardening equipment, snowblowers, lawn mowers, a car and other items. There was \$20,000 damage estimated in the blaze.

As well, the fire department put in many hours for the August 10 train collision near Pemberton Street. Thirteen fire fighters were on hand for the day assisting injured passengers into ambulances, directing traffic and carrying out various duties.

Ingersoll Times
January 5th 1983

First move in 120 years

Firefighters move to their new home

INGERSOLL — After exactly 120 years in the same location, the town's fire station has moved.

Fire Chief Ken Campbell said the department had been at its town hall location since March, 1862. But on March 1, 1983, all the equipment was moved down to the newly renovated structure at 110 Mutual St.

The move has been in the works for almost two years. The building was purchased in the spring of 1981 but work was held up until a new Mutual Street bridge was built over the

Thames River because the old structure wouldn't hold the weight of the fire trucks.

That bridge was built last summer at the same time some of the renovation work was done by workers under an Employment Incentive Program. The town paid for the materials. The work included a new roof and floor, blocking out some windows, insulation and installing new doors.

There are still some minor renovations remaining, mostly to the exterior.

Campbell said he was "very pleased" with the move because

the new building is a great improvement on the old hall which was located near a very busy intersection. The new structure also has more office space and more floor space in the garage for the fire vehicles. There are separate doors for both fire trucks.

At this week's administration and finance committee meeting, Mayor Doug Harris praised the work of the full and part-time fire fighters who have used their own time to move the department to its new quarters and finish renovations.

Sentinel - Review

March 4th 1983



ONE OF THE MAJOR advantages of the new fire hall for Fire Chief Ken Campbell is the

greater room for the vehicles.
(Staff photo by Barry Ward)

Sentinel - Review
March 4th 1983

Ingersoll Times
May 4th 1983

Fire hall opens

The town's new fire hall at 110 Mutual Street is now officially open. Monday night, about 50 people gathered at the building with town officials and representatives of the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office.

The move was made from the old hall on King Street West in March, with part-time and full-time firefighters lending a helping hand. Work started on the new hall in August of last year and major renovations were finally complete in the new year.

At the opening, each official praised the new facility. "It has been 120 years since we had an official opening of a fire hall in Ingersoll and it was about time we had another one," commented Master of Ceremonies Town Development Officer Ted Hunt.

"I am sure this building will serve the town for many years to come," said Councillor Jack Warden, noting the 120 year use of the old hall. "I congratulate the chief on his very fine record and I wish him and his staff all the best."

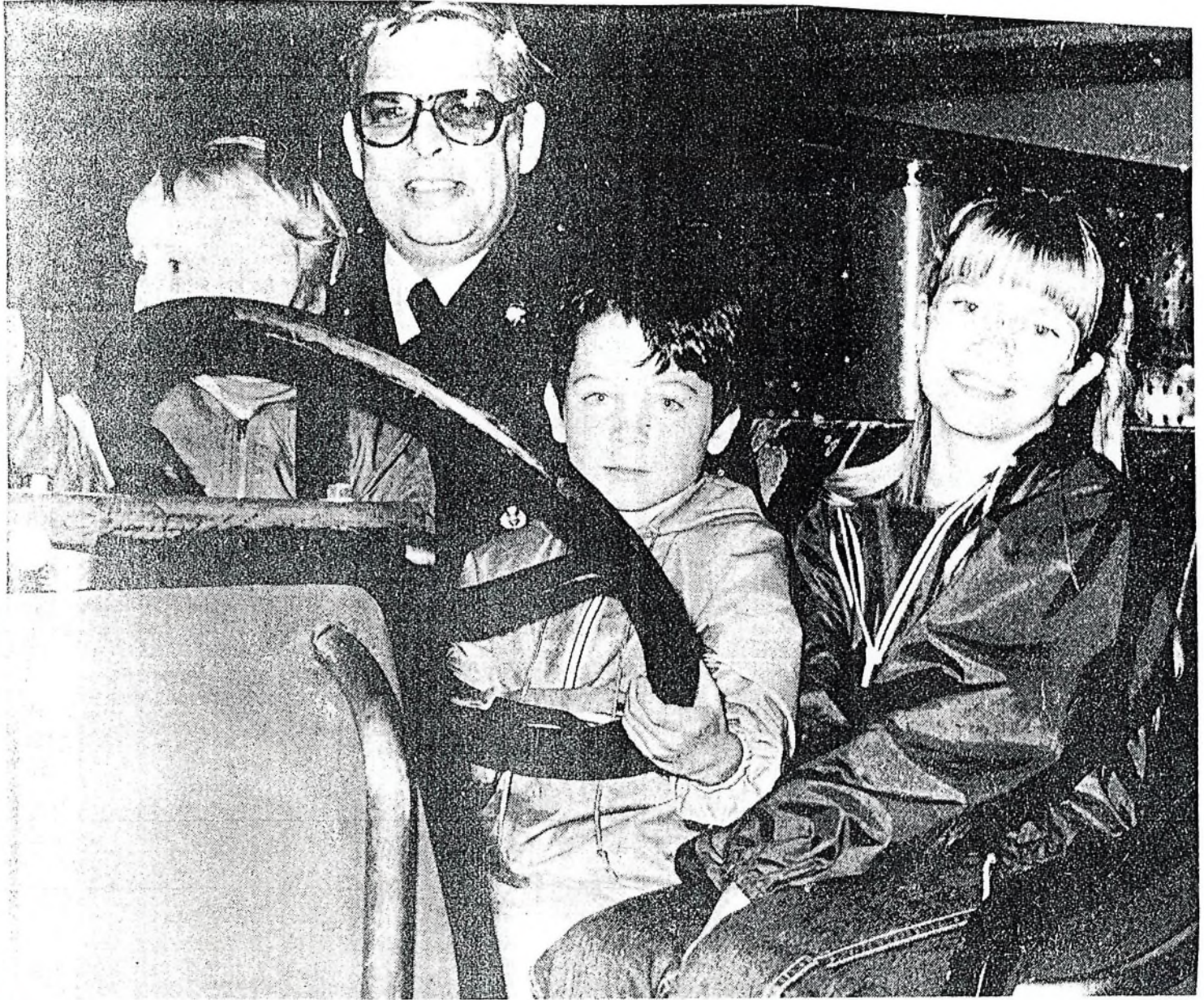
Mayor Doug Harris talked of the easy decision made by council two years ago to purchase the building for a new fire hall. "This building was not too hard of a decision for council. We thought about it for 10 to 15 minutes in length when it came right down to it. There must be something good about this fire department. We, as a council, are proud of this department."

"And there must be something good about working for this department. The

firefighters of Ingersoll seem to take pride in working for the department. When they got into this building, they did a lot of work on their own," said the mayor.

Ken Agnew, fire services advisor, was at the opening, representing the Fire Marshal's Office. "It is admirable to see firefighters today not only work at the building, but work on it. It is also admirable your town has taken a giant step in providing this facility for the fire department," he said.

Chief Ken Campbell had words of thanks for his men. "I would like to thank all the firefighters. They are a great bunch of guys. The boys really appreciate this new building."



About 50 people gathered Monday night for the official opening of the new fire hall on Mutual Street. Town officials and county dignitaries gave opening speeches and then cut the ribbon to mark the official opening. Fire Chief

Ken Campbell showed the old pumper to several youngsters at the opening, including left to right, Matthew Fortner, Jeff Ponting and Angela Ponting.

Ingersoll Times
May 4th 1983

Major downtown fire "inevitable"

BY RON PRESTON

A major fire in Ingersoll's historic downtown, similar to fires that ravaged Ridgetown, Leamington and other southwestern Ontario towns in recent years, is "inevitable" according to Fire Chief Ken Campbell.

Bill Exley, a fire investigator with the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office, agreed with Chief Campbell but stressed that Ingersoll's buildings "are no more hazardous than the next town's". The Fire Marshal's Office is currently doing a study of the Ingersoll Fire Department's equipment and needs. A report is expected within the next two months.

Ingersoll is typical of many of the older towns and cities in the province. Most were built in the late 19th or early 20th century when there were no building or fire codes.

Ingersoll's downtown was basically rebuilt after a major fire in 1872 destroyed most of the front street area. Mr. Exley said many of the buildings were built to

close together, with no fire brick or fire walls.

Even when fire walls were erected, later renovations for wiring and plumbing ruined the effect of the fire wall if the holes weren't patched, Chief Campbell said.

Mr. Exley explained that old buildings have unique hazards that newer buildings don't. Many buildings have been redone with dropped ceilings and redone walls creating "hidden spaces" that firefighters are unaware of when they attempt to stop a fire.

Floor joyses in the older structures often lead from one building to the next, spreading the fire on the dry, porous wood that Mr. Exley said is "like a sponge".

There are no easy solutions to the problem of preventing a fire from spreading throughout the old buildings. Sprinkler systems sometimes "cause more damage than a fire" to stores with appliance or furniture goods.

Mr. Exley recommends that any tenant of an apart-

Ingersoll Times
Aug. 24, 1983.

All the equipment on display

Town's firefighters show off new station

INGERSOLL - The children wanted to get on board the old fire truck or collect the fire safety pamphlets, their parents cast an eye over the firefighting gear.

The Ingersoll Fire Depart-

ment held an open house Sunday, the first one at their new station on Mutual Street.

The department moved in March from its hall downtown, where they had been located for

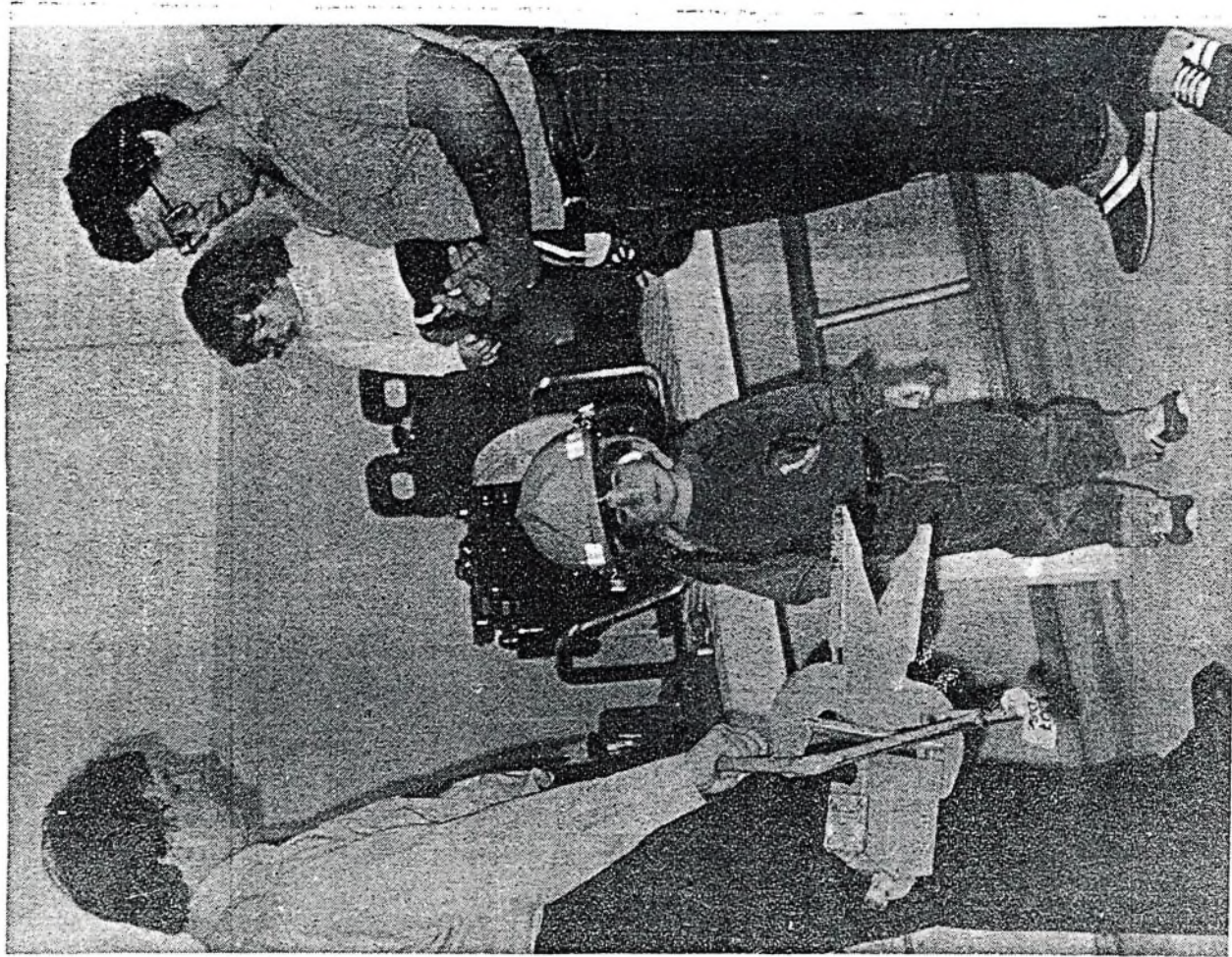
120 years, to the building on Mutual Street which had once served as a garage for a construction business.

The move from the old, smaller quarters to the roomy

Mutual Street premises was "quite a change," Fire Chief Ken Campbell said. There is more office space at the new hall, and more space for the town's fire vehicles.

In addition to the two modern day pumpers, the station also houses a 1927 fire truck that had been built in Ingersoll, and which is brought out for show on occasion.

Among the up-to-date gear on view Sunday was an extrication device for getting into motor vehicles, four new Scott air packs and bright yellow helmets, which conform to the latest provincial regulations.



THE INGERSOLL Fire Department held an open house at its new station on Mutual Street Sunday, and dozens of local residents took time out to visit the department. Here, Firefighter Darell Parker demonstrates a cutting device used for auto-extrication to Ed Dukes, of 125 Metcalf St., Ingersoll, who brought his children Amanda, 2, and Joey, 4, along for the tour. Right,

Daily Sentinel
Review
Oct 3, 1983

FIRE DEPT.

SENTINEL REVIEW
October 3, 1983



10-year-old Randy Charles, of Tillsonburg, dons a firefighters helmet and rings the bell atop the 1927 pumper truck at the Ingersoll Fire Department Sunday.

(Staff photos by Greg Rothwell)

Daily Sentinel
Review
Oct. 3, 1983.

Banner year for fire department

BY RON PRESTON

1983 was a banner year for the Ingersoll Fire Department as the number of emergency calls was down by 20 per cent, and the force moved into its new headquarters on Mutual Street.

Fire Chief Ken Campbell delivered his annual report to the town's administration and finance committee last week. While pleased with the decrease, Chief Campbell said "I really can't put my finger on it (the reason) at all."

Fire content losses were doubled, increasing to \$54,000, while structural damage decreased to \$45,200, a 40 per cent drop.

Chief Campbell said it was "unusual" for a content loss figure to be higher than that of the structural damage but when attempting to save a building contents are often destroyed by water from the pumpers and smoke.

Both fire inspections and panel tests

were down last year, mainly because of the move from the old fire hall on King Street West, to the new location.

The first four months of last year were a "washout" as time normally spent on inspections was used to move equipment or work on the building itself.

Inspections are done on a "need to" basis and all factories in the area have been checked over the last two years.

Fire drills were conducted at all of the schools, nursing homes and the hospital last year, with some facilities practicing more than once.

The volunteer force has 13 members, along with three full-time officers. It has a 1958 pumper truck and a 1975 pumper with the tele-squirt ladder.

Chief Campbell said he would like to have enough money in the department's reserve fund to purchase a pumper to replace the oldest fire truck.

The new truck will cost approximately \$85,000 and he hopes to have the funds within two years.

Ingersoll Times
Feb. 8, 1984

INGERSOLL TIMES
February 8, 1984

Except for bylaw fire department is ready to go

INGERSOLL — Does the town of Ingersoll have a fire department or not?

The fire trucks are there; the building is there; and the equipment is all there.

But the required bylaw under which fire departments are established in Ontario, is nowhere in sight.

The absence of a fire department bylaw was one of several findings of the Ontario Fire Marshal's survey of the town's fire fighting system.

Also missing, is a bylaw ap-

proving a mutual aid system under which neighboring municipalities help each other fight fires when need be.

"When the Fire Marshal did the survey, we couldn't find the bylaws," Ingersoll fire chief Ken Campbell said.

Current town officials have assumed the bylaws were long in place before they took on their jobs years ago, Campbell said. "We've been working under that assumption for all these years."

Since the Ingersoll Fire Department was established in 1863, the record of the original fire department bylaw could have easily gotten lost in the 121 years since, Campbell speculated.

Town staff are now correcting the situation by preparing new bylaws.

The Fire Marshal's survey made about 20 recommendations, but they would not lead to any significant changes in the town's fire protection system, the chief said.

The report recommends the department set up new training programs, appoint a designated fire inspector, and buy a fire van to carry equipment.

SENTINEL - REVIEW

March 16, 1987

Under new bylaw town's firemen can help others

INGERSOLL — From now on, Ingersoll and other nearby municipalities will be sharing their firefighting resources.

Town council has passed a bylaw under which the Ingersoll Fire Department will participate in the county mutual fire aid system.

Under the bylaw, the Ingersoll department is authorized to leave the limits of the town or fire area to respond to calls for assistance from other municipal fire departments on

a reciprocal basis.

The fire department will make such forays at the discretion of the fire chief and under the direction of the Oxford County fire co-ordinator.

The bylaw includes other municipal fire departments participating in the Oxford County mutual fire aid system or any other regional, district or county system.

SENTINEL - REVIEW

April 12, 1984

Days of fighting fire with water buckets long gone

BY RENE McKNIGHT

When the bell that adorned the Old Town Hall sounded, the Ingersoll fire brigade was quick to respond. With water pails in hand, the team, consisting of 13 volunteers and one chief, would rush to extinguish a fire and stop it from spreading to other buildings.

In 1863 Ingersoll's first fire brigade was formed with R.H. Carroll acting as chief.

The bell which summoned fire fighters to work, was rung on a code system. Ingersoll had three different wards, each containing fire fighting equipment. Depending which ward the fire was located in, the bell would sound a specific number of times.

In 1871 the fire department had 12 wooden pails and two jiggers. When the blaze of 1872 swept through town, this was the only equipment Ingersoll had to combat it.

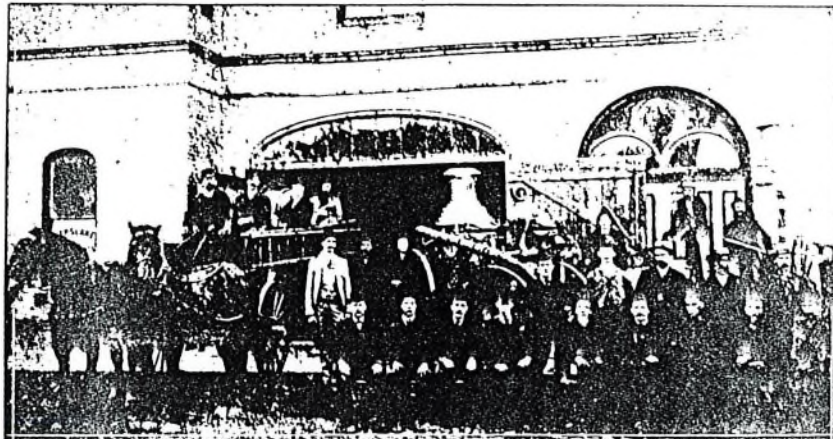
When the Ingersoll fire brigade came into being, most of the buildings in town were made of wood, and fires were a common occurrence. Because of the risks involved with fire fighting, and the regularity of fires, volunteers were paid 50 cents a month.

A modernized apparatus added to the Ingersoll fire brigade in 1873 was a steam engine that cost the town \$4,750. That year also marked the introduction of horses to the department and the man-powered jiggers were no longer needed.

When emergencies occurred, everyone was expected to help. Any male between the ages of 16 and 60, according to the law, had to assist in extinguishing fires when asked by a brigade member. Those violating the law faced a stiff fine, with a maximum penalty of either \$20 or 20 days in jail.

The fire brigade discontinued the use of the bell for summoning volunteers in 1927, one year after it got its first motorized equipment. Telephones were then the method used for contacting volunteer fire fighters.

In the mid 1960s a radio system was developed and the telephone system was



Since its formation in 1867 Ingersoll Fire Department has seen what technology can do. In 1873 the town fire brigade had a steam engine as well as horse-drawn apparatuses.

eliminated. The Old Town Hall served as the first fire station for the Ingersoll brigade and until just a few years ago, the department

continued to operate from this building. It is now located on Mutual Street.

Ingersoll's fire department has seen many changes since its formation 121-years-ago.

especially in methods of transportation. Since its beginning, the staff has increased to include three full-time employees and 16 volunteers.

Major fires in Ingersoll's history

BY MIKE WALSH

In bold letters, on the front page of the May 10, 1872 edition of the London Free Press, read the following headlines.

- Great fire in Ingersoll
- Two Lives Lost
- Immense Loss
- The Business Part of the town in Ashes.
- Full particulars

On May 7, 1872, the Town of Ingersoll suffered its most disastrous fire. It

destroyed 80 businesses on the west side of Thames Street South and claimed two lives.

The fire, termed one of the most destructive disasters anywhere in Canada, broke out in a stable located behind the Royal Exchange Hotel. Because the buildings in those days were constructed out of wood, it didn't take long for the blaze to spread. Within minutes, buildings on the east side of Oxford Street, between Thames and King, were invaded by the fire.

Newspaper reports indicated the fire went as far as the market square and despite the mild north easterly winds that evening, the heat was so intense that the flames flew over the buildings directly across the street.

Ingersoll fire department arrived at the scene around 8 p.m. that evening but were not capable of controlling the fire. Their equipment included a two face pump of manual rocker type, water buckets, wet blankets and carpets.

Shortly after their arrival, Chief Engineer Brady wired for assistance from the London and Woodstock fire departments. The London Phoenix Company (fire dept.) arrived just in time to stop a fire in a large three storey building owned by Mayor John McDonald, from spreading. The house was saved.

Water was fetched from cisterns between King and Charles Streets and from a creek located on the east side of Thames Street. Woodstock fire department was late to arrive because the train they were transported on was tardy, said the 1872 report.

Hundreds of families in the vicinity, fearing the fire would spread to the residential zone, packed up their belongings and moved them to places of safety. Many

townsfolk braved the hot flames to remove goods from the main business core. Two people died as a result.

C.C. Paine, a pumpmaker in Ingersoll, was trapped in R.H. Young's store when he spent too long in there trying to save some of the store goods. People outside of the building, aware of Mr. Paine's fate, were unable to help him.

A wall at Fawke's Jewelry store fell on top of John Omand while he was also trying to save the store goods.

Although the exact cause of the fire is not known, there was speculation it was the work of an arsonist. The fire was caused by coal oil or some other flammable substance many people felt, because a large volume of black smoke had dispersed from the empty stable hay loft.

The fires raged for eight hours and caused an estimated \$30,000 damage. Eighty-years-later, in the September 13, 1952 edition of The London Free Press, a story listed the monetary damage to each of the buildings affected by the fire. Many of the buildings were either insured or partially insured, but many were not insured at all. Also, many of the buildings were new.

Most of the buildings were replaced by solid brick ones, many of which are still standing today.

Another disastrous fire in Ingersoll occurred in 1856, destroying the main business block which at that time was King Street East. This fire destroyed all records pertaining to the history of Ingersoll.

On July 20, 1894, a fire started at the Nationalist Printing Office, located on the south side of King Street East, ruined 30 buildings. Damage was estimated at \$30,000.

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Ingersoll Times
July 25, 1984

Underwriters study has the fire chief all pumped up

By RICK HUGHES
of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — A Fire Underwriters study of the operations of the town's fire department recommends that the town buy a new modern \$100,000 pumper, and that the department increase its staff to 25, from the present level of 16.

Those were the major recommendations contained in the survey, which the town received in October, 10 months late. The administration and finance committee recently reviewed it with Fire Chief Ken Campbell.

Campbell took issue with many of the recommendations.

"When I first read it, I thought they were talking about another department," he said.

The survey contains a long list of inadequacies and shortcomings, but Campbell insists the picture is not as bad as it is painted in the report.

"It sounds to me like they are trying to compare this department with a full-time department," he said outside the meeting.

Campbell disagreed with many of the recommendations, and simply does not understand why some others are even in the report.

IN RESERVE

However he does agree with the main recommendation, that the department acquire a modern pumper with firefighting capabilities to replace its present 1958 model.

It also recommends that the 1958 pumper be reconditioned and kept in reserve duty.

A new pumper would cost approximately \$100,000. At present, the town has less than half that amount in reserve for a new fire truck.

Campbell disagreed with the recommendation that the department needs nine more men.

"I can't see it for at least the next four or five years."

He is also sceptical about a recommendation to move the department's dispatching to the county dispatch facility.

The report says, "Due to the number of calls received... the limited manpower available... and the fact that the communication centre could be left unmanned for a considerable amount of time, serious consideration should be given relocating the dispatching to the county dispatch facility."

Campbell said it would be confusing for people, who, after calling the same number for so many years, would suddenly have to switch to a new one. He said the most the radio would be left unstaffed is two to three minutes.

NOT MUCH TIME

"It's a very short period of time. I will admit there is a little time, but it's not a great deal."

He considers the recommendation that "one ladder company" and "two pumper companies" be sent to all non-residential fires and "two pumper companies" to all residential fires as nonsense.

"That's big city talk. Both my trucks have ladders. I don't even know what a company is."

At present, both trucks and all of the department's 16 men respond to all alarms.

The report claims the department is deficient in some basic equipment, but Campbell says it has many of the items

it is said to be missing, such as hose lengths, a rescue saw and back-up supplies of air cylinders for the breathing apparatus.

"It sounds like they didn't look at our equipment."

A recommendation that the staff training be increased to weekly, from the monthly sessions now held, is simply impractical, he said.

He said he has a hard enough time getting the men out for the one session.

"I've got guys that are sleeping there three times a month," he said.

The report said the department was administered well, and it praised its fire prevention program.

There were also recommendations about needed improvements in the town's water supply.

Mayor Doug Harris said those would be brought up with the Public Utility Commission.

Coun. Bob Ball supported Campbell in his assessment of many of the report's recommendations.

"Obviously, these guys are used to doing a full-time force, and they can't get used to the idea that it's different."

Campbell will go over the report in depth, and present a complete assessment to the new council in January.

Sentinel
Review

November 19, 1971

Fire losses double

When Ingersoll Fire Chief Ken Campbell issues his annual report on 1986 fire activities, he'll likely have added a "saved" column to his statistics.

"We can look pretty bad when there's a large fire loss. Some people might wonder if the fire department actually responded to the call," Chief Campbell told the Administration and Finance Committee Wednesday night.

"If we go to a house fire worth \$80,000 with \$35,000 in contents, and if only \$20,000 is lost we saved a lot," Campbell told committee members.

In his annual fire report to the councillors, Chief Campbell pointed out the total structural losses for 1985 almost doubled over 1984, going from \$49,700 to \$97,300.

The large increase is attributed to the increase in residential fires, which almost doubled going from 13 to 20 in 1985.

However the statistics in the annual report show the number of fire calls the department responded to actually decreased, going from a 1984 level of 65 to 60 in 1985.

The value of content losses in fires went up four times going from \$14,000 to \$64,000 last year. But the annual report pointed out in 1983 the content loss was \$54,400 meaning the low 1984 figure is not typical.

Firemen spent more man-hours at fire calls mainly because more men responded. The total man-

hours at fires rose to 429 hours, up from 323 in 1984 and 257 in 1983.

Fire inspections last year increased to 216 from 148 in 1984, while there were 368 tests on alarm panels.

In other activities, the fire department gave talks or tours to 397 people last year and fire drills were carried out at all schools, hospital, nursing homes for the handicapped and senior citizen homes.

Chief Campbell said in his report all firemen received training in general areas and toured the industrial plants in town.

NEW VAN

In other fire department news, Chief Campbell will have to wait a bit longer before he can get the go-ahead to purchase a new or used van.

Campbell has requested a van, to be used on inspection duty and other general department business, for a number of years and last month councillors asked the fire chief to get prices on new and used vans.

Chief Campbell found used vans were priced from \$2,000 to \$9,650 while new vans ranged from \$10,700 to \$12,000.

Mayor Doug Harris suggested the fire department should get firm price quotes from dealers on a new van and said there is no sense spending a few thousand dollars on a used vehicle.

Councillor Art McCart echoed the Mayor's sentiments using the cliché, "there's no sense buying

someone else's problems."

The van would not come with the necessary emergency equipment and a six cylinder motor would be appropriate.

Handwritten:
Ingersoll
Times
February 12 1986
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First Dept

52-071-006
Review
July 2, 1970

Ingersoll's no clip joint, but ...

By PHYLLIS COULTER
of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — Firemen

or ambulance drivers may be playing cards or polishing the trucks, while waiting for an emergency call. They are ready to go in a moment's

notice though — when they get a call. However, that call may be delayed because a person panics and can't immediately find an emergency number, says Tele-Systems president Jim Zaza who is behind a project that will make those numbers more accessible to every resident in Ingersoll.

Starting this week, each town resident will be receiving an information package including a small plastic clip that attaches to the telephone and provides police, fire, and ambulance numbers at a glance. Residents of Mount Elgin, Thamesford, Beachville, Putnam, Salford, and Embro will be receiving similar packages within two weeks.

Because the phone clips will be given free to area residents, there is always the danger they may throw the package out as junk mail, and not even look at it, says Zaza. Thus, when an emergency hits and they may panic, and there is no

saying what number they will dial. In the 911 system in London, where people have only three numbers to remember, they get the three digits mixed up and often dial 411 or 114 in an emergency. In Ingersoll, people have 21 numbers to remember for the three emergency services. There is bound to be some confusion or delay, Zaza says.

Some people dial zero, and expect the operator to connect them with the right person. But what people often don't realize is that the operator they receive when they call from Ingersoll may be in Hamilton or Toronto, and it takes them time to find Ingersoll's emergency number, says Zaza.

WRONG NUMBERS

Ingersoll's fire chief knows people call the wrong numbers during emergencies. Ken Campbell says one out of every 10 fire calls comes from the police. He said the first few minutes of a fire are crucial, and if the call isn't made immediately, there is little the fire department can do. For example, at the recent Merrit St. fire here, two houses were lost because no one saw the

fire before it got strongly under way. Public awareness is a big part of the answer, Zaza says.

About 8,000 phone sticker clips and emergency information packets will be going out to people in the Ingersoll area during July to promote awareness and safety. Bob Mott of McKim Hardware, 142 Thames St. East is sponsoring the cost of the phone clips and distribution in this area, so the emergency numbers will be free to everyone. Anyone missed can pick one up at his store.

When Ingersoll's fire chief saw the

emergency numbers, he was surprised to find a Woodstock number for the ambulance. He said he generally called the Ingersoll hospital for an ambulance and wasn't aware his calls were being transferred to Woodstock.

Campbell says the phone clips are a good idea. On the average Ingersoll fire department answers about 60 fire calls a year, and the quicker they get the information, the quicker the department will respond.

"The difference between an occurrence and a tragedy is measured in seconds," Zaza concludes.



52-071-006
Review
July 2, 1970

No glamor in fire-fighting, says captain

A career keeping

Although there is far more to do at the fire station than most people would think, Ingersoll Fire Captain Darell Parker also says "there's a lot of waiting."

"It's not like TV," he laughs, "where there are always lots of people running around. It's the same with police shows. They're not swinging a gun around all the time."

Mr. Parker agreed that television tended to romanticize such professions as firefighting and law enforcement.

"There's not a lot of romance in fighting garbage fires," he laughed. Fire captain Parker was sitting at

his neatly organized desk that afternoon, filling out one of a variety of reports that are also the daily fare of the fire department.

"There's a fire chief and a deputy fire chief above me," said Mr. Parker. "And besides the three full-time employees, there are 16 volunteer fire fighters in Ingersoll."

It is the responsibility of the fire captain to direct the fire fighters at the scene of the fire, Mr. Parker explained, "in the absence of the fire chief or deputy chief."

The thoughtful, good-natured Ingersoll fire captain leaned back in his chair and gestured towards a photo mounted prominently against the wall -- showing the Ingersoll fire squad at their former headquarters at the old town hall.

Despite the nature of the work, Mr. Parker claims that he doesn't normally take his job home with him after the day is done, but that he responds to after-hours fire calls on the request of the fire chief or deputy chief.

The Ingersoll department has a pager system which alerts the fire-fighters, and gives the location of the blaze. The chief and the deputy also respond to the call to direct the firefighting force at the scene.

Fire captain Parker began working in the fire service in 1980 as a volunteer fire-fighter, and was hired full-time as the captain in 1982.

"It's the volunteers who really deserve the credit," said Mr. Parker. "The Ingersoll station is manned 24 hours a day. Every volunteer sleeps at the station one night every sixteen nights, so that there is always someone here."

As a result, the captain pointed out, the Ingersoll department really cuts down on the response time.

He estimated that the response to a first call is usually about half the entire fire force, and noted that at the last large Ingersoll fire on Merritt Street, there was eventually a full complement of fire fighters available to battle the blaze.

The force take their orders through a well-organized chain of command at the fire, Mr. Parker explained.

"The orders come down from the fire chief or the deputy, through me to the volunteers," he went on.

The pressure of the fire scene duties might leave most people panicked and confused, but fire captain Parker noted that "you have to learn to slow down, take a couple of breaths, and take time to make proper decisions."

"There's more to fire-fighting than pouring water on the flames," he smiled, "and it's unwise to act too quickly."

Fire captain Parker used to work in construction before he entered the fire service.

"We were putting new beams in the floor of the old fire hall," he began, smiling, "and someone pointed out to me that there was an opening for a volunteer fire-fighter in town."

"I turned the idea down the first time it was raised," he said, "but I got thinking about it later and signed up."

"No one had to talk me into it," he protested, laughing good-naturedly, "it was just something that I decided."

"I got to like it I guess," he continued. "It gets into your blood."

Mr. Parker expects that he will continue to make a career in the fire service... "in one capacity or another."

There is much more to the fire department responsibilities than the drama of swinging out of the station, sirens blaring, equipment polished, to control a local blaze.

"As well as suppression, we have a lot of fire prevention duties," said Mr. Parker. "There are industrial and commercial inspections that have to be done, and residential inspections are also done on request."

One of the fire service officers may be called upon to demonstrate a new piece of fire-extinguishing equipment in a local industry, or to give fire prevention specifics to a business with special concerns.

The department also works active-



FIRE CHIEF Ken Campbell is seated in the department's new fire van that will be used in fire inspections plus information visits to schools. The red van has very little distinguishing features to date with the exception of a small paper sign in the windshield. It soon will be identified with the town logo and the fire department's name.

(Staff photo by Phyllis Coulter)

Can now take van to visit schools

By **PHYLLIS COULTER**
of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — Fire Chief Ken Campbell drove the fire department's new van to town council's administration and finance committee meeting to show it to councillors.

Fire personnel will use the red van to drive to fire inspections and school visits. Previously they had to drive the fire truck to school demonstrations.

In August, 11 fire inspections were made in the town which is lower than usual because of the number of firefighters on vacation, Campbell said.

The van had 14 km on it when it arrived and only has 21 km now, he explained. It will be used more extensively next month.

The next step is to add distinctive painting new van. The words *Fire Dept.*, plus the town logo and possibly an emergency number were suggested by Campbell and council members as possible additions to the van.

"It would be the ideal place for a snappy safety slogan," said committee chairman Bob Ball.

Coun. Alice Elliott asked the committee if it would like to hold a slogan contest. Instead, Campbell will make some suggestions for slogans. The fire department's current stationery includes the message, "Maintain your smoke detectors," said Campbell.

Council will be considering this and other slogans for the van. Campbell said, half in jest, that if the town keeps the van for 10 or 15 years any money spent on a message for the high profile vehicle will certainly be worthwhile.

FIRE DEPT.

Fire Chief honored by town

Fire Chief Ken Campbell was honored by the Fireman's Association with two service awards Wednesday night at the regular meeting of the Ingersoll town council. Campbell received both a 20 and a 30 year service award.

The Fire Chief also received a fire exemplary service medal for meritorious service to the public security in Canada.

"Fire Chief Campbell has served the Town of Ingersoll for 30 years," Mayor Doug Harris said. "He has done it with integrity and professionalism. I'm very proud of the fact that we're the only non-city municipality in Oxford County that is full-time staffed.

"That reflects on many things in our community," Harris went on to say. "It reflects on our fire protection, and it reflects on our fire insurance rates as well."

Campbell thanked the mayor, but noted that he has actually been in the fire service for 37 years. He said he hoped to come back in three years time for the 40 year service award.

"And maybe you'll be here too," Campbell quipped as the mayor handed him the awards.

INGERSOLL TIMES
October 15, 1986

Two new firefighters

The Ingersoll Fire Department chose its first female volunteer firefighter last month.

Beverley DeBrule, 305 Oxford Street, Ingersoll, got the nod ahead of 11 other applicants for the position.

An interview team comprised of Councillors Bob Ball and Gene Mabee and the town's fire chief and his deputy talked to four of the 11 applicants before making their decision.

Larry Innes, 422 King Street West, Ingersoll, was selected to fill the next vacancy in the department, anticipated later this year.

INGERSOLL TIMES

February 11, 1987

Fewer fires so far this year

The Ingersoll fire department reported good news about area fire damage for 1987. The news was timely with this being national fire prevention week.

The department has received 50 fire calls so far this year, none of which have resulted in any structural damage to homes. Not all calls result in fire, many are merely smoke smells or a malfunction of an alarm panel.

"It has been pretty good," Deputy Fire Chief Gerald Hutson said. "Losses should be down a lot compared to last year."

In 1986 the Ingersoll department received 71 calls which resulted in an estimated \$188,000 in structural damage and \$164,000 in content loss. Hutson said 1986 was a bad year due to two large house fires on Wonham Street. In 1985 the department received only 60 calls which resulted in an estimated \$97,300 in structural damage and \$64,500 in content loss.

Fires in Ontario claimed the lives of 150 people in 1986 - down from a

five-year high of 185 deaths in 1984, according to statistics in the 1986 provincial fire losses report produced by the Ministry of the Solicitor General, office of the fire marshal.

In all of Oxford County, there were 219 fires causing a total of \$4,414,791 in damage. Seven civilians and fire fighters were injured. One person in Zorra Township died.

There are many tips and home safety devices designed for the prevention of fire. Residential sprinkler systems, similar to those found in industry, are the latest fire device for home owners. Hutson said although there is nothing in the building code which requires sprinkler systems in new homes, it is a good idea to consider installing one. He believes sprinkler systems presently on the market should come down in price within the next few years.

Hutson said proper care and maintenance of wood burning stoves in homes will prevent chimney fires during the winter season. He suggests cleaning the chimney before

the heating season and possibly a couple of times throughout the season depending on frequency of use.

Green wood should never be used in a stove. Seasoned dry wood leaves a lower creosote deposit in the flue lowering the chance of chimney fires.

Hutson said there are a number of requirements wood stove owners must meet and the department will inspect the stove if requested.

Grease fires, common within the home, can be easily controlled by turning off the source of heat and throwing a cookie sheet on top to smother the flames, according to Hutson.

He also recommends keeping a multi-purpose fire extinguisher in areas such as the kitchen which are more prone to a fire mishap.

The Ingersoll department is holding a program for the staff at Alexandra Hospital and conducting fire drills at area schools during this week's fire prevention campaign.

INGERSOLL TIMES

October 7, 1987

Good news from fire dept.

"It's good news," Gene Mabee, head of the administration and finance committee, said after looking over Ingersoll fire department's annual report.

Fire Chief Kenneth Campbell reported a slight increase in fire alarms from 71 in 1986 to 72 in 1987 but a dramatic decrease in structure and content losses.

In 1986, there was a total of \$188,000 in structure losses and

\$164,000 in content losses due to fire. In 1987, those numbers dropped to \$14,800 for structure loss and \$2,800 for content loss.

Campbell attributed the high losses in 1986 to several major fires. In May of 1986 alone, fire caused \$105,000 structural damage and \$50,600 in content loss.

Campbell also noted an increase in chimney fires resulting from the cold temperatures. He said a little maintenance could have prevented the three chimney fires so far this year.

"People want quick heat," Campbell said. "Instead of putting on their oil or electric furnaces they start a fire."

Cleaning the chimney of creosote three or four times a year, will prevent a fire-causing build-up. Using hard, dry wood will also cut down on the creosote production.

"Burning also cleans them out well," quipped Campbell, who

recently fought a chimney fire where the flames were four feet high.

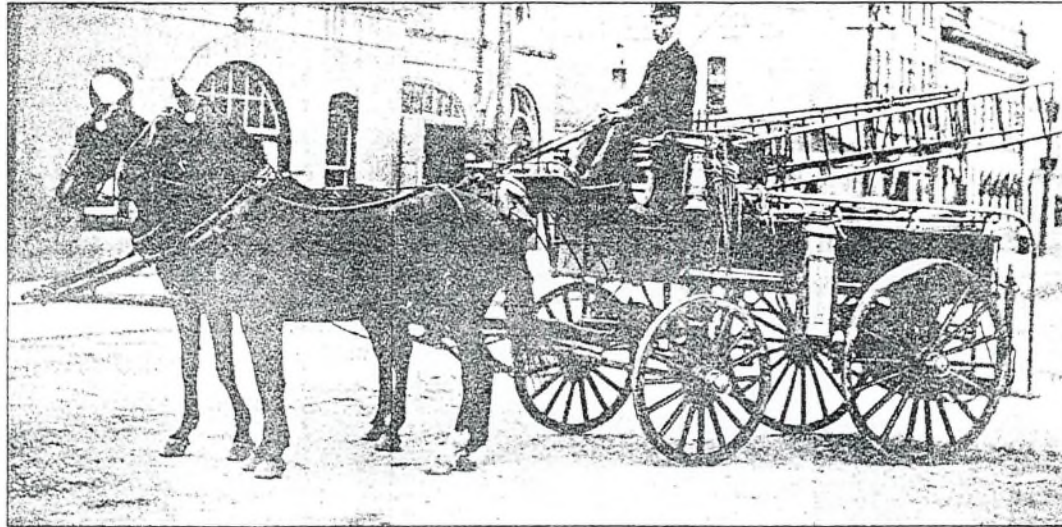
Other activities for the year included the tendering for a TCP fire truck for delivery in 1988 and the purchase of some new equipment. Firemen also busied themselves with various talks, tours, films and demonstrations. A total of 699 people participated in these safety programs compared with 397 in 1985.

"About another 100 dropped into the station for information," Campbell said.

Campbell anticipated another exciting year for the station which will be gearing up to celebrate its 125 year as an active fire department in 1988.

INGERSOLL TIMES

February 10, 1988



THE OLD town hall served as home for the fire department for many years. The bell on top of the hall would alert volunteers when a fire was happening and also tell them what ward it was located in by the number of times it rang. Here, driver Howard

McEwen has saddled up a fine team to pull the ladder wagon. The coal oil lantern near the front served as the forerunner to today's flashing lights and siren.



THIS DASHING young man served with the Ingersoll fire department from 1910-1924 and again from 1934-1955. Fred Ellis was fire chief in the '50s. Photo courtesy Ingersoll Fire Department.

Fire department marks a history

By MARILYN SMULDERS
of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — Back in 1872, the headlines screamed "Two Lives Lost, Immense Loss, The Business Part of Town in Ashes." Full particulars.

It was the fledgling Ingersoll Fire Department's initiation to a dangerous occupation. Organized only nine years earlier and equipped with two hand-powered engines, two hoses, a horse-drawn ladder wagon and 12 wooden pails, 30 volunteer firefighters under the direction of Chief Patrick Hearn set off to conquer the fire.

The blaze started off in the barn back of an Ingersoll hotel. The Burn over a horse. Dry wood and straw turned out to be excellent fodder for the fire, which quickly spread to other structures. The village of Ingersoll was left crippled.

Market building

One year later, the downtown was struck again by fire.

And, soon after, the village's market building was gutted by flames. This time however, the firefighters were all assembled together, having gathered for the

social event of Ingersoll, the firefighter's ball.

"It was an attractive sight to see the fire engine going to a fire," wrote a reporter during the era of horse and buggy fire fighting. "Horses galloping and smoke billowing from the short smoke stack. These streets were stone and gravel and fire often flew from the shoes of the horses when a stone was struck. Bystanders sometimes feared for the safety of corner stores when the team galloped around the corner."

The last fire is what convinced town council that their fire department needed better, more advanced equipment. At a time when people used wood for heating and cooking, fires were common occurrences. Trying to beat them with the bucket brigade just wasn't going to be effective.

The first ladder truck, minus the horses, was purchased in 1906. A second truck supplemented the force in 1927. Witnessing these changes first hand was J.C. Williams, the fire chief who originated from London.

Next major fire

Ironically, the next major fire occurred while the men were dressed in

their finery for another firefighter's ball. However, in 1934, the fire in Ingersoll's downtown core wasn't nearly as disastrous as those years previous.

Records of the department become sketchy until 1963.

"They were lost in a fire," joked the current chief, Ken Campbell.

Campbell did recall three other fires in the late '30s that caused extensive damage to stores in the downtown.

One of them, in April of 1932, kept fire fighters not only busy with the blaze but also with the crowds that turned out for their evening's entertainment. Literally hundreds of people turned out to watch a fire on Thames Street, near the Presbyterian Church. As flames licked the evening sky, the mood was almost festive.

"When a building burns, that's rough," said the veteran fire fighter, on the force since 1949, "but when there's loss of life, that's a tragic thing."

In Campbell's memory, there have been five fire-related deaths in Ingersoll during recent years. A fire in 1975 claimed the lives of two young children. Their mother was seriously injured when flames forced her to

jump out of a second storey window.

"I've never seen the guys take it so hard," recalled Campbell. "There were a lot of tears."

The three other unrelated deaths were all due to asphyxiation. Careless smoking was the cause in at least two of these cases.

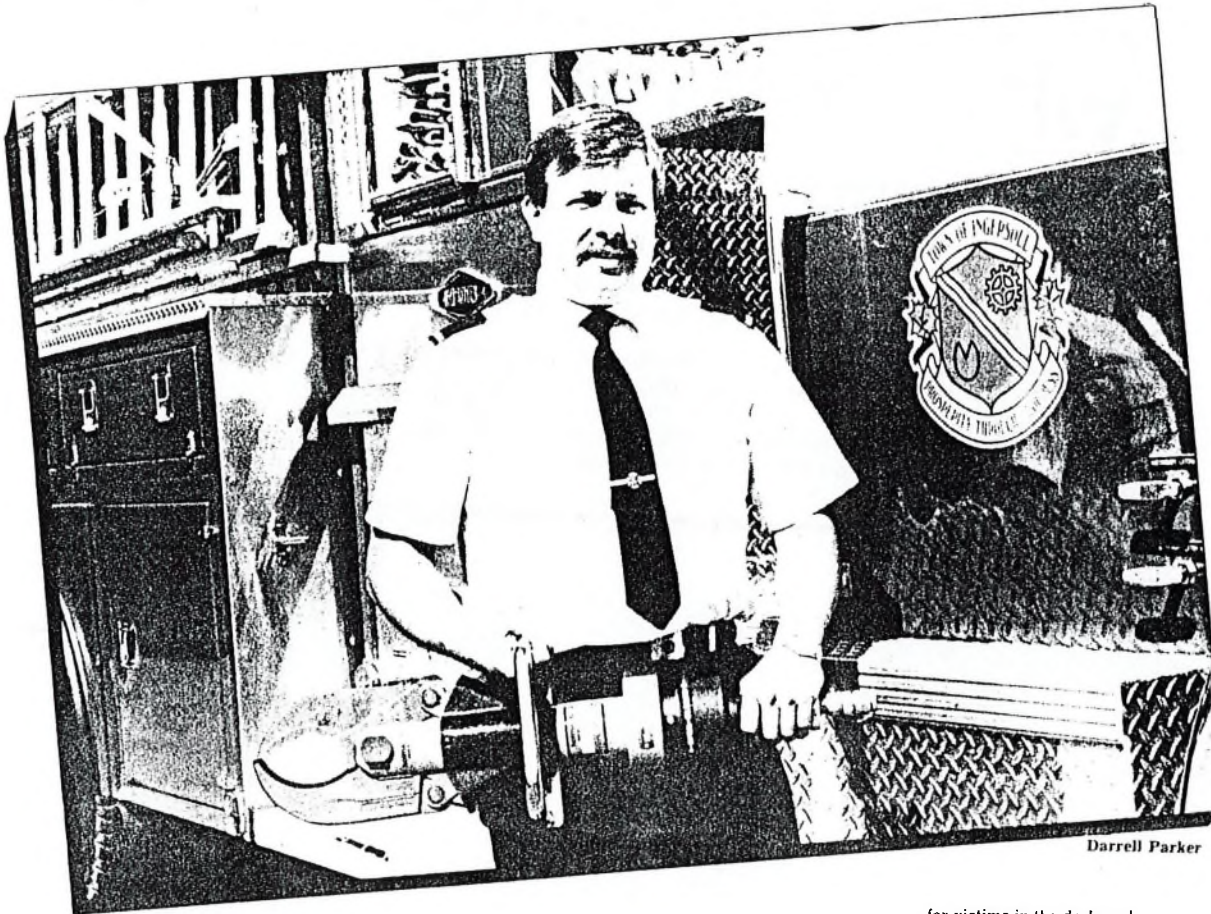
This year, the force will become home to a new triple combination pumper from the Hub Fire Truck Company in Cambridge. Campbell hopes it'll arrive in time for celebrations marking the 125th anniversary of the force.

"The guys have really worked hard," he remarked. "It should be fun."

SENTINEL REVIEW
MAY 14, 1983

Page 10/12

Squad fight fire with experience



Darrell Parker

years to achieve a firefighter technology diploma. Currently, he's working on an advanced diploma from the college.

The Ontario Fire Marshall's office also gives week-long regional courses every year and training sessions are held at the fire hall once a month to keep volunteers on top of new fire fighting techniques.

Parker's putting that training to good use.

In 1981, he was called to a fire in Ingersoll where an empty feed mill was on fire. It was the first large fire he had ever been to.

How did he handle his first exposure to a full-blown blaze? "I laid out an inch and a half of line and proceeded to hose the building down."

His first introduction to perhaps an uglier side of his position came later.

A fire in a King Street apartment building was deliberately set, the fire marshal's office concluded two days after Parker battled the blaze in the middle of the night.

Firefighters look for clues such as multiple sources of ignition and evidence that accelerants like gasoline or lighter fluid have been used to determine the cause of a blaze.

Parker says he feels angry when lives are risked without reason.

"It's senseless—things like that do make you angry."

Most of the fire department's calls however, are minor in nature. And yes, he has received calls to rescue cats from trees. But although Parker treats even "minor" calls with respect, community service stops short of cat rescue missions.

"We usually tell them the cat will come down when he's hungry," he said, adding laughingly. "I've never seen a dead cat in a tree yet!"

Recently, the fire department was called to rescue a boy from his bike. His foot was caught between the peddle and the frame of the bike and firefighter's freed the boy with a manual hydraulic spreader and cutter.

While the department used the smaller system to wrench the peddle away from the boy's foot, the department now has the Jaws of Life for heavier jobs.

Continued on A14

By RHONDA LONDON

Most people would balk at the idea of risking their life for a stranger.

Unless they happen to be fire fighters. Facing danger then, is all in a day's work. "Even the most routine calls can be dangerous," says Captain Darrell Parker of the Ingersoll Fire Department.

"It's a hazardous occupation," he said, adding pensively, "You just never know."

Thirty year old Darrell Parker never even thought of becoming a firefighter until 1980 when he became a volunteer. Although many young boys dream of becom-

ing a fireman. Captain Parker wasn't one of them. "A lot of people think it's a boyhood thing. In this case, it's not."

Parker left construction work to become a firefighter because he thought it would be a good career move.

"I thought it would be something I'd be interested in. I thought it would be a nice career with a future," he said.

Captain Parker's judgement was correct. In 1982 he advanced to full-time firefighter. Then in 1984 he became acting captain and was named full captain by 1985.

But it can be taxing work, especially in the summer says

Parker. Full turnout gear weighs about 40 pounds and the element of danger is always present.

Since Captain Parker joined Ingersoll's firefighters, however, fire hasn't claimed any lives or injured a firefighter he said.

And Captain Parker has been involved in many potentially dangerous situations. For instance, in August 1982 he was called to the scene of a train accident in Ingersoll where a passenger train ran into a freight train.

While there were no serious injuries, the fire department had to ensure the volatile diesel fuel leaking from the wreckage didn't ignite or explode.

Other times, he's had to search

for victims in the darkened recesses of a burning smoke-filled building.

The hardest part of this maneuver is loss of vision. The firefighter has to grope his way through the darkness with his hands and feet Parker said. And even though Parker has been in those burning buildings—with smoke so dark it was impossible to see—he says "I've never been in a situation where I felt my life was threatened."

"It's just the job—you don't dwell on the dangers," he says, adding that his wife Jane, doesn't concentrate on the risks of the job either.

Captain Parker feels training helps. He attended the Ontario Fire College in Gravenhurst, Ontario for three weeks every year for four

INGERSOLL TIMES

September 28 1988

CHIEF MARKS ANNIVERSARY

Lots has changed in 40 years firefighting

By PAULINE KERR
of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — The most difficult part of being chief of the Ingersoll Fire Department is standing back on the sidewalk and letting others fight the fire, says Kenneth Campbell, who celebrated 40 years with the department on July 1.

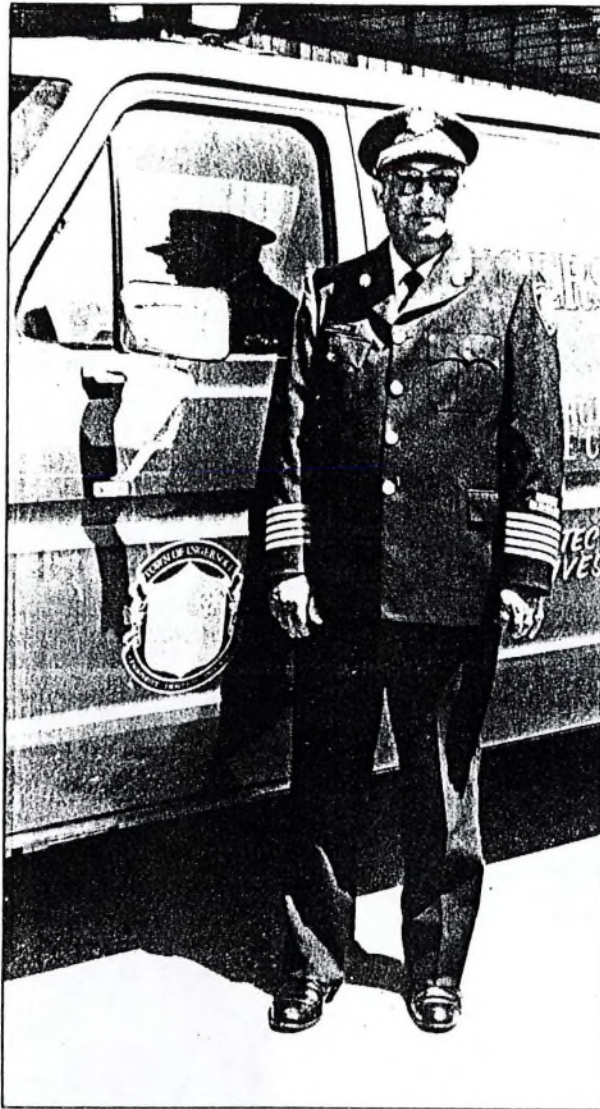
Since he joined the department as a volunteer firefighter July 1, 1949, a few weeks before his 22nd birthday, he's fought more than his share of fires. The ones he remembers best are the ones he'd prefer to forget — the fires in which people died.

He himself has had at least one close call as a firefighter. "There was a fire in the building where the flea market is now — it was a trailer place then. I was in there alone when my Scott Pack ran out of air. The place was full of smoke — you couldn't see anything. I was just ready to pull off the face mask, the worst thing I could have done, but at the last minute I felt a hose and followed it out." He also admits to having "fallen through a couple of floors".

Even though local firefighters don't have to deal with the carnage faced by their Toronto counterparts on a daily basis, the job is dangerous, especially for volunteers; they should have as much protection as possible, he says, remembering a time when safety equipment on the truck consisted of two First World War gas masks. "None of the guys would wear them — I guess we were real smoke eaters."

Campbell recalls one of the men he worked with coughed constantly and had all the symptoms of having been gassed in the war, thanks to the fumes he'd inhaled in numerous fires. One fire in a radio store on Thames Street in the early '50s produced such noxious smoke from plastic lamps and other items, the four or five men who fought the fire were quite sick.

Since 1958, it's been self-contained breathing apparatus, "Scott Packs", whenever a firefighter enters a building. High on Campbell's list of items he wants for the department is a "Cascade" system for filling the air tanks. At present, the tanks are filled in Woodstock.



INGERSOLL Fire Chief Kenneth Campbell celebrated 40 years with the department on July 1.

It seems ironic many of the fires the department has handled were the result of carelessness or even arson. There used to be quite a few calls resulting from people smoking in bed, Campbell says, although that's not the case so much any more.

Grease fires ("People put the pot of oil on to make French fries, then have a nap or something.") are expensive. "Afterward, you have to paint, paper, have your furniture and rugs cleaned; it's all over the stove, and the fridge and microwave are gone."

One recent case had a happy ending. He recounts the details of the call — the smoke alarm went off and smoke was pouring out a window.

Firefighters entered the building, turned off the stove and carried the pot outside. Surprisingly, the occupants turned out to be completely unaware of their close call.

"There's only three things that start fires," quips the chief. "That's men, women and children."

Sometimes people are embarrassed about having to call the fire department and say, "Bring the truck but please don't put on the siren." Campbell wonders how they expect to hide a 40-foot truck. Other times they say, "It's just a little fire, only bring a couple of men."

Sometimes people don't even call about a fire in a couch or chair, but the insurance claim form goes to the

department anyway. "We find out," he says.

And it's hard to keep Campbell and his department from finding out about fires which are deliberately set. There are tell-tale trails, "runners", left by gasoline and other accelerators.

One new weapon in the fight against arson is an accelerant-sniffing dog. Trained by a Nepean firefighter, the animal was used in the investigation following a recent \$5 million fire.

There's nothing like that in town, but the Ingersoll department is pretty well-equipped, says Campbell. About five years ago, a Fire Marshall's survey made 25 recommendations — they've all been filled. In 1986 the department got the van which is used to transport rescue equipment, and last year there was the new truck.

The next change in the department may well be in the area of protective clothing — boots, coats and bunker pants. At present, only hats are subject to government regulation but the rest should follow within the next few years, he said.

When Campbell started as a volunteer, training was sketchy and equipment was pretty basic. There were two full-time and 10 volunteer firefighters.

Now there are three full-time personnel and 16 volunteers, a well-trained, highly professional team responsible for the town's ever-growing industrial community as well as the residential areas. One thing hasn't changed, Campbell says — the dedication among Ingersoll's firefighters.

Campbell and his wife Laurie will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary in January. They have six children and eight grand children. One son, Scott, is a member of the Ingersoll department.

SENTINEL REVIEW

July 8, 1989

6861 '9 August, Ingersoll Times

Training tower under fire

Pressure has been placed on Ingersoll Fire Department to complete construction on its training tower.

The department was told to contract out the remaining work on the tower by Ingersoll Council's administration and

finance committee last Wednesday night.

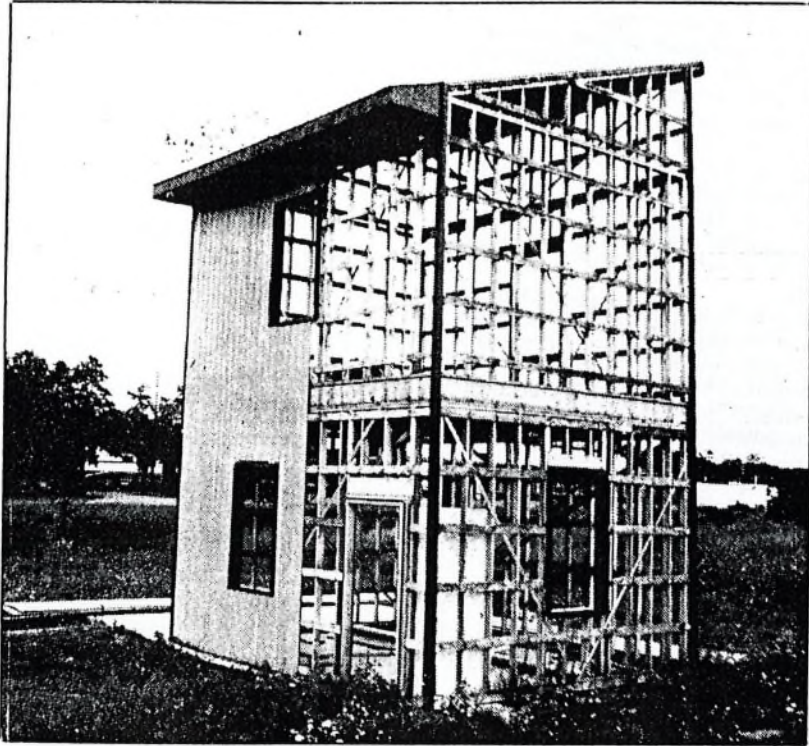
The tower, which needs to be sided, was described by Mayor Doug Harris as an embarrassment to the community. Work on the tower has been ongoing for almost a year. Volunteer firefighters and Ingersoll and District Collegiate Institute students have been responsible for the construction.

Mayor Doug Harris said the department had already been given permission to contract out the work. Concern about the tower's appearance was discussed by the committee in June.

"Two months ago we asked to have something done. I'm getting tired of talking about it," he said.

No contractor had been approached about completing the work at the request of the firefighters, who wanted to do it without assistance. Fire Chief Ken Campbell was unable to say when it would be completed.

Firefighters were upset that a newspaper article suggested the bulk of the work had been carried out by high school students. One hundred and ninety manhours were spent by firefighters working on the tower as opposed to 96 by the students, Campbell said.



This fire department training facility, behind the fire station, remains uncompleted after almost a year. Last week, town council's administration and finance committee directed Fire Chief Ken Campbell to contract the remaining work out to get the building done. The building was becoming a laughing stock, they said. (Staff photo)

INGERSOLL Times
August 9, 1989

Fire chief can tell you stories

Technology helps fight fires today

By GAIL ATKINSON

Ken Campbell sleeps in the same bed he was born in.

Some things don't change.

But as Ingersoll's Fire Chief, Campbell can recall some changes over the past 20 years.

"In 1969, we had 10 volunteers and three full-time fire fighters," he said recently at his office. The volunteer force has now grown to 16.

In 1969, there were 57 fire calls, compared to 98 so far this year. The manner in which calls are made has also changed.

"We used to have radios about 20 inches wide, 16 inches high, and 16 inches deep," Campbell described. "Calls would come through the base station at the fire hall and we'd have to call to everybody's home."

Before 1965, when the dial system was introduced in town, a telephone exchange operated where the Ingersoll Times operates today, he said.

"An operator was always listening and she would start calling the fire fighters at their homes. We didn't get away with not going in in the middle of the night, or if we didn't feel like it. We used to say to the chief, 'she never called us,' and he'd walk across the street to check it out and she'd say, 'oh yes I did.'"

Now everybody has a portable

monitor and respond immediately to calls.

"Now the way the system is set up, Woodstock dispatches all the fire departments in Oxford County except Ingersoll and Tillsonburg. We do our own dispatching."

Campbell said he could see a 911 emergency system put into effect in the near future. "It costs a lot of money to go to 911, but it'll come not too far down the line."

New equipment and vehicles have come down the line in the last 20 years as well.

In addition to the 1927 pumper, the 1968 pumper, still at the station, and a 1946 ladder truck (long gone from the station), which required six men to operate one ladder, the fire department has a 1975 Telesquirt (no 1), and a 1986 Triple Combination Pumper. In 1986, a rescue van, "full of stuff," was acquired.

Changes in procedure and equipment haven't been the only innovations.

"In the old days women wouldn't even come into the fire hall, except maybe to drop off a lunch or something, but for them to come in just wasn't done."

In March of 1987, that changed when the first female volunteer joined.



Ingersoll Fire Chief Ken Campbell has seen many changes in the fire department over the last 20 years, although fires themselves remain the same.

The fire fighters practice monthly and hold study meetings and seminars on a regular basis.

Fires haven't changed much over the years, but preventive measures have, Campbell said.

"Why anybody would go without a smoke detector in their home is beyond me. Careless smoking, and the combination of alcohol and cigarets are far and above the number one cause of fires more than anything else. Has been for

years," he said.

And he should know. He's been with the department 40 years, and he's the kind of man who keeps track of things. "I hate to throw anything out," he laughed. "I think I'm a bit of a perfectionist. I hope to have a computer to keep records," he said, leafing through one of many yearbooks and logs he's maintained over several decades.

He pulled open filing cabinet drawers packed front to back

with reports, statistics, equipment invoices, and every conceivable record to do with administration and in-the-field activity. His desktop stays clear. The entire office is clear and clean, perhaps another testament to his perfectionism.

He attributed what he learned to the many chiefs and volunteers with whom he worked. Pictures of fire department teams hang everywhere in the office. Many have died, or retired, but he has fond words for them all. His recalled his start with the department.

"I was working where the police station is now, and I used to hang around the fire department anyway.

"There was an opening for a volunteer so I did that until 1963, when there was a full-time opening. In those days I used to hear the siren and run out and beat the truck. I'd climb on the back and never even know where we were going."

Campbell became chief in 1978. He knows where he's going now.

He said he liked his job. It keeps him busy with "always something to do."

No matter the work, the records, the emergencies, he'll always have that same bed to climb into at the end of the day.

INGERSOLL TIMES
PROGRESS EDITION

FIRE DEPT

Computers help police, fire departments keep ahead

By ERIC SCHMIEDL
of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — During 1989, Ingersoll's fire department scored a first with its new computer system and computerization is also planned for the town's police department.

Kenneth Campbell, fire chief, said "we're the only (fire department) in Oxford County that has a computer." The system already stores fire inspection systems and hazardous material information but has the capacity to be added on to. The computer can be used to store pre-planned fire data, memorandums and just about everything else the department needs.

A training tower for firefighters was completed during the year, which Campbell said will begin being used again during the spring. A reserve for a new truck was worked on by Campbell but he said a new truck is still two or three years down the line in coming. The fire chief is also working on getting a "cascade" system into the town for 1990.

A cascade system is used to fill firefighters' air tanks. Campbell said the Woodstock fire department has a system to fill the tanks, but in the event of an emergency "we want it here, not in Woodstock."

Another consideration is budgeting for new safety clothing required by new labor ministry rules and costing about \$1,000 per person.

There are three full-time firefighters and 16 volunteers who have to be outfitted. Campbell said those numbers constitute a full staff and that as of Jan. 1, 1990 the staff was brought back up to that full strength.

Both 1989 fire calls and damages from blazes were down from 1988 totals. In 1988, 482 man hours were tabulated by the department. In 1989, only 318 man hours were recorded.

"That's quite a drop," Campbell said. However, 1988 was an extremely heavy year for fire departments across Ontario, he added.

Police chief Bruce Richards said computerization, as well as new communications equipment, are in the 1990 scheme for the police department. The equipment is slated to come in as part of the town disaster plan.

Under the plan, the police station will be tied in to other town facilities, such as the municipal offices and the Public Utility Commission, to better deal with potential emergencies. In addition, the town force will be tied in with other Ontario police departments through the system.

During 1989, a number of new things came along for the police department. A Tracker vehicle was donated by CAMI Automotive Inc., a community service officer went into action full time and a by-law enforcement officer position was added to the force.

The community service officer was in action in that position during the school year and was put on regular police duty during the summer months. This year, Const. Frank Veres filled the community position but that may not always be the case in future years.

Having a full time community service officer was "quite a step" for the department, Richards said.

Referring to the bylaw enforcement position, Richards said the parking authority was dissolved and parking control was subsequently handed to the police department. Terri Pollard, who was the parking attendant, became the bylaw enforcement officer under the new set up enforcing parking by-laws as well as zoning and property standards by-laws.

Things the department is looking forward to in 1990 include the new police facility to be completed in November and a new officer. Scott Wilfred Rossiter, who will start April 2 to help cope with an increased police workload.



POLICE CHIEF BRUCE RICHARDS said 1989 was a good year for the Town of Ingersoll police department. The department has a new facility and a new officer to look forward to in 1990.

(Staff photo)



Campbell