

The Ontario Fire Service Messenger

a publication of the Office of the Fire Marshal

Choosing the right Smoke alarms

Inside:

**Most people not prepared
to escape a fire: survey**

**Wildfire Prevention
Week: April 17-23**



The Ontario Fire Service Messenger

Published in the interest of fire protection and fire prevention in Ontario.

Comments, suggestions, questions and articles are welcome. Please send them to the attention of:

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Bill Blackborow, Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Health and Safety Association



My first six months as the new chief executive officer of the Municipal Health and Safety Association (MHSA) have been most rewarding. In that time I've had the opportunity to meet with various representatives of the fire service, police and paramedic sectors and gain first-hand experience of the tremendous dedication these people have to public safety. It is my hope that in the coming months and years we will expand our relationship with these committed individuals and organizations as the MHSA moves in a new direction and expands its role: focusing its efforts on municipal hands-on emergency services training throughout the province of Ontario.

Since its inception in 1986, the MHSA has enjoyed a reputation within the municipal sector for first-rate health and safety training. It is our intention to build upon this strong history and expand MHSA services to the fire, police and paramedic sectors.

We realize there is a real need for hands-on, specific training in the emergency services, particularly in the areas of confined space entry and trench rescue. As a result, the MHSA has recently purchased a mobile training unit that will enable our personnel to travel across the province, and eventually throughout Canada and parts of the United States, to deliver hands-on training to emergency services personnel.

The OFM has agreed to partner with MHSA on this new initiative, which will result in greater training opportunities for both full-time and volunteer firefighters across the province. The mobile training unit means we will be able to bring training to the people and provide an opportunity for those individuals to participate who may not have been able to in the past because of availability or cost. The mobile unit will make training more accessible and cost effective.

My previous experience includes management and leadership roles in operations, human resources, and health and safety at national and international organizations that span manufacturing, the service sector and health care. This experience, along with my former roles as member and chair of the Industrial Accident Prevention Association, has shown me that close cooperation with community partners is vital to reaching common goals.

Enhanced community safety is a goal we all share and I look forward to the expanded role of the MHSA to enrich an already strong partnership with Ontario's fire service and emergency responders.

Bill Blackborow can be reached at (905) 890-2040 or via email at bblackborow@mhsao.com.

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Wildfire Prevention Week. Wildfire Prevention Week is part of the FireSmart program, aimed at creating fire safe communities across the province.



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Fire College hosts multi-agency training for mobile hospital set-up. A partnership between the OFM, Public Health Agency of Canada and the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care results in mobile hospital training course.

Smoke alarms: different products for different needs.

There are a variety of smoke alarms on the market to meet people's needs.



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Update ONTARIO

News from around the province

Fantino named new commissioner

Former police chief to ensure coordinated response in times of crisis

The Province of Ontario has appointed Julian Fantino Commissioner of Emergency Management as part of its ongoing plan to ensure the security of Ontarians.

"Julian Fantino has a long record of public service through public safety," said Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty. "His years as chief of police in London, York Region and Toronto have equipped him well for this new challenge: working with government, police, fire departments, transit systems and all Ontarians to ensure we're prepared to cope with a major emergency."

Fantino has developed an expertise in public security in times of crisis. He directed the policing response for the SARS outbreak and the blackout that hit Toronto in 2003. He directed the development of an upgraded emergency re-

sponse plan for the Toronto Police Service, and he has spoken around the world on emergency preparedness, fighting terrorism and providing security for events such as the Olympics and papal visits.

Fantino is only the second person to hold the post of Commissioner of Emergency Management, which was created last year to ensure a coordinated response to emergency situations.

He succeeds Dr. James Young, who has accepted a new post with the federal government.

"I want to thank Dr. Young for his work, and I want to thank Chief Fantino for taking on the job," said Monte Kwinter, Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services. "Ontarians are fortunate to have someone of his stature and his experience."

Premier McGuinty stressed that Ontario must be prepared in case of a crisis.

"After the challenges posed by SARS and the blackout, we know Ontarians can respond magnificently in challenging times. We

need to work together to ensure we can respond quickly and effectively to all future challenges as well," said Premier McGuinty.

"In a post-9/11 world, there's no reason to alarm people, but there is every reason to equip and inform people so an action plan is always in place, should we need one. I know Mr. Fantino is going to work with us and people across the province to do just that."

Reprinted from a media release from the Office of the Premier dated February 8, 2005.

Ex-chief passes away



Toronto Fire Services held a memorial service for former Fire Chief Ben Bonser on February 5. (Picture courtesy of Karen Reid)

Ben Bonser, former fire chief of Toronto Fire Services, passed away on January 26. The former chief first joined Toronto in 1946. At the climax of his distinguished career, Bonser was appointed fire chief in 1977, a post he held until 1988. In 1985, he was appointed a member of the Order of Canada.

Educators' conference to be held in Simcoe

The North Shore Fire Safety Education Committee will be hosting the 13th annual Fire and Life Safety Educators' Conference from November 16 to 18, 2005 in Simcoe, Ontario. The conference theme will

be "Feel the Warmth."

Stay tuned to the *Messenger* for information and registration updates. For more details call the Norfolk County Fire and EMS at 519-426-4115, ext. 425.

Firefighters given Medals of Bravery

Eight Clearview firefighters received the Medal of Bravery from Governor General Adrienne Clarkson at a ceremony in Ottawa on February 11.

The volunteer firefighters, along with two other men, received the award for pulling a 15-year-old out from under a 136 kg (300 lbs.) slab of concrete in the teen's collapsed basement in Stayner on December 30, 2002.

On that day, the teen, Wayne Micks, and his friend, Sean Spragg, were helping Wayne's father, Murray, and his uncle, Bruce, dig dirt out of the basement of the home where Wayne and his family live. As they tunneled under an old stone wall, the foundation of the house collapsed, pinning Bruce and Wayne under a pile of rubble.

With the house sitting precariously on three walls, Clearview Fire Chief Dave Carruthers called every volunteer he had to the scene.

Bruce Micks didn't survive the collapse; he had no vital signs when firefighters arrived. But Wayne was still alive, and for 40 minutes, in incredibly dangerous circumstances, the nine men and one boy worked to get him free.

For Carruthers, who submitted the nomination to the government, the event was just further proof of the excellence of his volunteers.

"My guys go above and beyond the call every time they go out, as far as I'm concerned," he said. "But this was very unusual, it was out of the ordinary. These men put themselves in serious jeopardy."

"We have an excellent team," said Ed Forster, a captain with the Clearview department and one of the eight firefighters receiving the award. "Sure, there were eight of us that went down into the basement, but there were 60-plus other firefighters that were involved on the outside of the house, too. It was

an extremely huge effort."

"I think everybody deserves the award," said Murray Micks. "I certainly appreciated the help, that's for sure. If it hadn't been for the firefighters, we wouldn't have gotten Wayne out."

Those who received Medals of Bravery included Ed Forster, Gerald Kers, Andrew Lowe, James Lowe, Mark McKean, Robert McKean, Murray Micks, Michael Payne and Derek Sheard, all of Stayner, and 17-year-old Sean Spragg of Meaford.

Excerpts of this article are reprinted from an article written by Brad Holden for the Enterprise-Bulletin newspaper in Collingwood. The article appeared in the January 14 edition of that newspaper.

Don't miss public ed. conference



The 2005 Northwestern Fire Education Conference, entitled "Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes," will take place in Dryden on April 22 and 23.

Conference highlights will include presentations on the new TAPP-C; effective presentation techniques; and Wildfire Prevention Week initiatives. Speakers will include Fire Marshal Bernard Moyle; Ryan Betts, Ontario Fire College instructor; and Deanna Pacheco, principal of the Oxdrift Public School in Oxdrift.

Registration for the conference costs \$100. For more information, contact the Dryden Fire Services at 807-223-1178.

Council hosts public education meeting

On January 17, the Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council (FMPFSC) hosted a meeting with representatives from approximately 15 fire departments across the province to discuss public education initiatives.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss initiatives that are working and what needs improving, Ottawa Deputy Fire Chief Bruce Montone, who facilitated the meeting, told the group. The information collected at the meeting



Bruce Montone (standing), Deputy Chief of the Ottawa Fire Services, facilitated the FMPFSC's meeting with fire departments about public education programs.

would be used to help the FMPFSC understand the public education needs of the fire service when designing campaign materials, Montone said.

Most people not prepared to escape a home fire

A new survey of Americans conducted by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) shows that only 25% have devised and practiced a plan to escape from the home during a fire.

The survey also revealed that two-thirds of Americans have an escape plan. But most of those who say they have plans have not practiced them - a key step in preparedness.

A study conducted in Canada by the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs and Duracell last year found similar results. The study revealed that while 64% of Canadians claim-

ed to have a home fire escape plan in place, 63% of those people failed to practice it (up from 55% a year earlier).

"Surveys such as these give the fire service an idea of just how much work we still have to do if we're going to get the public prepared to respond to an emergency," said Deputy Fire Marshal Doug Crawford. "Despite our public education and prevention efforts, many people still aren't prepared should a fire start in their home. The fire service has to re-double its efforts to get fire safety messages

out there."

The NFPA survey also found that people older than age 65 were most likely to have developed an escape plan. But they were least likely to have practiced their escape plan if they had one. Those least likely to have even developed an escape plan are 18 to 24 - an age when children are less likely to be part of the household.

One reason why people may have neglected escape planning is that many overestimate how much time they will have to escape a fire. Two out of five respondents to the NFPA survey said they thought they would have six minutes or more before a fire turns life threatening, and one quarter thought they'd have a full 10 minutes. In fact, people may have less than one minute to get out safely.

Excerpts of this article are reprinted from a NFPA media release dated January 7, 2005.

Fire service gets cash for job-skills program

BY DONALD MCARTHUR,
THE WINDSOR STAR

A job-skills program benefiting disadvantaged youth run by Windsor Fire and Rescue Services received \$150,000 in federal funding in early January.

The six-month program, which has been operating for five years, targets young people between 15 and 30 who are out of school or unemployed.

"This is to help them gain experience, confidence and self-esteem," said Guy Dorion, planning and development officer for Windsor Fire and Rescue Services.

"This is an investment in people, not bricks and mortar.... We've had some real success stories."

The 13 students who successfully

applied or were referred by social service agencies to this year's program are paid minimum wage for the duration of the program and take classes at the Cleary International Centre.

"It's like a full-time job for six months," said Dorion. "It's quite remarkable to see the changes they go through."

The focus of the program in years past was fire safety but this year's focus is emergency preparedness and crime prevention.

The money earmarked for Windsor is part of \$866,695 for nine projects across Ontario funded by the federal government.

This article originally appeared in The Windsor Star on January 7, 2005.

Service award

Angela John celebrated her 20th year working with the Office of the



Fire Marshal in January. Angela, who works in the OFM's Statistical Services Unit, was presented the Fire Marshal's Long Service Award for Fire Services' Administrative Personnel by Fire Marshal Bernard Moyle on January 6. (Picture courtesy of Marie Falk)

College program linking with more departments

BY BRUCE HAIN,
ORILLIA TODAY

Students of Georgian College's Pre-Service Firefighter program will now have the benefit of learning techniques and life-saving methods from a larger collection of regional firefighters.

And in turn, local fire services will be able to take advantage of a large pool of well-trained, potential full-time and volunteer firefighters.

The college has inked a partnership agreement with the majority of fire services across Simcoe County. The program already has had an agreement in place with Barrie Fire and Emergency Service.

"We take great pride in seeing how the program has evolved," said Barrie Acting Fire Chief Terry Dicks. "We're very pleased with the calibre of the program's graduates. Barrie Fire has hired several graduates. It's a great partnership we

have had with Georgian College."

Participating agencies include fire departments from Bradford, West Gwillimbury, Midland, Mnjikaning First Nation, Orillia, Oro-Medonte, Severn, Springwater, Innisfil and Wasaga Beach.

The enlarged partnership program will include the loaning of equipment, providing guest speakers to the college, and on-site demonstrations and practical training.

Program lead Mike Cadotte of Barrie Fire and Emergency Service, says, "We're hoping to get all areas of the county involved. Basically, we're trying to work together in partnership for the education of our Pre-Service students, while developing more professional candidates."

Dave Dubois, Georgian's dean of community studies, said the signing of the agreement "is a great day for us. The program is two years in

the making. We will continue to look at developing our graduates to being fully competent as entry-level firefighters. We'll be working closely with our partners."

Vicki Cyr, fire prevention officer for Oro-Medonte, said "because we're a volunteer fire service, the program will bring a lot of benefits. The people coming out of the program can keep up their training, and hopefully come back and volunteer with us."

For Severn Acting Fire Chief Eric Dowell, who administers a complement of 76 volunteers, the program provides much needed training to smaller municipalities.

"It benefits everyone," Dowell said. "We get trained and dedicated volunteers."

This article originally appeared in February 8 edition of the Orillia Today. It is reprinted with permission.

Questions & Answers: Wildfires and Campfires

- Q.1 a) How many hectares of forest lands are destroyed by fire each year?
b) Ontario's forests are an important resource. They are worth about \$_____ annually to the forest products and recreation industries.
- Q.2 What is the most common cause of preventable wildfires in Ontario?
- Q.3 Campfires should be built how far away from logs, stumps or standing trees?
a. 10 metres b. 1 metre c. 15 metres d. 3 metres
- Q.4 Campfires should be built how far away from flammable structures or flammable forest debris?
a. 10 metres b. 5 metres c. 15 metres d. 25 metres
- Q.5 True or False: Once water has been used to extinguish the fire, a campfire is safely out.

Answers on page 21

Popularity of 'Firefighter Junior Challenge' grows

BY BRIAN BERRINGER,
DIRECTOR, FIRE PREVENTION/ INVESTIGATION,
THUNDER BAY FIRE AND RESCUE

Early in the summer of 2003, Thunder Bay Fire and Rescue Services was approached by the staff of Camp Quality to facilitate a firefighter-oriented activity day for their annual summer camp.

Camp Quality is a camp that exclusively serves kids who have been affected with cancer. The camp gives kids a week where they can just be kids; a week away from hospital, treatment and family. Participating kids are assigned to volunteer 'companions' and every minute of every day is filled with fun activities. The camp ensures that every medical and personal need of every child is looked after.

After seeing the Firefit Challenge hosted by the Thunder Bay Firefit Team in 2003, I came up with the idea of adapting the challenge so that the kids at Camp Quality could have their own challenge.

Each event in the challenge was scaled down so that all the kids at Camp Quality could participate. The kids were dressed in real helmets and turnout coats to complete the seven events of the challenge. (Participants began at the starting line and were 'dispatched' on the command "Firefighters – ready, set, go!")

The events were set out in the same order as the adult competition. They included:

- raising a 4.5 kg (10 lbs.) bundle of hose up a 3.6 m (12 ft) tower and hooking a loop in the rope over a peg;
- running to a cowbell suspended from a wobbly pole and ringing it;

- sitting at a trough and dragging a weighted box for 2.4 m (8 ft), the catch being that the participants have to sit down and pull hand over hand;

- shuttle walking through pylons to the opposite end of course (23 m or 75 ft);

- dragging a 38mm hose (with a brass standpipe nozzle) back to the start line;

- crashing through spring loaded doors at the start line, then dropping the nozzle and squirting water at a target from a water pressure extinguisher;

- running back to the other end of the course and dragging a 11.5 kg (25 lbs.), full sized dummy backwards to the start line.

The first time the competition was held at Camp Quality, 35 kids lined up on the starting line with great determination on their faces. Every child and all the leaders went through the course at least twice as the skill level was a perfect fit for the kids. Small prizes - tattoos, fridge magnets and colouring books - were given to all participants.

Since the initial event, Camp Quality has requested another competition, which has been booked for next summer. Manitouwadge Volunteer Fire Department has borrowed the equipment for their annual town festival, and the O'Connor Volunteer Fire Service has requested the course for their O'Connor Days Celebration. Also, the Navy

League in Thunder Bay has hosted the competition during one of its "Sports Night" events.

The equipment can be easily transported in the back of a half-tonne truck, and takes about 20 minutes to set up. All of the lumber used for the equipment was salvaged from the scrap bin at a local manufacturing plant (minimal carpentry skills were required to build the equipment). The dummies were made from old coveralls donated by a drycleaner and the turnouts and helmets were obsolete items, also donated. Hosanna Fire and Safety provided 'loaner' pressurized water extinguishers; the pump-type work too. The total cost for constructing the course was a mere \$30.

Anyone interested in developing this event, please contact Brian Berringer at the Thunder Bay Fire and Rescue Service, 807-625-2103.



Kids tackle the Junior Firefighter Challenge at the O'Connor Days Celebration last August 28. (Picture courtesy of Willis Mattis)

Firefighters awarded for rescuing teen from river

BY DON CROSSBY,
OWEN SOUND SUN TIMES

The Hanover Fire Department has been awarded the Lifesaving Society Rescue Award of Merit for rescuing a Hanover teen from the Saugeen River in 2003.

Hanover Fire Chief Ken Roseborough called the award an honour and a privilege.

Firefighters were called to rescue 16-year-old Samantha Strong, who had gone canoeing with her companions Justin Ooshoek, Julia Smith and Rob Fischer. Neither Smith nor Strong had any canoeing experience.

A few minutes into their trip on July 29, at the confluence of two branches of the Saugeen River, the cedar strip canoe in which Strong and Ooshoek were paddling was pulled by fast water into the low

hanging branches of a tree that had fallen into the river. The canoe tipped, dumping them into the water.

Strong and Ooshoek drifted into the fallen tree. Strong resisted the strong undertow by grabbing onto the overhanging branches.

But before she could haul herself onto the downed tree, water filled the canoe and it crashed into her abdomen and pinned her. She ended up knee deep in water with her hips and knees pinned against the tree by the canoe. The weight of the canoe shut off circulation to her legs.

Five volunteer firefighters, who were untrained in river rescue, responded. They managed to pull Strong from the water by prying the pinned canoe away from her leg.

Roseborough said the firefighters

were lucky that the rescue went well and none of his men were injured.

Since then, four of the firefighters have taken training in water and ice rescue and two more will complete the training next year. The department will also purchase special equipment needed to carry out ice and water rescue.

Roseborough said Strong limped into the fire hall with her father a couple weeks after the accident to thank her rescuers.

The award will be made by the Ontario branch of the Royal Life Saving Society during a ceremony at the Markham Civic Centre on April 1.

This article was reprinted from the February 8 edition of the Owen Sound Sun Times. Reprinted with permission.

Code violations result in \$20,000 fine

The owner of a residential care facility has been fined \$20,000 for not maintaining his building to Fire Code safety standards. The licensed operator of Clar-Del Retirement Home in Hamilton was found guilty in Provincial Offences Court on four counts of contraventions of the Ontario Fire Code on January 28, 2005. This is the operator's third conviction in the last six years for Fire Code infractions involving this building and one other residential care facility.

The latest charges were the result of findings during an inspection conducted on April 2, 2004 by the Hamilton Emergency Services.

"Building owners have a respons-

ibility, legally if not morally, to make sure that their residents are kept safe from fire," said Jim Winn, Chief Fire Prevention Officer for Hamilton Emergency Services. "The fire service feels that this is a strong message from the courts that will act as a wake up call to all owners of residential care facilities that they must be actively engaged in ensuring the safety of their residents."

The facility is a two-and-a-half storey building that is licensed for up to nine residents, most of whom are older adults. Fire Code deficiencies included inoperative smoke alarms in residents' rooms, fire separation doors either not closing

properly or being blocked open, and access to required exits on the first floor and basement being obstructed. The court applied a fine of \$4,000 to each of the counts, for a total of \$16,000. The court also added a 25% victim surcharge, making the total fine \$20,000.

This building was also the scene of a fire in February, 2004 that resulted in first- and second-degree burns to a resident and first-degree burns to an employee.

The infractions noted during the April 2, 2004 inspection had been corrected as of April 14, 2004.

Reprinted from a Feb. 1 media release from the Hamilton Emergency Services.

Teachers, fire service team up for safety

As part of the Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council's seasonal safety campaigns, such as last year's *Autumn Watch Seasonal Safety* and *Spring into Summer...Spring into Safety*, *Keeping Our Kids Safe* is a partnership between Ontario's

teachers and the fire service.

Keeping Our Kids Safe consists of curriculum approved lesson plans developed by the Council for school teachers to incorporate into their classroom lessons. These lesson plans focus on preventing

injuries at various times of the year. Because the lesson plans are curriculum approved, they are easy for teachers to incorporate into every day lessons.

"This is a great opportunity for us to work closer with teachers to disseminate injury prevention and safety information," said Bernard Moyle, Council Chair and Ontario Fire Marshal. "Teachers are the educational experts. The fire service needs to get injury prevention and safety information into their hands so that these lessons last with kids forever. *Keeping Our Kids Safe* does just that."

Copies of a brochure advertising *Keeping Our Kids Safe* is distributed in a quarterly magazine sent to elementary school teachers across the province. To encourage teach-

ers to participate, the Council holds a competition every year, providing prizes to teachers who have taught the safety lessons in their classrooms.

Every time a safety lesson is taught, teachers can submit a "Lesson Taught!" form to enter a draw for prizes. Last

**See Prizes on
page 9**



Teachers and fire services across the province participated in the "Keeping Our Kids Safe" program last year. Pictured above, left are Angell Martelle from St. John the Bosco School in Cornwall being presented Via Rail tickets by Michel Bickerstaffe, senior fire prevention officer with the Cornwall Fire Department. Above, right are Karen Harrington, a grade 1 teacher at Holy Family School in Hanover and Jeff Dentinger from the Hanover Fire Department. Karen won a Toronto weekend getaway. On the bottom, left, is teacher Monique Carriere and the grade 1 class at John Campbell School in Windsor, winners of a classroom pizza party. Bottom, right, Tammy Chase from Mother St. Bride School in North Bay receives a \$200 voucher for classroom supplies from Sheri Korn with the North Bay Fire Department. (Thanks to each fire department for submitting the pictures)

Prizes awarded for teaching lessons

continued from page 8

year, prizes included a trip for two to Florida, a weekend getaway to Toronto, a gas barbecue, \$200 certificates for classroom supplies, and class pizza parties. Lesson plans and "lesson taught" forms can be downloaded from the Council's web site at www.firesafety-council.com.

Last year's grand prize winner was Lisa Buccioni. Lisa has won a trip for two to Orlando, Florida for teaching fire safety lessons in her grades one and two school classes in Mississauga.

Winners of the classroom pizza parties included

Jennifer Luxmore-Begin; Su Calpu; E. Kelly-Hanrath; Dianna Wright-Drzazga; France Martineau; Patricia Kelly; Monique Carriere; Frankl Esson; Mark Sokolski; and Mary Mercer.

Winners of the \$200 in classroom supplies were Charles Eppich; Helen Kotsopoulos; Ganielle Lanoue; Sharon Maxwell and Tam-

my Chase. Winners of the Toronto weekend getaway were Caroline Parker; Heidi Werner; Laurel Venney; Karen Harrington and Angela Martell.

"Keeping Our Kids Safe is a true example of communities coming together for injury prevention and safety," said Fire Marshal Moyle. "Teachers, the fire service and the program's committed sponsors should be congratulated for their ongoing commitment to community safety and injury prevention."

Last year's sponsors of the program included Garrison, Exclusively at Canadian Tire; CSA International; Direct Energy; Energizer Canada Inc.; Kidde; State Farm Insurance; TSSA; and Enbridge.



Grand prize winner Lisa Buccioni, a grade 1 and 2 teacher at Burnhamthorpe Public School in Mississauga, receives her prize from Fire Marshal Bernard and Council Chair Moyle (top, left). Pictured bottom, left is Lisa's class with Fire Marshal Moyle (back row, left), Mississauga Deputy Fire Chief John McDougall (back row, right), Council Coordinator Anne Miller (front row, left) and OFM Administrative Assistant Joyce Carnevale (front row, right). Top, right, students from the grade 6 class at St. James the Apostle School in Hamilton



won a class pizza party. Pictured with students are (back row, left to right) Margaret Janeczko, the student teacher who took the lead in teaching kitchen safety to the class; Firefighter Biran Moar; Firefighter Paul McKinney; Captain Martyn Wingfield; Acting Deputy Chief Gary Beasley; and Hamilton Chief Jim Kay. Bottom, right is a bulletin board of fire safety artwork created by the class. (Thank you to each fire department for submitting the pictures)

ONTARIO FIRE WATCH: Fatal Fire Summary

The OFM compiles statistics on all fatal fires that occur in Ontario. These statistics can assist the fire service to determine fire trends, plan fire prevention initiatives and target public education activities. Due to the methods and criteria used in reporting fire deaths, statistics are subject to change.

November 2004: 6 fatal fires resulting in 13 fire deaths

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
0-15	4	3	7
16-64	4	2	6
65 and over	0	0	0
Total	8	5	13

Fire Cause	Time of Day
Accidental	0 0001-0800
Undetermined	0 0801-1600
Under Investigation	6 1601-1800
Incendiary	0 1801-0000

Locations of fatal fires: Lanwick/Haldimand (1); Brighton (1); Mississauga (1); Ottawa (1); Toronto (1); West Lincoln (1).

December 2004: 11 fatal fires resulting in 12 fire deaths

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
0-15	0	0	0
16-64	8	2	10
65 and over	1	1	2
Total	9	3	12

Fire Cause	Time of Day
Accidental	3 0001-0800
Undetermined	0 0801-1600
Under Investigation	8 1601-1800
Incendiary	0 1801-0000

Locations of fatal fires: Central Manitoulin (1); Chatham-Kent (1); Cochrane Town (1); Greater Napanee (1); Kawartha Lakes (1); Mississauga (1); Montague (1); Sudbury, Unorganized, North Part (1); Timmins City (1); Toronto (1); West Nipissing (1).

Local Risk Watch partnership percolates with Tim Hortons

BY JULIANNE WEVER
PUBLIC FIRE & LIFE SAFETY EDUCATOR,
LONDON FIRE DEPARTMENT

On October 7, 2004, Tim Hortons and the London and Middlesex Risk Watch Coalition hosted a *Risk Watch*® teacher training workshop at the Thames Valley District School Board in London, Ontario. At the workshop were some of Carolin Dimitroff's grade 2 students from the Fairmont Public School in London. Mrs. Dimitroff has been an advocate of the *Risk Watch* program since it was first implemented in London in 1999. Since that time, Mrs. Dimitroff has been teaching the *Risk Watch* program in her school helping children think independently and learn to make smart choices in their day-to-day lives to minimize risks. The grade 2 students acted out a fire safety play found in the grade 2 *Risk Watch*

curriculum. After acting out the play the students illustrated the fire safety lessons they learned.

Over the last two years, Tim Hortons stores have donated enough *Risk Watch* curriculum sets to implement the program in 88 schools.

"The Tim Hortons stores in London and Middlesex have been instrumental in supporting the coalition's mission to successfully implement the *Risk Watch* program into every school in both the Thames Valley District School Board and the London District Catholic School Board," said Julianne Wever, public fire and life safety educator with the London



Grade 2 students participated in a Risk Watch teacher training workshop at the Thames Valley District School Board in London on October 7. (Picture courtesy of the London Fire Department)

Fire Department.

Every year more school aged children die or are disabled from unintentional injuries than from disease and drugs combined.

"Without the *Risk Watch* program in our schools, these injuries will continue to escalate," said Wever.

"The good news is that there is something we can do - continue to grow our *Risk Watch* partnerships in the community."

Research leads to new tool to calculate heat stress

BY BILL BLACKBOROW,
CEO, MUNICIPAL HEALTH AND SAFETY ASSOCIATION

The latest initiative by the Municipal Health and Safety Association (MHSA), the Toronto Fire Services and the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) is a perfect example of the transfer of theoretical research into practical action.

Data shows that heart attacks due to heat stress is the number one cause of death in firefighters. Thanks to a recent study entitled *The Management of Heat Stress for the Firefighter*, conducted by researchers Dr. Tom McLellan and Glen Selkirk, the MHSA, Toronto Fire Services and the OFM are working in partnership to get the message out about how to reduce the adverse effects of heat stress on the firefighter.

The study, supported by the Research Advisory Council of Ontario through a grant provided by the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) and the participation of the Toronto Fire Services, looked at establishing safe work guidelines for firefighters wearing firefighting protective clothing and self-contained breathing apparatus at ambient temperatures representative of summer conditions in Toronto. Working with Toronto Fire Services Captain Tim Metcalfe and department firefighters, the researchers also examined active and passive cooling strategies combined with different levels of hydration.

As a result of their study, Dr. McLellan and Mr. Selkirk made several recommendations, including the development of a heat stress calculator designed to assist dispatchers and incident commanders in

calculating heat stress conditions for firefighters on the job.

In the spirit of prevention, the MHSA, the OFM, the WSIB, the Toronto Fire Services and the researchers are working together to take this research to the next level and enable the transition from research into practical application by developing a training program centred around the heat stress calculator tool. The partners hope that the use of this new tool will validate and standardize current practices involving cooling strategies (i.e. forearm submersion) among firefighters, and become the new best practice used by firefighters throughout the province and beyond.

Plans are currently in the works for the MHSA to develop the training program that will accompany the heat stress calculator and assist the OFM in communicating the information to firefighters throughout Ontario. The OFM has already committed to add the training and the calculator to existing programs at the Ontario Fire College (OFC), and the MHSA will make the program available as part of its offerings of Emergency Services Programs, which currently include Confined Space Entry and Trench Rescue, as well as through its website and new mobile training unit. Future plans include expanding training and communication activities to firefighters throughout the rest of Canada and in other countries. Any proceeds from the sale of the training program and heat stress calculator will be driven back into the development of future training programs for the fire service via the OFC and the MHSA jointly.

Riding for charity

The idea to start the "Ride With Us Tour" came to Keith Hepburn after meeting a man at the Barrie Speedway who had had his right leg above the knee and his left foot amputated.

Keith, a firefighter with the Wiarton Fire Department, has a brother, Brent, and a niece, Mitzi, who had leg amputations after being hit by a vehicle while riding a motorcycle about two years ago.

"I told the man at the Barrie Speedway that my brother Brent is a firefighter in Wiarton and is now back working at the fire station," Keith said. "I will never forget the uplifted look on his face when he heard

my brother was back working."

Wanting to provide similar hope to others, Keith, who also works with ALSTAR Racing, has organized the ALSTAR Motorcycle Charity Ride. People can make pledges to support participants who will be riding their motorcycles, rigs, haulers and vintage cars from Shallow Lake, Ontario to Barrie on August 20.

"This is the first year for the ride, so we're not sure what to expect," Keith said. "The interest in this event has been rising and we have not done very much publicity to this point." All proceeds generated by the ride will be donated to The War Amps. For more information and how to support the ride, visit www.alstarseries.com/ALSTAR_Official/Motorcycle_ALS.html.

FireSmart program aims to prevent wildfires

Wildfire Prevention Week: April 17-23

BY JENNIFER YOUNG,
OMNR FIRE MANAGEMENT INTERN

Every year in Ontario, communities are evacuated or homes and cottages are destroyed due to wildfire.

During the summer of 2003, British Columbia experienced their worst fire season ever. Over 2,500 wildfire starts in the province destroyed over 334 homes and many businesses, and caused the evacuation of over 45,000 people.

Ontario has been lucky in avoiding this scale of disaster but the potential to experience fire seasons like these is very real here too.

Forests cover approximately 85% of Ontario's landmass. Forest fire is a natural process that has shaped these forest ecosystems. In the last decade, Ontario has experienced a yearly average of 1,370 forest fires, burning approximately 21,704 hectares.

Each year more people are choosing to live in peaceful rural surroundings and build their homes outside cities and towns that are surrounded by forests – in areas known as the “wildland/urban interface”. Living in these areas means living with an increased threat of wildfire.

Wildfires that occur in the wildland/urban interface have particular complexities due to the proximity to human populations, homes and businesses and are becoming an increasing concern to forest fire agencies and fire departments in Ontario and around the world.

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) has been helping Ontarians deal with protecting property from wildfire for decades, as well as working with municipalities and other fire protection organizations to ensure wildfire response systems are in place to respond to wildfires.

In the spring of 2004, MNR and the OFM, with support of the Wildfire Committee of the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs, adopted a program called FireSmart. FireSmart is an integrated approach to preparing for and responding to the wildfire threat in the wildland/urban interface. It incorporates the latest in fire science and stresses the community's and fire agency's responsibilities for ensuring the proper systems are in place to prevent and mitigate loss and damage from wildfire.

MNR, with the participation of the OFM, has initiated a FireSmart Communities project to develop a strategy for Ontario FireSmart communities. This strategy will go beyond homeowner property protection guidelines and look at the role of MNR, local fire departments and other fire and emergency response agencies in the many aspects of community protection from wildfire.

The Ontario Fire-

Smart Communities project will initiate discussion with other stakeholders at the provincial level on FireSmart issues, and look towards developing co-operative solutions to planning and mitigating wildfires in the wildland/urban interface.

This year, Wildfire Prevention Week takes place from April 17-23. Like last year, the MNR and the OFM will produce and distribute a FireSmart Communities Education package to all fire departments across the province to assist with wildfire safety programs in local communities. Among the materials will be a wildfire fact sheet; public service announcements for radio and newspapers; and sample lesson plans that can be distributed to area teachers.

See Wildfire on page 13



Fire Ranger Jory Korbanik presented the Home Owners FireSmart Manual to Sioux Lookout residents Gail Sayers and her daughter Christina as part of last year's FireSmart Communities campaign last spring. (Picture courtesy of MNR)

OFM News Update

Gerry Armstrong retired from the OFM on January 31. Gerry has been with the office for 18 years, most recently in Media Relations and Public Education as a fire and life safety specialist. He started with the OFM in the hotel fire safety unit then moved on to fire advisory services. Prior to joining the OFM, Gerry worked with the Fort Francis fire department. Congratulations and best wishes, Gerry!

Meredith Crawshaw has accepted a contract to fill the position of program specialist, Shaping Fire Safe Communities, for the period of January 4 to March 31. Meredith brings an extensive back-

ground particularly in project management, intergovernmental and stakeholder relations, and was most recently responsible for implementing an electronic data management system throughout BC/Yukon to manage information on homelessness.

Timothy Lee was the successful candidate in the recent competition for the position of Training Officer with Field Fire Protection Services (FFPS), Midhurst. In this capacity, Timothy will be facilitating a systematic approach to training for FFPS staff that supports the recent realignment in helping to meet the needs of the section and its clients, as well as fostering a culture of

continuous learning. Timothy brings a strong background in applying adult education principles within the fire service, combined with recent experience as a fire protection specialist with the former monitoring and evaluations unit of FFPS.

Laura Newton has accepted a contract to temporarily fill the position of central administrative assistant. Laura comes from the OFM's investigations section, and will fill this vacancy for a 5.5 month period, beginning Feb. 1.

Theresa (Frank) Wensing has returned to her position as administration coordinator with FFPS, Midhurst, effective Jan. 4, after a year-long maternity leave.

Wildfire prevention resources available

continued from page 12

Other public education materials that have been developed include the *FireSmart Protecting Your Community from Wildfire* guide that includes practical tools and information on how individuals and communities can work towards reducing the risks and losses from interface wildfires. This manual describes wildland/urban interface fire issues; outlines a wildfire hazard assessment system; provides solutions for vegetation management, infrastructure and structural options; outlines emergency response measures for agencies and individuals; describes interface training for municipal firefighters; and discusses communication and education strategies to reduce the risk of fires in the wildland/urban interface.

The *Home Owners FireSmart Manual* provides property owners with information and steps they can take to reduce the risk of loss in a wildfire event. The manual deals with site preparation and main-

tenance; building materials; avoiding causing a wildfire; and includes a checklist for assessing home and site hazard. Copies can be downloaded from the Aviation and Forest Fire Management web page: <http://affm.mnr.gov.on.ca/spectrasites/internet/affm/fire.cfm>.

The MNR and OFM encourage municipalities to adopt Ontario

FireSmart principles within their communities and make use of the information provided to mitigate wildfire risk wherever there is a potential risk of wildfire in their community.

Questions regarding Ontario FireSmart can be directed to your local MNR Fire Management Headquarters.

Sculpture by Ontario artist presented to NYC

A soapstone sculpture, called "Thundering Silence," commemorating the victims of September 11, 2001, was presented to the people of New York City on March 7.

Artist Paul Shier of Tweed, Ontario spent over 1,100 hours completing the sculpture, which includes a life-sized replica of a firefighter's helmet and boots.

The sculpture was presented at Bellevue Hospital in Manhattan, just blocks from the site of the World Trade Towers.

Information and picture courtesy of Wayne Mastromatteo.



Climbing the Ladder: Education & Training

The objective of **Climbing the Ladder** is to keep you informed and up to date on issues related to education and training within the Ontario fire service, and to adequately address your questions and concerns. If there is a particular issue you want covered, send the topic to the Editor of the Messenger and it will be passed on to the appropriate person in the OFM Academic Standards and Evaluation section.

OFC hosts multi-agency training for set-up of mobile hospital

BY ROSE BARG, MANAGER, EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS ACADEMIC UNIT, OFM, WITH ASSISTANCE FROM MARK BREEN, COORDINATOR, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UNIT, MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND LONG TERM CARE.

The OFM continues its commitment to collaborate with multi-agency groups to improve emergency preparedness and response within Ontario. The most recent initiative involved all levels of government. This was an innovative training course offered at the Ontario Fire College (OFC). Participants were trained to set up a mobile emergency hospital unit, made available by the Government of Canada through Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), formerly part of Health Canada, and coordinated through the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC) and the OFM.

Background

The federal government, through PHAC, has pre-positioned mobile emergency "field hospital" units in strategic locations throughout Canada. This is part of the National Emergency Stockpile System (NESS), which is designed to pro-

vide emergency hospitals, medical and social services (such as food and shelter), in the event of complex emergencies or for immediate response to natural or human-caused disasters.

Owned and operated by PHAC, the NESS emergency hospital units contain beds and blankets, reception centres, triage stations, and other supplies and equipment to care for up to 500 casualties. Supplies from NESS hospitals have been used in recent years to support the thousands of passengers who landed at Canadian airports when they were diverted from flights headed for the United States on September 11, 2001. They have also been used during major floods, forest fires and ice storms.

In order to facilitate a quick response to local emergencies requiring these emergency services, PHAC has pre-positioned medical equipment and supply stockpiles throughout Canada. This includes more than 100 pre-positioned 200-bed emergency hospital units, which are deployed by PHAC. In Ontario, hospitals are pre-positioned in Thunder Bay and Sud-

bury, and additional hospitals are stored in the Brampton and Ottawa federal depots. The equipment and supply storage consists of non-perishable units or kits packaged for long terms storage. In the event of deployment, pharmaceuticals and other dated items, which are stored at the federal depot in Ottawa, are taken to the emergency as determined by the nature of the emergency. The entire NESS system is coordinated through the Office of Emergency Services (OES).

Protocol for Release of Equipment and Supplies

In the event of a local health emergency that overwhelms available local resources, the protocol of accessing the pre-positioned equipment and supplies requires the local municipality/community to contact MOHLTC's Emergency Management Unit (EMU). EMU will attempt to access the appropriate resources in a timely fashion by contacting the NESS manager at PHAC. Simultaneously, EMU will alert the duty officer at

See Partnership on page 15

Partnership makes training possible

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the Emergency Operations Centre. EMU can be contacted through a 24-hour hotline at 1-866-212-2272.

Please note that the authority for

release of the NESS program's equipment and supplies remains the manager of NESS. However, in provincial, territorial or national emergencies, the protocol for deployment of the equipment and supplies requires that the provincial/territorial EMU director contact the manager of NESS, PHAC.



The NESS training course in Ontario was made possible through the partnership of the OFM, Public Health Agency of Canada and the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC). Attending the open house on November 18 were (left to right) Ontario Fire Marshal Bernard Moyle; Frank Smith, manager of NESS program at Public Health Agency of Canada; and Dennis Brown, Senior Manager, Operations and Quality Management, MOHLTC.

The Initial Course

In order to facilitate the quick assembly in local communities, PHAC requests the support of local personnel who are trained in hospital set up, should deployment become necessary. To that end, training courses utilizing a smaller version of the hospitals are being

offered within the provinces and territories so that local personnel will be prepared to assist in hospital set up should the need arise.

During the week of November 15, 2004, the course facilitators, Frank Smith (manager, NESS) and his assistants Barry Downing and Mike Turner delivered the initial "train the trainer" course to participants from Ontario. The three-day course, entitled "Set up and operation of the 200-bed Emergency Hospital", is often referred to locally as the *NESS Mobile Hospital Set Up* course.

The goal of the course is to provide an overview of the management and set up of the hospital and related equipment and supplies. This includes learning about the types of units and supplies, how inventory is controlled, the distribution warehousing, and the federal legislation, policy standards and guidelines that administer NESS.

The physically demanding, intensive course, which uses many practical exercises, guides participants in setting up a miniature version of the NESS hospital. Upon completion of the course, participants are prepared to become trainers for future delivery. At the initial Ontario course, the trainers and participants hosted an open house on the last day. This provided participants with an opportunity to demonstrate their new knowledge and skill in providing a tour of the miniature NESS mobile hospital to the many curious guests that visited the OFC for this event.

Functional Areas of the Hospital

Participants (our future trainers) were trained on set up and use of the hospital equipment and supplies for 10 functional areas. These include:

- Admission and Discharge: This includes the set up of stretchers and trestles with blankets and supplies for performing triage. This includes supplies like cuffs for taking blood

See Mobile on page 21

Fire service certification update

Firefighter Certification Program

	Departments	Firefighters
Enrolled	190	15,369
	Career Firefighters	Firefighters
Total Certified	1,438	579

Fire Prevention Officer Certification Program

	Departments	Fire Prevention Officers
Enrolled	75	453
Total Certified		61

Company Officer Certification Program

	Departments	Company Officers
Enrolled	51	1,023
Total Certified		3

InDetail: Smoke alarms: different products for different needs

InDetail highlights relevant technical information on topics of interest to the fire service.

The objectives of InDetail are to:

- **enhance the understanding of fire protection, fire prevention and life safety principles;**
- **promote the use of established and state-of-the-art technology to enhance public fire safety; and**
- **raise awareness with respect to ongoing fire research and code development.**

Topics will be selected based on various factors, including: requests for information/clarification from the fire service, OFM staff perception of fire service needs, new developments in the fire safety and fire protection fields, new OFC and OBC requirements, current OFM research, and OFM evaluation of products.

We hope to take what are sometimes fairly complex technical issues and present them in an easy to read and interesting format that will benefit the fire service. Your input is welcomed and encouraged. Please direct your comments to the editor.

BY BETH TATE,
OFM FIRE PROTECTION ENGINEER

Fire data in Ontario reveal that fewer people die in home fires when a smoke alarm is present and activates. Because the majority of fatal fires in the home occur at night when people are asleep, a working smoke alarm can provide an early warning of fire and the time needed for occupants to evacuate.

A smoke alarm is a battery operated or electrically connected device that senses the presence of visible or invisible particles produced by combustion and that is designed to sound an alarm within a room or suite in which it is located.

Smoke alarm technology has been around since the 1960s, and the single-station alarm known by the public has been in use since the 1970s. In the last 25 years, smoke alarms have evolved into cost-effective, reliable and remarkably sophisticated devices that can make the difference between life and death.

There are many smoke alarm makes, models and prices available in the marketplace, and some are intended to serve particular needs within the home. This article discusses several issues associated with several of these products based on recent queries handled by the OFM.

Smoke alarms and the hearing impaired

Both the Ontario Building Code and Fire Code identify the need to install smoke alarms in residential occupancies. By definition, such a device must sound an alarm. Unfortunately, an audible alarm may not alert an individual who has hearing loss.

In general, there are numerous smoke alarms available that address the needs of the hearing impaired. Some devices are designed to produce low and/or high frequency alarms for the benefit of individuals who are hard of hearing (for instance, older persons may have high frequency or pitch hearing loss). There are also devices that have visual alert features, such as strobe lights to identify an emergency condition for those who have complete hearing loss. Smoke alarms may also incorporate a tactile alert in the form of a vibration much like a vibrating pager.

In some instances, these smoke alarm features have energy requirements that prevent the use of batteries. As opposed to a hard-wired connection to the home electrical panel, some smoke alarms are designed to plug into a standard house receptacle. The Standard for Smoke Alarms, CAN/ULC-S-531, identifies that the primary power supply for a smoke alarm must be either a utility supply or an integral battery/batteries. A utility supply may take the form of a power-supply cord connected to a home electrical outlet.

Distinct from this, the Ontario Building Code requires hard-wired smoke alarms during new construction, to ensure a permanent, non-removable connection. An exception to allow a battery operated smoke alarm exists for small buildings that are not provided with access to a hard-wired circuit. The Ontario Fire Code also specifies that a smoke alarm needs to be powered by a permanent connection to an electrical circuit. As the Fire Code applies to existing dwelling units, it also permits the use of battery operated smoke

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alarms. This option ensures that occupants can readily install smoke alarms, without having to provide new electrical wiring.

As the Fire Code provides a minimum level of life safety, a person may choose to install additional smoke alarms for their own personal protection, acknowledging that they must be in addition to, not in lieu of, smoke alarms installed to satisfy Code requirements.

Smoke alarms with remote controls

A recently advertised dual sensing smoke alarm incorporates a hush/silencing feature that can be activated by most standard household remote controls from up to six metres (20 feet) – great for the classic couch potato, you might think.

The silencing feature is common to many smoke alarm models. It allows a user to silence an alarm that has sounded due to, for example, bathroom steam or because of inappropriate placement, say, in a kitchen.

With this product, an alarm can be easily silenced, so there is some concern that a person could silence an alarm without investigating the source of the alarm. In fact, this feature does not disable the device, it temporarily silences the noise. As required by the smoke alarm standard, if smoke around the unit is dense enough to suggest a potentially dangerous situation, it will stay in alarm, or may re-alarm quickly even though it has been silenced. Further, silencing by the remote control will only work once. This smoke alarm is both UL and ULC listed.

Wind-up alarms

Another device that is being promoted these days is a wind-up alarm. This type of device, or a variation of it, has been around for over 30 years. It requires no batteries or electricity to operate, and

uses mechanical means that are said to sound an alarm for more than 5 minutes.

So how does it sense smoke? It doesn't, because it is, in fact, a heat detector, not a smoke alarm. The "brains" of this alarm is the fusible link that is set to melt at a preset temperature.

But a heat detector is not a smoke alarm, and this product may be marketed as a substitute for a smoke alarm, particularly where nuisance alarms are an issue. Or, a consumer may perceive this product to be an equivalent to a smoke alarm (a comparatively high end equivalent, priced at over \$350 dollars). In fact, the installation of a heat detector as a life safety measure is only appropriate when installed in addition to smoke alarms that are required by Code. The OFM has shared its concerns with the company that distributes this product.

Vocal smoke alarm

A smoke alarm that incorporates a vocal command has recently appeared in the marketplace.

The premise of this product is that it is an improvement over a traditional smoke alarm, particularly where sleeping children are concerned. The manufacturer's website states that "traditional smoke detectors (alarms) are incapable of awakening sleeping children – not because they are not loud enough, but rather, it is a function of the way the brain recognizes sounds that are familiar to the child."

The alarm lets parents record a message in their own voices to be played back in an alarm situation – for instance, telling the child to go out the door to the family meeting place. The recording alternates with a more conventional alarm sound. It is recommended that a smoke alarm be installed in each child's bedroom.

We understand that this product is currently being reviewed by UL, and that ULC approval will be sought in future.

Another smoke alarm manu-

facturer also has a voice-enhanced smoke alarm, however it uses a generic voice.

As mentioned above, these products are meant to be used *in addition to*, not instead of, smoke alarms installed to satisfy Code requirements.

Smoke Alarms Save Lives

The OFM firmly believes in the use of smoke alarms in homes, and supports innovative products that enhance fire safety, as long as they also meet the Code and associated smoke alarm standard requirements. Working smoke alarms on every level and outside all sleeping areas can provide an early warning that can make the difference between life and death, and form part of an overall home fire safety strategy that also includes preventing fires by adopting fire safe behavior, and developing and practicing a home fire escape plan.

It is the consumer's responsibility to assess the circumstances of their household to select the most appropriate alarm. When purchasing an alarm, look for a product that has been manufactured and tested to an acceptable standard, with a marking by the Underwriters Laboratories of Canada (ULC), or Underwriters Laboratories Incorporated (UL). We have every reason to believe that alarms listed by a certification agency accredited by the Standards Council of Canada will function as intended.

Consider installing more than one device, to take advantage of both ionization and photo-electric sensing means, or use a combination/dual sensing alarm. There are numerous features available in the marketplace, such as a hush/silencing feature, hard-wiring with battery backup, long life batteries, not to mention alarms that incorporate strobe lights, vibrations or lights, which may be particularly suited to specific needs.

Watch upcoming issues of the Messenger for more information on smoke alarms.

Fire Safety Commission Decision

Decision No. 2002A008-140
Date: March 5, 2003

The following is a synopsis of a Fire Safety Commission hearing. More information may be obtained from the Fire Safety Standards section of the OFM, telephone 416-325-3100.

SUBJECT MATTER

The issue before the tribunal was an Inspection Order served on the owner of a building being used for livestock auctions. The Inspection Order identified 14 items to be complied with by the end of July, 2002. These items included upgrading of the exits and installation of a fire alarm system.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF PREMISES

The building is one storey in height, is of combustible construction and has an area of 970 m². There is a 97 m² mezzanine located in the northwest area of the building.

The building is used primarily to hold livestock auctions once a week. The central and north sections of the building contain pens for horses, pigs, goats and other large livestock, as well as open areas for cages containing smaller livestock. The pens extend below the mezzanine. The south building section is an open temporary livestock holding area.

The building wall and roof assemblies are mostly unfinished exposed wood. A portion of the north half of the mezzanine is sheathed on the underside with gypsum wallboard. All of the pen areas are open for public viewing of the livestock that is being auctioned.

The auction ring comprises 150 m² of the building area. The auction ring has five rows of bench seating, providing approximately 76 linear meters of bench seating. This would provide seating for approximately 168 persons. The normal attendance at these auctions is understood to be less than 40 persons.

The mezzanine is fully enclosed and separated from the remainder of the building by wood panelling on wood studs. A doorway connects the mezzanine to the auction ring. The mezzanine contains an office area and a small snack bar with a seating capacity of 32 persons. The snack bar kitchen has a deep fat fryer and grill located under an aluminium exhaust hood, protected by a wet chemical fixed fire extinguishing system.

The auction ring has one main entrance/egress door that opens directly to the exterior on the north side of the building and three other means of

egress from the auction ring. The centre section of the building has three principal doorways that provide egress to the exterior.

The south section was constructed separately and joins the remainder of the building via a four metre (13-foot) long passageway. There are four openings that provide egress to the exterior.

There is no fire alarm system in the building. Portable extinguishers are provided throughout. There is no approved fire safety plan for the building. One emergency lighting unit is present in the auction ring. "No Smoking" signs are posted throughout the building.

REASONS FOR APPEAL

The owner strongly feels that the requirements as set out in the Inspection Order are unreasonable and not necessary.

APPELLANT'S POSITION

The owner argued that the fire department does not understand the business operation. He does not agree that the building has any fire safety concerns, as the building was built to standards in 1973 and the auction business has been operating since then.

RESPONDENT'S POSITION

During an inspection on July 10, 2002, the respondent identified 14 items of fire safety concerns about the building. An Inspection Order was issued and requires the owner to comply with the following:

1. Provide a second exit from the pit area with clearly defined paths of exit travel to the exterior, ensuring that doors swing in the direction of exit travel.
2. Remove combustible waste material from under bleachers near the front exit, and close-off the underside of the bleachers facing the exit.
3. Provide a second exit from the rear barn area by ensuring that the sliding doors are open whenever the building is occupied. This exit shall have a clearly defined path of exit travel to the exterior.

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Fire Safety Commission decision

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4. Access to the front exit is to be increased by cutting back the side-walls of the bleachers as per directions.
5. Widen the gate at the second exit from the pit area.
6. Provide fire watch - ensuring there is "no smoking" in the building at all times and ensuring clear and definite paths of exit travel.
7. Provide the proper panic hardware for the front glass exit door from the pit area.
8. Provide illuminated exit signs at all doors utilized as exits in the front and back indicating the direction of exit travel. Also, provide exit signs at the top of the exterior stairs from the kitchen and at the two large sliding doors in the rear barn, as well as the main door located in the rear barn.
9. Provide emergency lighting for exits and open floor areas, such as

the kitchen and the pit area.

10. Install a fire alarm, with an alarm panel complete with battery backup. Manual pull stations are to be provided at each exit and audible devices (bells) are to be provided in the kitchen and the pit area.

11. Provide a permanent second exit from the rear barn area. This exit shall have a clearly defined path of exit travel to the exterior and must be available at all times.

12. Close-off the underside of the exit stairs from the kitchen leading to the exterior.

13. Provide a fire safety plan acceptable to the chief fire official.

14. All changes to be approved prior to implementation.

COMMISSION'S RULING

The Commission ordered that the Inspection Order be upheld and two additional items be added:

15. Discontinue use of the com-

mercial cooking equipment until it is upgraded to meet NFPA 96.

16. The owner shall undertake a Life Safety Study by June 30, 2003, and based on this document, prepare a life safety plan acceptable to the fire department by September 30, 2003.

REASONS

The tribunal believes that the public is entitled to a minimum level of fire safety in all buildings in the province of Ontario. Based on the evidence presented, the tribunal believes that the work is required to protect the public and provide a reasonable level of life safety in the building.

During the hearing, evidence was provided with respect to the condition of the commercial cooking equipment, which triggered an additional requirement in the decision rendered by the tribunal.

Fire Service Calendar 2005

March 18	Ontario Municipal Fire Prevention Officers Association Fire Protection Course	Ajax, ON
March 31-April 3	Northeastern Fire Education Conference	North Bay, ON
April 3-7	Ontario Professional Fire Fighters Association Spring Education Seminar	Niagara Falls, ON
April 8	Quality Breathing Air Training Program	Gravenhurst, ON
April 11-14	Ontario Municipal Fire Prevention Officers Association's Annual Symposium	Kitchener, ON
April 17-23	Wildfire Prevention Week	
April 22 & 29	Ontario Municipal Fire Prevention Officers Association Interpretation and Application of the OBC Act Course	Ajax, ON
April 23 & 24	Fire and Life Safety Conference, "Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes"	Dryden, ON
May 1-5	OAFCA 2005 Conference and Trade Show	Toronto, ON

New in the OFM Library

The Fire Sciences Library & Audio-Visual Resource Centre provides current fire resources to support the Office of the Fire Marshal as well as fire departments, emergency services and fire related industries. The collection consists of 9,000+ books, reports, standards, statute law and 1,300 audio-visual resources representing the following subject areas:

- arson and fire investigation;
- fire safety building and engineering design;
- human behaviour in fire/disasters;
- firefighter training, health & safety;
- fire testing of materials;
- fire department management/operation;
- public safety education;
- rescue work.

New Books

Aviation and airport security by Kathleen Sweet. (2004)

Confined space entry and emergency response by Alan D. Veasey and Lisa McCormick Craft. (2002)

Fire! The 100 most devastating fires and the heroes who fought them by Edward C. Goodman. (2001)

Fire and EMS department safety officer by Gordon M. Sachs. (2001)

Fire and life safety in health care facilities by Marvin J. Fischer and Thomas W. Gardner. National Fire Protection Association (2000)

Forensic fire scene reconstruction by David J. Icove and John D. Dehaan. (2004)

Ignition handbook: principles and applications to fire safety engineering, fire investigation, risk management and forensic science by Vytenis Babrauskas. (2003)

The investigation of motor vehicle fires 4th ed. by Lee S. Cole (2001)

Plastics flammability handbook 3rd ed. by Jurgen Troitzsch. (2004)

Respiratory protection for fire and emergency services by International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA) (2002)

When violence erupts: a survival guide for emergency responders by Dennis R. Krebs (2003)

New Videos

Heat! Working in Hot Environments (2004)

This DVD covers the risks involved in working in hot environments and explains how individuals can protect themselves through preventative measures. It describes the signs and symptoms of heat injuries and explains methods to alleviate heat injuries and demonstrates first aid treatments.



Scene Safety (2004)

This CD-ROM aims to inform and educate police, fire and emergency medical services personnel and first responders in the safe management of traffic. It looks at legislation, regulations, standards and best practices applicable to traffic related emergencies.

Ten Cones of Safety: Highway Safety for Emergency Responders (2002)

This DVD aims to teach emergency responders how to deal with responses on highways. It covers: apparatus positioning and placement, multi-agency communication, scene lighting, retro-reflective and florescent personal protective equipment and co-ordination of on-scene apparatus and personnel.



The Fire Sciences Library & Audio-Visual Resource Centre is located at the head office of the OFM, 5775 Yonge St., 7th Floor, Toronto. We welcome visitors to come to the library and borrow from our collection. We will also courier material directly to clients. Hours are Monday – Friday 8:30am to 4:15pm. Visit our Web site by clicking on Resource Centre at www.ofm.gov.on.ca or call 416-325-3235/3236 (Library) or 416-325-3121 (AV). Email: firesciences.information@ofm.ca.

Mobile hospital training

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pressure and stethoscopes.

- **X-ray Department:** This includes a portable X-ray machine, a processor and a generator.
- **Laboratory:** One hospital unit provides enough supplies for up to 500 blood tests on blood, urine and stool.
- **Operating Room:** This consists of a table, light, portable suction machine, oxygen and anaesthetic machine for halothane and ether.
- **Pre-Operating and Post-Operating Unit:** This includes a set-up of stretchers or beds, suction machines, and oxygen tanks, as other patient supplies such as gowns, towels, and pillows.
- **Central Supply:** This is a general re-supply area for the operating room. It includes pre-packed operating trays for various surgical procedures, such as sterilizers, gowns, towels and various tubes, sutures, needles, forceps and scalpels.
- **A Pharmacy and Stores unit** provides a general supplies for the

whole hospital. This includes blankets, tools, IV poles, utility tables, drapes, carts and administration supplies.

- **General Ward:** This unit consists of beds, oxygen cylinders with regulators and supplies for administering oxygen to patients, and other usual ward items such as blankets, pillows and gowns.
- **A Utilities unit** provides a water pump and all the connections for a 5678 litre (1500 gallon) water reservoir.

The Newly Qualified Trainers

The six participants who participated in the course were strategically chosen to assist in future delivery and/or set up of NESS emergency hospitals. The OFM was pleased that Ken Jones, a former OFC instructor, was able to participate in the initial training. The other participants included Steve Muholland [Regional Training Coordinator (RTC) for Base Hospitals, located in Barrie], Mark Breen [MOHTLC, Emergency Management Unit (EMU), who will become the ministry project lead], Michael McBride, (RTC, Thunder Bay), Robert Smith, (RTC, Sudbury) and Dan McGuire, a representative of the Emergency Medical Assistance Team (EMAT).

Future courses will be coor-

minated through the MOHLTC, and hosted by the OFM. Newly qualified trainers, Ken Jones and Steve Muholland will be the primary trainers for courses that are currently scheduled for the fall of 2005.

Summary

The OFM is pleased to have been able to host this exciting and innovative multi-agency project that encourages collaboration among all levels of government to improve emergency preparedness in the province. It is with great pleasure that we are able to thank the Government of Canada, particularly PHAC, as well as the Ontario MOHLTC for their cooperation in making this inaugural course come to fruition. We look forward to an ongoing partnership in hosting future offerings.

References

1. Harwood, C. A. and Smith F. (2004). Canada's National Emergency Stockpile System. Office of Emergency Services, Health Canada. 14th World Conference On Disaster Management: Toronto.
2. http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/media/releases/2002/2002_13bk5.htm
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NESS participant Dan McGuire (left) from the Emergency Medical Assistance Team (Toronto) shows a sterilization unit to Gord Yoshida, fire protection engineer from the OFM, during the open house on November 18.

Answers: Wildfires and Campfires

From page 5

- A.1 a) 200,000 hectares b) \$11 billion
 A.2 campfires A.3 3 metres A.4 15 metres
 A.5 False. Hot coals may still be burning underneath rocks used to encircle the campfire or in the ashes. Always move the rocks and stir the ashes with a stick to uncover coals, then drown the fire again with water.

Firefighters' CD raises money for Christmas toys

BY CHUCK PARSONS,
DEPUTY CHIEF, PUBLIC EDUCATION, TRAINING,
C.E.M.C., LEAMINGTON FIRE SERVICE

One way to get children to smile at Christmas is to give them gifts, and a way to get a community to smile is to have firefighters provide them with music. This year Leamington and Kingsville firefighters were able to achieve both.

Leamington and Kingsville firefighters recorded a CD of an original song written by Leamington's Director of Corporate Services, Brian Sweet. The CD also included recordings of A Letter to Santa, read by Leah Toews (a local student), and the stories Twas the Night Before Christmas and Yes Virginia, There is a Santa Claus, read by Terry Raisbeck, Jane Toppi and Paul Vasey (local personalities).

"The project was the brainchild of Brian Sweet," said Leamington's Deputy Fire Chief Chuck Parsons. "We knew his song was a catchy tune right from the beginning but I don't think any of us really expected how popular the song would become."

The CDs were sold for \$5 with proceeds going to Toys4Tots. Sales reached \$9,800.

Sweet's song, entitled "I Want To Give a Gift to Santa Claus," was sung by musician Dale Butler. Firefighters from Leamington and

Kingsville sang the chorus. Dubbed the "Christmas Chorus Response Team," members included Fire Chief Bob Kissner Jr. (Kingsville Fire), Deputy Chief Chuck Parsons (Leamington Fire), Lorne Bradt (Leamington Fire), Jordy Clifford (Leamington Fire), Reg Dewhirst (Kingsville Fire), Jeff Kartye (Kingsville Fire), Andrew Bridges (Kings-

ville Fire) and Todd Gate (Kingsville Fire). The song is about deciding on the perfect gift to give to Santa because he gives so much to everyone else.

organization started in 1989 to provide local children with gifts on Christmas. Both fire departments actively support Toys4Tots. Firefighter Lorne Bradt is the organization's chairperson. During the Christmas 2004 season, the organization distributed 3,300 toys to 703 children from 309 families throughout the Essex County area. Most of the toys were donated by the community. Collections were held at the Santa Claus Parade, the Teddy Bear Toss at a local hockey game and at donation drop-offs in stores and building lobbies around the communities. The money collected from the CD helped to purchase toys for children who are difficult to collect donations for (usually older children).

Since the recording, the song has been heard on the airwaves of a number of Canadian and American radio stations and live performances were given in public and on the radio.

"Everything about the CD had a local flavor," said Parsons. "It was written and recorded locally by local people, and even the graphic design was produced locally. It was truly an example of people within a community coming together."

For more information about the CD go to the web site www.toys4tots.ca.



Firefighters from Leamington and Kingsville produced a CD to raise funds for the Toys4Tots program to bring Christmas gifts to area kids.

ville Fire) and Todd Gate (Kingsville Fire). The song is about deciding on the perfect gift to give to Santa because he gives so much to everyone else.

Total Fitness in Kingsville, Four Seasons Mens Wear and 96.7 CHYR-FM of Leamington sponsored the CD.

The Leamington area's Toys4Tots