

From now on, Station One in Ingersoll will be known as the Fire Chief Darell E. Parker Station Number One.

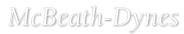
INGERSOLL - The Ingersoll Fire Hall will officially be called Fire Chief Darell E. Parker Station Number One.

The renaming comes in honour of their longest-standing fire chief Darell Parker, who served in the role for 23 years. Ingersoll Fire Services held a ceremony yesterday to thank Parker for his service and unveil a plaque in dedication of the new name.

During the ceremony friends and family spoke of his kind and caring personality and his dedication to the community over his 33 years in the service.

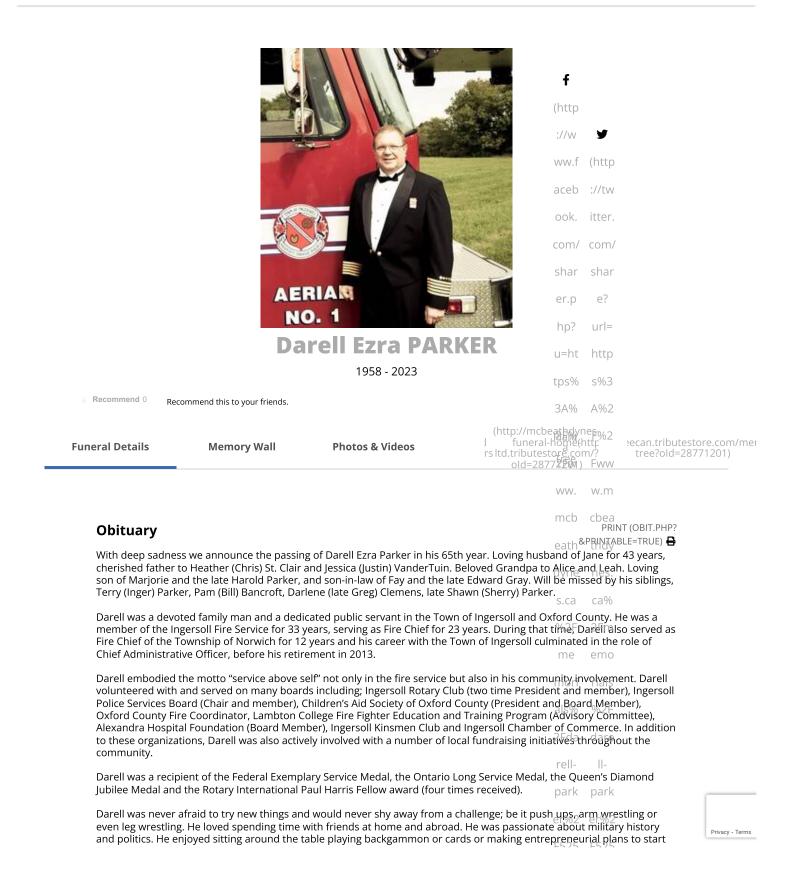






FUNERAL HOME LTD.

Home About ~ Obituaries Our Services ~ Funeral Planning ~ Grief & Guidance ~ Send Flowers



up the Lake Erie Fresh Water Lobster Company.

A private family service will be held at the Ingersoll Rural Cemetery. Family and friends are invited to attend a celebration of life to be held on September 1st from 4pm-8pm in the Carriage House at the Elm Hurst Inn.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks for donation to Sakura House or Alexandra Hospital Foundation.

Special thanks to Dr. Jill Matsuo and the caring staff at Sakura House for all their compassionate support. **Read Less**

To send flowers (http://mcbeathdynes-funeral-home-ltd.tributestore.com/?old=28771201) to the family or plant a tree (https://treecan.tributestore.com/memorial-tree?old=28771201) in memory of Darell Ezra PARKER, please visit our Heartfelt Sympathies Store (http://mcbeathdynes-funeral-home-ltd.tributestore.com/?old=28771201).

Service Details

PRINT (SERVICE-DETAILS.PHP? PRINTABLE=TRUE)

×

1 3 6 3 1 3 6 3

Visitation

When Friday, September 1, 2023 4:00pm - 8:00pm

Location Carriage House Elmhurst Inn

Address 415 Harris Street Ingersoll, Ontario N5C 3J8

Fire Prevention Week Oct. 7-13 Have 2 Ways Out promoted **during Fire Prevention Week**



Darell Parker





Lonnie Atkinson



Jackie Beam



Jeff Thom



Ryan Baker

Steven Longfield



Paul Rooke

Matt Muller

Steve Foster Kirk Franklin





Tyler Henhawke

Kyle

Kale Brown Vandenbrock

Fire Prevention Week runs October 7-13, 2012. This year's theme is "Have 2 Ways Out!".

Saluting Ingersoll's Fire Service staff

When the smoke alarms sound, everyone must know where to go - that's why it is so important for everyone to have working smoke alarms and to develop and practise a home fire escape plan.

Fire and smoke can spread quickly, so be prepared in advance with these simple steps for home fire escape planning:

Assess the needs of everyone in your home

Identify anyone who requires assistance to get out of the home safely, such as small children or older adults

Make sure that you have working smoke alarms on every storey of the home and outside all sleeping areas

Make sure everyone in the home knows the sound of the smoke alarm

Identify all possible exits (doors and windows) and make sure they work

Know two ways out of all areas, if possible

Everyone must know, what to do when the smoke alarm sounds

Assign someone to help those who need assistance Identify a safe meeting place outside

Call the fire department from a neighbour's home or cell phone

Practice your home fire escape plan

pate

plan if necessary

to use How to Make a Hom Fire Escape Plan (PDF 1.13 MB) and Fire Safety Checklist (PDF 5.38 MB) to learn how to keep their homes safe from fire and in their home escape planning. Reproduced from NFPA's Fire Prevention Week website, www.fireprevention week.org. @2012 NFPA



Don Wright

ways out

Fire and smoke can spread quickly. When the smoke alorm sounds, must know what to do and where to go.

a information on home fire escape y toot your local fire depo

a of the Fire Mandred (9, 201)



John Holmes **Jim Griffin**

Brian Dickert



Brad Clayton





Dan Roe

Giulio Robles



Ryan

Krienselokker

John Kaiser

Jeff Soetemans

Shane Johnson













Steve Hilton







Have everyone partici

Make changes to you

Families are encourage

mal production chain of command (area leader, team leader, production associate). Both men share an obvious enthusiasm for their work, and for the GM-Suzuki plant's possibilities for success.

The trip to Japan gave the two a chance to see Japanese production techniques in action at Suzuki's Kosai and Iwata plants. The production of light trucks and sub-compact cars at those plants will soon be mirrored at the Ingersoll facility – as will Japanese philosophies of production and maintenance.

Suzuki believes in "driving decision-making down to the plant floor" said Vickering. Added Pavey: "They believe that the worker is the most important person to consult, because he's the one actually doing the jobs." This led Suzuki to a suggestion-acceptance program which, while normal for Japanese automotive manufacturers, is relatively rew to North American

John Vickering and John Pavey are two Ingersoll residents who underwent a four-week training course in Japan recently to prepare them for their work at the CAMI plant. Vickering (left) said that the hands-on training experience in Japan was a great help, while Pavey said that he would readily return to Japan for a vacation.

enamored of Japan as they were of the Suzuki corporate ethic. "The people are wonderful," Pavey said. "They're very polite and very honest," added Vickering. Examples of both qualities were readily forthcoming.

Lost items such as watches and umbrellas may be hung on street posts in Tokyo, where they will remain until their owner returns to claim them. Cab drivers refuse to take tips. After accidentally leaving his camera in a restaurant, Pavey had it returned to him by a waiter who ran three blocks to catch him -and who had refused to shout at the Canadian to stop due to politeness.

Unable to find a coin-operated laundromat, Pavey and a couple of friends tried to ask a Japanese counle for

500,000 which houses Suzuki's headquarters, also is home to many ancient temples and spacious country homes, all lovingly cared for and preserved in deference to the town's heritage.

Western influence is pervasive in Japan, especially in Tokyo. There, movies, billboards and fashiontrends reflect an influx of North Americanism. "The Japanese are very fashion-conscious, but the fashions are much like what you would see in Toronto," noted Vickering.

Very few complaints could be made about Japan and her people by the two. "It's very cloudy," Vickering said, and both took notice of high food and drink prices. A steak may run as high as \$25, a cantaloupe \$50. The Japanese also possess a public-transit system which is unparallelled for speed and efficiency in the world – a good thing, as Japanese highways are not nearly as developed as ours. The famous

Japanese bullet train, Pavey noted lives up to its reputation. The train which travels at top speeds of 25 kilometres per hour, differed from its schedule by, at most, 30 seconds Via Rail take note: 30 seconds ear ly.

In conclusion, Vickering said that he hoped that the Japanese trainers who will soon be arriving in Inger soll for a two-year stay would get a good reception from the townspeo ple. "They'll be entering a differen world were served did and L hope

Ingersoll füre fighter Darrell Parker (in white) lifts the roof off a car in order to get to an unconscious victim. Story and more photos on Page 5. Like a can opener taken to a can. Oxford County fire fighters learned how to take apart a car in a matter of minutes during simulated accidents. It was all a part of a program offered in Woodstock by the Ontario Fire Marshall's Office, Here,



Captain Parker excells in Ingersoll Department

For someone who "never expected to be a firefighter," Captain Darell Parker has sure come a long way in the Ingersoll Fire Department.

Parker just received his diploma in the Fire Protection Technology course at the Ontario Fire College in Gravenhurst. Although the diploma is not mandatory, Parker said "once you go above captain I know you have to have it."

A former construction worker who became a volunteer firefighter on the spur of the moment just seven years ago, Parker was hired on fulltime as captain in 1982. He enrolled in the Fire Protection Technology course the next year.

Parker said he now looks forward to becoming a Fire Chief when the time is right. To make that more possible, he's on the waiting list for an advanced three-year diploma that follows up on the original fouryear one. He's also taking the Municipal Administration course at Fanshawe College.

Parker said the Fire Protection Technology course was mainly a management course, for both fire scenes and in the fire hall. There were four units of three weeks each, in fire prevention, fire department management, techniques of instruction and fire fighting operations.



Captain Darell Parker

Parker said he enjoyed fire fighting operations the most, because you're given situations rather than lectures. For instance, there's a simulator room with a whole town set up in miniature. A tanker-truck explodes in the middle of town, and you are only able to monitor the fire and give instructions to firefighters by looking at a television screen and using a radio. "It's like a war game," Parker said. "If you've done the right thing

you'll see steam!" The whole idea of the unit was to give you a taste of actual command at the scene of a fire, Parker said.



OKAY, I'M READY

A fire truck at Harris Heights Public School was surrounded by interested preschoolers participating in the Learning Experience Activities Program. T.J. Ward, 5, tried out a firefighter's outfit with the help of Capt. Darrell Parker. (Staff photo by Ron Preston)



New firefighter

Fire Chief Ken Campbell received council's permission to hire Darrell Parker as the newest volunteer fire fighter.

Chief Campbell received only one application for the vacant position after three weeks advertising. The chief noted that the applicant works where the local fire department already has five fire fighters and, "It is my suggestion that we do not ask for another one of their employees at this time."

Mr. Parker has assured Chief Campbell he can attend fire calls during working hours. Duties commence September 1, 1980.

Election held

Darrell Parker was elected new president of the Kinsmen Club Monday night at a special dinner meeting held in the Venus Dining Lounge.

Bruce Fleming was elected vice president and Jim Staples was elected secretary.

Al Dolson will be treasurer during the 1979-80 term with Jim Knott as registar. Joe Todd is bulletin editor.

Directors include Jim Robins, Dave Bartram and Don Riach, with Mr. Riach also serving as public relations chairman. Larry Johnson is past president.



Ingersoll Fire Department Captain Darell Parker stands in front of the newly-restored 1927 Stewart Pumper truck which will take part in this year's Heritage days parade. (Jonathan Stover photo)

department's fleet up to three engines. The purchase was over \$100,000. It brings the fire

Ingersoll Fire Chiel Ken Campbell and Captain. Darryl Parker pose beside the town's new fire engine.



conducted to ensure nutrition loss and chemical changes induced by irradiation are harmless

Irradiation subjects food to radiation and can use various energy sources, such as X-rays or fast-moving electrons. Some companies operating now use gamma rays emitted by a radioactive isotope such as cobalt-60.

Irradiation can kill micro-organisms which causes spoilage and slow ripening in some fruits. It can kill foodborne parasites and pathogenic micro- organisms.

Increasing the world's food supply has powerful ramifications for many Third World countries, possibly saving millions of people from starvation and putting an end to the horror stories from underdeveloped nations

While irradiation may have strong points, developers of the systems, and governments who exercise control over such developments, should not rush into the process

Since there appears to be a growing opposing to irradiation it is likely it may be quite sometime before the process is fully implemented and com

As with any new idea or pr taken to examine all of the results to see if in fact the bene side effects

We wouldn't want to save Third World only to destroy th deadly as the lack of food.

Letters

Dear Editor

The Mississauga train derailment in 1979, the derailment of C.P. Rail's "acid train" near Parry Sound, and the tragedies in Hinton, Alberta and elsewhere repeatedly give urgency to the issue of rail transportation safety in Canada. Why is it then, that railways are now putting forward proposals which will reduce safety rather than improve it?

rather than improve it? For some time now, Canadian railways have been lobbying the Canadian Transport Commission for the eliminaton of the caboose and its crew at the rear of freight trains. They want to move the rear crew to the front and replace it at the rear with an electronic monitoring device called an End of Train Information called an End of Train Information System (ETIS) The United Transportation Union

and many other groups across the country believe this move is a dangerous one for all Canadians. Not all of us work on trains or travel by rail but this issue affects millions

can harm sy

I intended last week's contribution on first aid to be our last, but two very common ailments were missed With them and a couple of others I shall now conclude.

Sometimes I think that I am like one of Jerome K. Jerome's "Three Men in a Boat." He was con-templating a journey with his bud-dies up the old River Thames. Refore attempting it he thought he Before attempting it he thought he ought to consider his physical competence and decided that he had an ailment to match each letter of the alphabet

"It's the volunteers who really deserve the credit, 'said Mr. Parker "The Ingersoll station is

the request of the fire chief or deputy normally take his job home with him after the day is done, but that he responds to after-hours fire calls on

Mr Parker claims that he doesn't

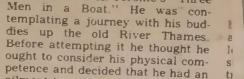
squad at their former headquarters at the old town hall

photo mounted prominently against

The Ingersoll department has a pager system which alerts the fire-fighters and gives the location of the blace. The chief and the deputy also firefighting force at the scene Fire captain Parker began work-ing in the fire service in 1980 as a volunteer fire-fighter, and was hired full-time as the captain in 1982.

full-time as the captain in 1982

The other morning one of my 26 complaints suddenly struck me and jumping out of bed I got on my feet ALAA AEP P SALOA MY 128





h

cmer

No glamor in file-fighting, says captain

He has been will it department for just His promotion from Acting Captain was passed by Council last week. Born in Ingersoll, Capt. Parker is one of the Department's three full-time firefighters. Parker of the Ingersoll Fire Department. Uarell Parker is now officially Capt. Darell

Captain for approximately a year.



Fire captain Parker was sitting at

"There's not a lot of romance in tighting garbage fires," he laughed.

"It's not like TV," he laughs, "where there are always lots of peo-ple running around It's the same with police shows They're not sw-inging a gun anound all the time." Mr. Parker arced that television tended to romanticize such profes-sions as threibling and law en-

the fire station than most people would think Ingersol Fire Captain Darell Parker also says "there's a

wel bne gnitdgiterit as znois

101Cement

Summer of waiting



Page 24A The Daily Sentinel-Review, Ingersell This Week, Tues., Nev. 21, 1989

Lack of fire extinguishers

By ERIC SCHMIEDL of Ingersoll This Week

For full-time and volunteer firefighters alike, the job of dous-ing flames involves an everpresent element of danger.

"Every fire is a potential hazard." Captain Darell Parker of the Ingersoll Fire Department said in an interview

In an interview. However, putting out fires is only one part of Parker's job. Since In-gersoil's department is a small one, he said he "pretty well runs through the full gamut" of firefighter duties.

In larger departments, jobs can be split up and handled by different people, which is a luxury the Ingersoll department doesn't have, Parker explained.

So, on any given day, he faces a variety of tasks to keep him occupied.

"A big part of the job" is talking to people about fire safety, he said. He speaks to about 300 to 500 people a year, he added. Parker talks to young and old about fire hazards, he said.

His talks to children are often illustrated by visual aids such as films. Talking to older people, he stresses the need for fire escape plans.

Last year, he did a career day

Last year, he did a career day speech. "I think (the speech) was suc-cessful," he said. Checking over trucks and monitoring the alarm panel are other things that may fill his day. In addition, inspections have to be carried out on both businesses and rest tial buildings. "We en orce the rules laid down in the Ontario Fire Code" during inspections, Parker said. As much as possible, inspections are timed so they don't present a



CAPTAIN Darrell Parker brings the fire safety message to young and old.

problem to people — "we don't want to upset anybody's schedule," he added. Parker said he calls ahead to set up inspection times.

Generally, inspections ensure buildings are brought up to safety standards.

mon violation Parker One lack of fire exencol



Beryl Baigent Local writer participates in poetry exchange

A former writer-in-residence at the University of Western Ontario, Adele Wiseman has instituted a series of poetry exchanges with five universities. Wiseman, who is writer-in-residence at the University of Windsor this year began the event with a reading in Windsor in October and two further readings have takevent of a tire, Parker

would "get in the truck and go," while volunteers would be alerted by pagers they carry with them, he said

Bob Richardson said he became a volunteer in July, 1978. A supervisor at Chicago Vitreous

Ltd., Richardson said he joined Ingersoll's volunteers because it's a public service and he was "just in-

terested in firefighting." So far this year, he's responded to about 50 calls. On the average, there are one or two calls a week

"There might be three calls in one day, or nothing for two weeks," he explained.

The calls don't present too much

The Ingersoll Times, Wednesday, September 28, 1988

Squad fight fire with experience



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

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." 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,

Parker. Full turnout gear weighs about 40 pounds and the element of danger is always present. Since Captain Parker joined In-

gersoll'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 in-

While there were no serious in-juries, 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."

threatened." "It's just the job-you don't dwell on the dangers," he says, adding that his wife Jane, doesn't concen-trate 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

years to achieve a firefighter technology diploma. Currently, he's working on an advanced diploma from the college.

The Ontario Fire Marshall's of-fice 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 ex-posure 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 marshall'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 ives 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

come down when he's hungry," he said, adding laughingly, "I've never seen a dead cat in a tree yet!" "We usually tell them the cat will

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 speader and cutter.

While the department used the smaller system to wrench the ped-dle away from the boy's foot, the department now has the Jaws of Life for heavier jobs. Continued on A14

Squad fight fire with experience

Although they haven't used it yet, the motorized system handles more weight than the manual system.

system. In between calls, the firefighters maintain the fire hall, teach fire prevention, conduct commercial and industrial inspections and train. What does Parker like best about his position? "I enjoy working with volunteers. I enjoy helping people when I can-I

like to make a difference. Parker says to properly do the work a person should be able to work at heights, enter a smoke-filled building and feel reasonably comfortable and answer calls at any time of night in any weather

He also said that if either of his two daughters, now ages six and one and a half, wanted to take up firefighting he'd support and en-

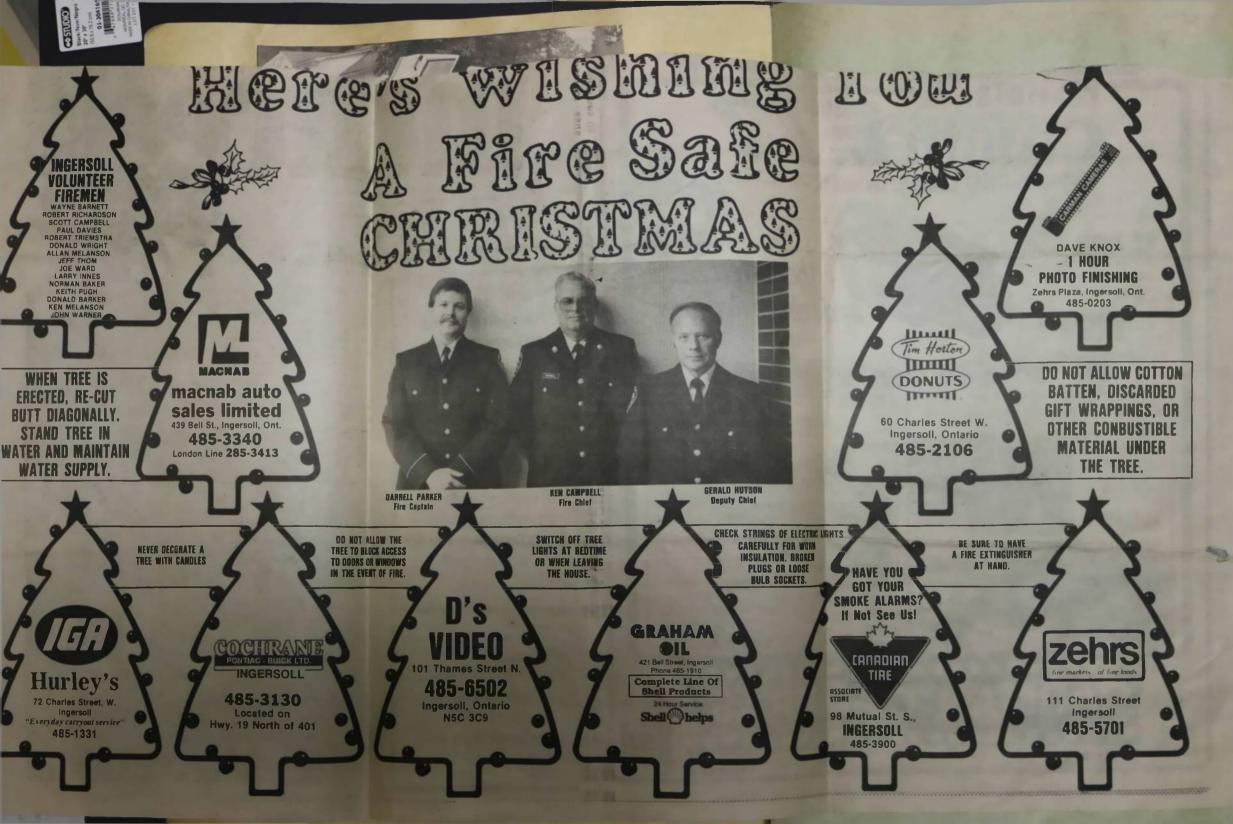


Three people were injured in a two-car collision at Oxford and Ann Streets at around noon yesterday. The three injured parties were all travelling in this Jeep. A black Mazda was also involved in the incident. An eyewitness said she saw the jeep flip into the air and land across Ann Street on Oxford Street. Names of those involved have not yet been released. Police are continuing their investigation. (Matthew Smith photo)



ioon not even the rubble will remain from the June 4 fire in Ingersoll. (Mat-

a





d

LI W

IF e IS

Pictured from left to right: Starting in the front row, Don Wright, Darrell Parker, Gerald Hutson, John Warner, Captain Wayne Barnett, Robert Triemstra, Dan Gunnell, Captain Robert Richardson, Steve James, Donald Barker, Terry Daniel, Keith Pugh, Scott Fuller, Joe Ward, Jeff Thom, Kenneth Melanson, Scott Campbell, Norman Baker. Absent: Paul Davies, Yvon Riopel.

The members of the Ingersoll Fire Department would like to take this opportunity to send out this special thank you to all those, who for many long hours supported us through the June 4, 1991 fire in the downtown core.

Our special thanks to the fire department and industries that responded to our aid, your professionalism and dedication was outstanding.

We would also like to thank the many church groups, service clubs, businesses and countless citizens who provided much needed refreshments and moral support to the approximately 90 firefighters throughout the night.

Thank you Ingersoll Fire Department.

an



INGERSOLL FIRE DEPARTMENT

Pictured from left to right: Starting in the front row, Don Wright, Darrell Parker, Gerald Hutson, John Warner, Captain Wayne Barnett, Robert Triemstra, Dan Gunnell, Captain Robert Richardson, Steve James, Donald Barker, Terry Daniel, Keith Pugh, Scott Fuller, Joe Ward, Jeff Thom, Kenneth Melanson, Scott Campbell, Norman Baker. Absent: Paul Davies, Yvon Riopel.

Thank You . . .

The members of the Ingersoll Fire Department would like to take this opportunily to send out this special thank you to all those, who for many long hours supported us through the June 4, 1991 fire in the downtown core.

Our special thanks to the fire department and industries that responded to our aid, your professionalism and dedication was outstanding.

We would also like to thank the many church groups, service clubs, businesses and countless citizens who provided much needed refreshments and moral support to the approximately 90 firefighters throughout the night.
Thanks Again!

Ingersoll Fire Department

Businesses face future after fire

BY MATTHEW SMITH

In 1934, Preston Thorold Walker bought a furniture store in Ingersoll. Last Thursday, his grandson watched as workmen hauled it away in pieces.

"It's a total loss," said Scott Walker late last week.

The old building at 133 Thames St. was gutted by fire last week in a blaze that started next door at Classic and Country Furniture and spread quickly through four other businesses.

Walker said it is too early to assess the damage done by the fire, but all the stock in the store was destroyed and the family has no immediate plans to re-open in a new location.

Walker said he has no idea what the town should do to help the downtown. "We're so busy trying to sort out our own mess," he said.

Dale Shaddock has been in Ingersoll since 1963. For the last six years he worked at P. T. Walker Furniture

"I figured I'd be there the rest of my life," he said.

Now Shaddock, 48, is laid off. He has no plans for the moment other than filing for unemployment to "get some money coming in.

'What annoys me most is you hear so much about the buildings. They don't realize there are people like me out here.

Since May of last year, Neil Barnes has owned Classic and Country Furniture, where the fire may have originated. The inventory in the store was insured but not completely. Barnes thinks he lost "between \$30,000 and \$40,000 "in merchandise.

The building which housed his store was owned by Don Douglas. Barnes said whether he reopens will depend on what Douglas decides to do about rebuilding.

"We definitely want to re-open," said Barnes, adding that he will move to a temporary location if Douglas decides to rebuild.

Lloyd Alter, who owns Jack's Department Store, said his building is set for demolition June 14.

Alter said that very little was salvageble from the fire. He has already moved his store to 119 Thames St. and hopes to reopen 'within 10 days to two weeks."

He said it is impossible to put a dollar figure on the damage the fire did.

"It wiped us out," he said. 'All the merchants are going to try to get together to cooperate and rebuild, as long as health and economic conditions allow us.'

Alter has another store in Toronto and is stocking his new location from his warehouse in that city

Fernlea Flowers, also destroyed in the fire, has already moved to Charles Street West. All the business records and stock were lost in the fire. It is restocking from its greenhouse in Courtland.

Keri-Lynn Howe, whose parents own Fernlea Flowers, said the biggest problem facing the store is the lost records. "If any customers have upcoming

orders, they should let us know at the new location," she said. Cindy Koster, owner of Cindy's

Crafty Corner, also lost her business in the fire. The inventory was in-

sured, but Koster isn't sure whether she'll reopen. "I haven't made a decision yet,"

she said

Koster had been in business for

five years in a building owned by the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.



Firefighters were still spraying water on the hotspots Wednesday morning after quelling the fire that ripped through Thames Street last Tuesday night. (Matthew Smith photo



Just a pile of rubble remains of what was P. T. Walker Furniture on Thames Street in Ingersoll. The business was one of five destroyed in a massive blaze last Tuesday night. The damage estimate has been set at about \$4 million. (Myra Field photo)

Nearby businesses touched too

BY MATTHEW SMITH

Owners of businesses surrounding the charred central core of Thames Street are reacting with cautious relief in the wake of last Tuesday's fire

Most said they are fortunate that their businesses were not destroyed in the blaze.

Keith Black runs the Right Stuff just a few feet away from the scene of the fire. Black has been operating a business in Ingersoll for 14 years but has spent the last seven at his 123 Thames St. S. location.

Although his shop did suffer some smoke and water damage, he said he feels fortunate he wasn't hurt more severely

"We're just really lucky," he said. Black had no suggestions on how the town can help the fire's victims.

"I don't know what to do," he said. "I've never been through this thing before.'

Black arrived on the scene Tuesday shortly after the fire broke out.

"It's going to hurt the downtown,"he said. "Everybody's going to be affected."

Bob Mott owns the Home Hardware store right across from where the fire took place. He has operated it for 14 years.

Like Black, his store suffered smoke damage but Mott said he'll have to wait until the insurance adjuster comes before knowing just how bad it is.

He said it's too early to tell whether business has been affected by the fire but he hopes the town gets

Thames Street open again Pearl Dass owns Radio Shack. Her store is closed right now. She is waiting for insurance adjusters to finish in her building before she can re-open. She must also determine how much of her merchandise is still saleable.

Water was still dripping out of the front of Radio Shack and the Home Centre next door Thursday afternoon. Dass has so much water in the basement of her store that she will probably have to wait until next week to get her electricity restored.

She feels fortunate that the fire did not reach her business.

"Oh sure, I feel lucky," she said. "It's just because of the fire wall.

Cause of fire remains a mystery

CO he out ha ne

Fir

It:

ii

P

Inc all

Investigation continues

By MATTHEW SMITH

The cause of the fire that ripped through downtown Ingersoll last Tuesday is still under investigation, but early reports of a faulty air conditioner have been dismissed said Ingersoll fire chief Darell Parker Monday

Parker estimated the damage from the fire at "something over \$4 million." He said the fire probably began in Classic and Country furniture. The fire marshall has taken electrical equipment from the store to Toronto for examination.

The investigation of Classic and Country as the fire's point of origin is based on witnesses' reports, Parker said, adding that the fire was so destructive it is difficult to deter-mine exactly where it began. Some equipment was damaged in the fire. The Ingersoll Fire Depart-ment lost a ladder when a building

collapsed on it, as well as a length of hose which was damaged by flying embers

Parker said the buildings around the site of the fire were subject to ongoing fire prevention."

He had nothing but praise for all the firefighters from Oxford County who fought the blaze. "They were excellent," he said, "without exception.

The chief also commended the

The chief also commended the people of Ingersoll who helped out during the fire. "The people in the town were great," he said. At least four people were left homeless by the fire. The Salvation Army, which was on hand all night to aid firefighters, has set up drop-off points at all of Ingersoll's finan-cial institutions for anyone who wishes to make donations of money and other items.

and other items. Captain Les Rowe of the Salvation Army said the four people "lost everything" in the fire

Firefighters were still on the scene Wednesday morning after the devastating fire that caused over \$4 million damage to downtown Ingersoll last Tuesday night. This is the view from Water Street. (Matthew Smith photo)

Benefit planned for fire victims

The spirit of volunteerism is alive in Ingersoll.

Less than two days after fire devastated the town's downtown core, two area bands offered their services to aid the relief effort.

Robert Breen and his band, "Green Onions," will play a special benefit concert at the Ingersoll District Memorial Centre on July 5.

A native of Ingersoll, Breen now lives in London. When he heard about the fire he immediately began planning his concert.

And the response has been overwhelming.

"A lot of people have been giving a lot for absolutely nothing," he said. 'I couldn't ask for more cooperation

The proceeds from the July concert will go to assist the people left homeless by the fire. Four people lost their homes in last Tuesday's blaze Breen also hopes to call atten-

ngersoll's firefighters just nay be Ontario's finest

Ingersoll department given the highest grade

by YVONNE HOLMES MOTT gersoll's Fire Services is a good martment. In fact, it is, one might y, as good as it could possibly et.

And Fire Chief Darrel Parker is eaming with pride.

A brief mention in the June monhly report of the Administration, inance and Services Committee tated simply that: "Your commitee reviewed, in detail, the recent fire Underwriters Report for the Town".

Those details are well worth looking at because they reflect the excellent condition of the town's firefighting services.

The Fire Underwriters Survey is a service to insurers and municipalities. Ingersoll was last rated in 1986. The inspection usually is done by one person and takes three to four days. It involves an examination of equipment, personnel, training procedures, in-service training, water supplies, hydrants and anything else related to fire fighting.

Although the fire chief has not received written confirmation of Ingersoll's rating, he has been advised verbally that this year's inspection and report has improved Ingersoll's residential rating to the point it is now at the highest level it can reach with a volunteer department.

Chief Parker credits those volunteers mentioned in the study with a major part of the success of this year's report. "It is their commitment to training and to duty which keeps our response time very low" stressed the chief. Parker added that improvements in equipment, such as the purchase of a new pumper in 1991 have also helped their rating. "And, of course, a very big plus is our new facility. With it we can do so much more training." He added that the full time staff also deserves a great deal of credit "because every one of them does more than is required of him."

He noted that one of the report's recommendations is that two wells be put on emergency power and the PUC is working on that now. He stressed, however, that the town is in no danger with 750,000 gallons of water in reserve at the Merritt Street reservoir for emergencies. In addition, it could draw from the CAMI reserves with a tanker system. Even during the raging fire downtown in 1991, the town was in no danger of running out of water, he pointed out. However, he added, the perceived problem should be addressed and will be.

Currently, the Ingersoll Fire Services, in addition to the fire chief, has two full time officers (Deputy Chief Gerald Hutson and Captain Don Wright) and 20 volunteers. Among the volunteers are two officers, Captain Bob Richardson and Captain Jeff Thom. Every man responds to a call. The firefighters operate under a command system and should one of the officers not be present, that secti-

on's command would automatically go to the senior man there. Parker feels that this arrangement works very well. However, in deference to a recommendation made in the Fire Underwriters Report, he is in the process of recruiting and training two men to become lieutenants, in order to meet their criterion of one officer per five men.

Parker says they are hoping to do some work with the industrial and commercial sectors of the town in the near future in order to improve the town's rating in that category.

One major item to be looked at there, from the department's standpoint, is the Telesquirt. The report recommends that the department have an elevated stream and a truck with a platform. The six-storey condominium and CAMI have had a major impact on the firefighting needs of the town, noted Parker. He explains that "in view of the age and the limited capabilities of the Telesquirt presently in service, it is recommended that it be replaced by a modern aerial ladder or platform truck (equipped for firefighting purposes) with a pump of at least 5,000 litres per minute."

The overall report for the town is positive, with some constructive suggestions that will be addressed, reiterated Ingersoll's Fire Chief. "But don't think we are going to relax; we intend to get better and better. Ingersoll has a department that is proud of its men and its reputation. We will not only live up to it; we will exceed it."



CHIEF DARELL PARKER

Ingersoll's fire chief is a lifelong resident of the town.

He has been with the Ingersoll Fire Services for 14 years, the first two years as a volunteer.

Parker is also a member of the Rotary Club.

Best part of work? "Working in a consistently changing environment. No two days remain the same. Each emergency call- is different, requiring different solutions. Each fire inspection is different.

"The fire service itself has changed over the years with new technology and more accountability, increasing the need for more and better training of each firefighter. All of this makes for a busier and more interesting work place."

ti



Fire chief Darell Parker (centre) was showing colleagues from other fire departments around Ingersoll's new fire station Thursday night when the Oxford Fire Departments Association mutual aid meeting was held there. Here, Parker shows off the new fire truck leased from Res-Q-Tech. (Liz

INGERSOLL

Town holds official opening of police and fire buildings

The Ingersoll police department and the fire department now officially have new homes.

now officially have new homes. Although the fire service has been using its new facility since November and the police service since January, the ceremony Saturday made it official. "I have great respect for the collaborative effort between the police and fire services." said

Thave great respect for the collaborative effort between the police and fire services," said Don Evans, assistant deputy minister of the solicitor general. The police services building area is 765 square meters (8,500 square feet), while the fire service building area is 630 square meters (7,000 square feet). They are at 110 Mutual Street.

"It's with confidence that we go into the future," said Mayor Brian Rodenhurst.

Both Fire Chief Darell Parker and Police Chief Bruce Richards gave short comments at the opening, as did Jack Warden, chairman of the police service board.

Musical entertainment was provided by two groups — the Ingersoll Pipe Band and the Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute's string ensemble.

Richards and Parker made special mention of Kevin Bushell, project co-ordinator, in listing people who provided valuable contributions to the project. Then Ralph Marziano of Ra-



CUTTING THE RIBBON at the official opening of the new police and fire buildings are Police Chief Bruce Richards, Mayor Brian Rodenhurst and Fire Chief Darell Parker.

mar Construction handed over the keys of the buildings to Richards and Parker.

Also present for the opening was Tony Jackson, of Jackson and Ryder Architects.

Those present for the ceremony were invited to tour both buildings. Rev. Roger McCombe, police chaplain, asked people to look at the rose garden planted at the front of the police building in memory of Const. Scott Rossiter, killed while on duty last year.

Page 2 - THE INGERSOLL TIMES, Wednesday, April 12, 1995

Where there's smoke...there's Parker

By YVONNE HOLMES MOTT Don't even think about it!

Local folks considering starting to once again burn their cardboard, when the cardboard recycling depot is set up and the garbage people will no longer collect it, better think again.

Fire Chief Darell Parker points out that the bottom line is that the Ontario fire Code states there will be no open air burning unless special approval is given. "and there will be no special approval," he emphasizes.

The fire chief noted that any fire has to be in a small, confined place and must be supervised at all times and used only for the purpose of cooking. "Basically," he adds "that means unless you are barbecuing you can not have a fire going outside.

"We just don't approve any open air burning in a residential area. Among other reasons, it isn't fair to anyone who has a washing on the line or anyone who wants to have windows open."

Parker acknowledges that some people do break the law. He says that the Ingersoll Fire Services doesn't have the time or the resources to go out patrolling the streets looking for fires burning in people's back yards. "But," he smiles, "usually the neigh-

bors call in a complaint." The chief says they do try to follow up every complaint.

"We go to the home and ask the people to put out the fire and not to light one again. We explain the resons for it. If they oblige then that is the end of it. If they don't, we lay a charge under the Ontario Fire Code." Parker acknowledges there is some concern within the department that folks will try to burn some of their paper and cardboard rather than take it to the recycling depot.

Pla

tak

of

"Hopefully, in the interest of the environment and our local by-laws we will quickly get into the habit of saving the cardboard and delivering it to the proper place."

He also suggests that when the annual spring clean-up takes place during the first three weeks of May, that would be an ideal time to get rid of accumulated debris.

Fire chief named deputy fire co-ordinator

By YVONNE HOLMES MOTT

Ingersoll fire chief Darell Parker has been named deputy fire co-ordinator for Oxford County.

Councillor concerned that

youngsters unable to toast

hot dogs over bonfire in backyard

The fire co-ordinator is Woodstock fire chief John Sibley.

Mayor Brian Rodenhurst, informing council of the appointment, noted, "Chief Parker certainly deserves our congratulations. This is an honor given to him by all

the other fire chiefs in the county, by his peers."

Parker is "very pleased" with the appointment and is looking forward to the challenge.

He sees his role, other than the obvious one of taking over in the absence of the co-ordinator, as being mainly involved in training.

While he has yet to sit down with Sibley and define his role, he has some new ideas he hopes to bring to it.

"I am really looking forward to the opportunity of getting more involved with the other chiefs," he said. "I perceive one of my responsi-

"I perceive one of my responsibilities as bringing the chiefs together so we can work together to standardize the training across the county.

"Not every force has the same resources and if I can enhance the departments through the sharing of resources, it will be a very worthwhile project."

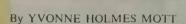
Parker added that closer cooperation among the forces could also mean a saving of money for the various communities. "If we can work together when we are



Darell Parker

ordering either major equipment or supplies, surely we can save money for our respective towns. I have a number of ideas that I hope will save money for our forces and at the same time, hopefully enhance the training."

Parker took over as chief in Ingersoll in July 1990. He has been an active member of the Ingersoll Fire Services since 1980.



Councillor Mike Hennessy lefinitely has a tender spot in his teart for the youngster who might want to experience the pleasure of cooking a hot dog over a bonfire in his own back yard.

In fact, you could say he relishes the idea.

For the second time within a few months, Hennessy raised the question, "If a kid wants a bonfire and a wiener in his back yard, you're saying he can't do this?"

The question arose when reference was made to a standard operating guide which will be part of a policy and procedures manual being prepared by fire chief Darell Parker and the management committee.

Parker, in reply to Hennessy's question, pointed out that the open-air burning restrictions are imposed by the Ontario Fire Code and not by local bylaw.

"Cooking food on a grille or a barbecue is something quite different," he explained. "It is the open-air burning that is restricted."

The exchange took place during last Wednesday's finance and administration committee meeting.

The fire chief noted that most investigations made by Ingersoll Fire Services are the result of complaints.

"We try to act with discretion he said. "If it is obviously just the case of a neighbor trying to get at another neighbor with whom he or she doesn't get along, we treat it accordingly.

"If there is a violation of the fire code, we will explain it to the person and ask him to put out the fire. As long as they comply, there is no problem. If they do not comply we will lay a charge."

On the other hand, the fire department tries to co-operate. Parker said. Anyone planning a pig roast or special occasion event in their back yard should get in touch with the Ingersoll Fire Services at least 48 hours ahead of time. Firefighters will take the information, talk to the people involved and tell them what the restrictions are.

If the party gets out of hand or interferes, because of the smoke, with the quality of life of the neighbors, then we have to do something about it, said Parker.

"It is definitely a discretionary item."

On the other hand, if an industry needs to burn off some branches or trees, he added, "we advise them to get in touch with the (environment) ministry to see if they can obtain special permission from them to do what it necessary. Then we work with the ministry.

"It's a matter of everyone working together to look after the environment," he stressed.

"Often people think we have created the rules. We have not. It the Ontario Fire Code that

pulates the regulations." e added, with a smile, "We do go out cruising the streets tooking for violators."

Fire chief Darell Parker accepts a cheque for \$100 from Kiwanis president Tom Moran as fire captain Don Wright looks on. The money will go toward the purchase of videos. (Matthew Smith photo)



Fire chief pleased with proposed law

By YVONNE HOLMES MOTT

Legislation being enacted now to protect firefighters from being sued is good news as far as Ingersoll Fire Chief Darell Parker is concerned.

In fact, says Parker, that legislation has been anticipated for some time. "We have been voicing our concerns about litigation for several years and we are all relieved that omething is being done about it." The Fire Chief cited the trend A. as far as the inclination to sue for just about everything is concerned" as one of the major reasons for the request for such legislation. He added his personal view is that "unless there has been obvious negligence there should be protection under the Fire Marshall's Act."

Parker stressed that we live in a province that relies heavily on volunteer firefighters. "These men

toward "getting closer to the U.S.- give their time; they put their lives at risk to save other lives and property. They don't need the added stress of having to worry about whether or not iney will be sued for what they are doing."

Stressing the dedication of volunteer firefighters to their vocation, he emphasized that they have to make split second decisions and do what they see is fit for the circum-stances. "Imagine if on top of this they carry with them, in the backs of their heads, the knowledge that they could be sued for what they are doing. They could lose every-thing they own. It just isn't fair and it isn't safe."

The fire chief noted that the ultimate decision on the quality of a fire department rests with the municipality. "The chief can make rec-ommendations about training and equipment but council has the final say. Yet, it would be the fire chief and his firefighters who would be sued. This protection is really needed."

Chief Parker stated that the Ingersoll Department has never been sued, but he knows of several departments that have ended up in the courts. "It has been

a lot more prevalent in the past 10 years. The Ingersoll Chief feels strongly that "It is our responsibility to ensure adequate training at the municipal level. There have to be certain standards set across the province for both training and equipment."

Chief Parker said the bill, as announced by Solicitor General David Christopherson at a recent conference of fire chiefs, has now had its first reading.

INGERSOLL

Barbel Ha

Oxford County's new deputy co-ordinator **Co-operation key in fire co-ordination**

By MARIO BOUCHER of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — Fire Chief Darell Parker has been named the new Oxford County deputy co-ordinator.

The Ingersoll native said he sees himself working in co-oper-ation with the other fire chiefs in Oxford to improve fire services

Oxford to improve fire services in the county. "Someone has to take a lead-ership role in the areas of edu-cation of fire prevention, pur-chasing of equipment and looking into perhaps standardiz-ing the training in the county,"

ing the training in the county," he said. Parker's new position in-cludes making certain all avail-able firefighters and equipment are moved around the county as necessary, especially in emer-gency situations. He will also make all training resources available to any of the fire halls. County council passed the res-olution Jan. 12, making Parker Oxford's first deputy co-ordina-tor from Ingersoll. He was rec-ommended by and will replace John Sibley, Woodstock deputy fire chief.

fire chief.

Parker said he doesn't know how long he will be the county' new co-ordinator and it will left to the discretion of county coun-

"As fire chief in the county, I've already been active with fire prevention and already attend



INGERSOLL FIRE CHIEF DARELL PARKER was named Oxford County's deputy co-ordinator. County council passed the resolu-tion Jan. 12, making Parker the first deputy co-ordinator from In-gersoll. He was recommended by and will replace John Sibley, Woodstock deputy fire chief.

meetings so I don't expect this mand that much more of my additional responsible will de- time," he said.

Parker joined the Ingersoll fire department in 1980 as a vol-unteer and became a full-time employee in 1982. He was made captain two years later and fi-nally fire chief in 1990.

nally fire chief in 1990. He has seen an increased awareness in fire prevention in the last few years and rates fire losses in 1993 as low, he said. "I'm very excited about our Learn Not To Burn program that we started last year, in which the school teachers incor-porate lessons of fire prevention into the curriculum," he said. Students remember a fire pre-vention situation more effecti-vely when it is integrated with school subjects like mathemat-ics and physical education, he said.

Stop, drop and roll For example, the stop, drop and roll exercise in gym class teaches children to stop moving if their clothing is on fire, drop to the ground and roll to put out the fire the fire

The program does not require teachers to stop their lesson plans for a week to teach fire

prevention, he said. It is easier for them to add elements of fire prevention into their lessons.

"We're hoping that with this program children will take what they've learned about fire pre-vention at school back to their homes and get their parents to get involved," said Parker.

CAM Dare Cami used centra radio

Fire chief honored by Optimists

By YVONNE HOLMES MOTT Fire Chief Darell Parker, accepting "on behalf of all the fire departments in Oxford County" received the Optimist Clubs' "Achievement in Education Award" at the July council meeting.

Doug Hallard of Thamesford and Richard Holmes of Woodstock, representing all the Optimist Clubs of Oxford County, presented the rarely given award.

Hallard explained he had been shocked and appalled when he learned that not only did Canada have an extremely poor fire record, but that most of its victims were children.

He traced the circuitous route his research took him on as he tried to find a program that would help "After alleviate this problem.

months of research and looking into programs that were good, but not



DARELL PARKER

what we needed, the trail finally led me right back to fire chief Parker, 10 minutes from my own home. Darrel had the answer all along" he chuckled.

The "answer" is the "Learn Not to Burn" program, a method of integrating fire safety into the regular school curriculum, from kindergarten to Grade 8. The program will be launched in Oxford County this September. The Optimists Clubs across the county are sponsoring it and in Ingersoll the Kinsmen Club as well is taking part.

Hallard explained the award is a way of giving "due credit and respect to Chief Parker, the man who sees first hand the results of our ignorance and our complacency. He has worked the longest and the hardest on this important project and we thank him."

Council offers thanks to firefighters, others

There was plenty of apprecia-tion given to the Ingersoll Fire Department during general business at the town council meeting last Wednesday

Councillor Brian Rodenhurst congratulated fire chief Darell Parker on his professionalism.

"I hope something good can come out of this tragic situation, he said. "We have to revitalize and rebuild the downtown.

He also congratulated Bill Caldwell and the Booster Club for their recent Beach Party Bash. "This town has lots of spirit."

Mayor Doug Harris echoed those sentiments, noting that the Booster Club's next event is in

September at the Oxford Auditorium, with a Toronto band. Harris said the town had good news and bad news as the devastating June 4 fire came right on the heels of the successful open house at CAMI Automotive Inc.

Regarding the fire, he said, "there has been no night when I've felt sicker and more

downcast yet pride and enthusiasm as we watched our people in action. The fire chief was in control and under control."

He noted that Lloyd Alter, owner of Jack's Department Store, one of the businesses destroyed in the fire, was very downcast on the night of the fire.

"But the next morning he had a telephone in one of the other buildings he owns and he was in business

"The spirit of the community was there. It was a sad night but Ingersoll can look back on it and say, 'We worked together.

Parker thanked all the firefighters and the two fire chiefs who all helped the town battled the blaze. He also thanked all the people of Ingersoll "who were incredible with their support. It was a team effort and you were all part of that team.

When asked his feelings about fighting the fire, Parker replied, "I've done it on simulators before, but there's nothing like the real thing."



CAMI Automotive Inc. president M. Ikuma presents Ingersoll fire chief Darell Parker with the keys to a brand new GEO Tracker LSI 4 X 4. Cami donated the vehicle to the fire department. The vehicle will be used as a command post, Parker said, allowing him to work from a central location in the event of a fire. The vehicle is equipped with radio equipment. (Matthew Smith photo)

Remembering the Thames Street fire

By MATTHEW SMITH

June 4, 199 .s : ht Darell Parker may never forget.

At about 6 p.m. that evening Parker and the Ingersoll Fire Department got a call saying there was a fire at Classic and Country Furniture on Thames Street.

The firefighters arrived on the scene two minutes after receiving the call and immediately began "an aggressive interior attack in Classic and Country," Parker recalled.

He said the fire was burning strongly by the time he and his team got there.

The offensive strategy with which they began their fight did not last very long.

"The heat, smoke, and flame held the firefighters out," Parker said. "It became apparent as things progressed that we would have to go defensive."

A defensive posture in firefighting means keeping a constant stream of water on the fire, as well as preventing the fire's spread to neighboring buildings.

Several factors made the Thames Street fire - a fire that would eventually destroy five buildings and cause about \$5-million in damage a particular challenge for Parker and his team.

When the firefighters arrived, the fire was already "free-burning," Parker said. The flames were exposed to the outside air so the fire was getting plenty of oxygen. Added to this was the fact that the fire found lots of fuel in the building. Furniture is often made of wood and plastic.

This latter fuel was particularly dangerous as it acted as an "accelerant" to the fire, Parker said.

The buildings themselves were also quite old, he pointed out, so the heavy timber, dry wood, and old mortar added to the fire's intensity.

A total of 100 firefighters joined in the fight to subdue the blaze. In addition to the Ingersoll department, firefighters from Thamesford, Woodstock, Beachville, Mount Elgin, and Tillsonburg were on the scene.

Parker's team also had help from Canada Cement and CAMI Automotive Inc.

"Early in the night, it was thought that there might be a problem with water," Parker recalled.

The rural departments set up tankers, he said, and an arrangement was struck with CAMI whereby the automotive plant's water system could have been tapped in case additional sources of water had been needed. As it turned out, neither the tankers nor the water from CAMI was used.

To fight the fire, Parker used the Lunicini command system, a sys-

tem which is named for its inventor, Phoenix fire chief Allan Brunicini.

"We had implemented it before," he said, "but we hadn't used it in a large fire."

The Brunicini system divides all the firefighters and equipment into sectors, Parker explained. Over the night of June 4 to 5, there were four sectors of firefighters, one rehabilitation sector, and a staging sector.

All the new trucks and equipment that arrived on the scene were sent to the staging area, Parker recalled, so he could keep track of everything that was available to fight the fire.

He set up his command centre on Thames Street near Charles Street. From this point he kept in contact with all the other sectors by radio and mapped out his strategy.

"We knew by wind direction and rate of burn that we had to stop the fire at the south end of Jack's (Department Store)," Parker explained.

It's factors like these that determine the difference between strategy and tactics, he explained.

As commander, Parker deter-

mined the basic strategy and left it to sector officers to determine the tactics that would best enact the strategy.

"I can't tell him (the sector officer) where the flame is," Parker explained.

The segment officer would have to determine what tactic - a solid stream of water, or a fog stream, for example - would best bring the fire under control.

Parker has been a firefighter for 12 years and has been chief of the Ingersoll department for the last two years. He said the training he has received over the years was invaluable in fighting what he called the biggest fire of his career.

"I had probably done that type of thing six to 10 times on a simulator," Parker said. "In class, you learn about large fires. You look at the buildings in your community and you go over in your head how you would do it (fight a fire)," he said.

"It was surprising," he continued. "Things you learned at college that you thought you'd forgotten came back. Some of it was training and some of it was pre-planning."

Parker is quick to point out the importance of teamwork in fire fighting.

He said the command system and the training went smoothly and he was "very impressed with all the county fire departments.

"It's not a one-man show," he said. "Everyone's working together."



It was one year ago his week that fire swept through Thames Street, destroying five buildings and causing about \$5-million in damage. Fire chief Darell Parker and his team were on the scene in two minutes and fought the blaze through the night. (Matthew Smith photo)

ac

PREPARE FOR SEASON

M a u d e Wilson memorial wimming pool will be reopen-ed as soon as possible, accord-ing to M. G. Billings, manager. Preparatory work for the op-ening is being pushed now, but the special swimming pool paint has not arrived as yet, the manager explained. Mr.

1 3 ...

Billings, is seen watching Har-old Parker, Les Hammond and Lawrence Uncer paint the ex-terior of the building in the above photo. Mr. Billings and his staff have started work painting on the inside. (Staff Photo)

Fire destroys Ingersoll

BY MARY GILMOUR Sentinel-Review Staff Writer

INGERSOLL — A lightning bolt triggered off an all - night fire here Sunday night that razed two buildings at the rear of

the arena. Owner Leslie Songhurst, of Ingersoll Planing Mill, Ltd., es-timated damage at between \$80,000 and \$100,000.

\$80,000 and \$100,000. Three fire brigades battled the inferno that threatened nearby buildings as north-easc-erly winds fanned the flames. The fire broke out shortly after 8 p.m. The wind direction changed

to a southerly direction at about 8:20 p.m., but not before flames were carried to the second building at the scene of the blaze.

LIGHTS OUT

The violent storm knocked out traffic lights in the main section of town and most Inger-

section of town and most Inger-soll homes were without elec-tricity for two hours Police cordoned off Thames Streeet, between Charles and Victoria Streets, as some 40 firefighters battled the blaze. Flames were shooting 50 feet in the air from the north build-

In other business, the planning committee heard an introductory proposal submitted by H. and T. Parker Enterprises Ltd. for a 20-unit town house development on McKeand St.

The proposed site, presently zoned for single family residential, backs onto a parcel of land connecting with Ossion Terrace, and is separated by about one acre of land from the Woodhatch subdivision site.

The developers, Terry and Harold Parker, both of Ingersoll, were advised by the committee that a detailed plan should be prepared in consultation with the county planning office, and an attempt should be made to provide an additional access to the property before submitting the detailed plan to the committee.

According to Mr. Parker, the property now has one access road, a 55-foot street, to service the proposed town houses. But he advised that additional property could probably be acquired to permit extension of the street to connect with streets in the Woodhatch development.

Mr. Robins advised the developers that a public meeting would be required to handle the necessary zoning change that would be involved. ing at the mill when employee Harold Parker arrived on the scene at about 8:20 p.m.

"Firemen were concentrating on the north building, "he said "but it was too far gone... it went up in a hurry and soon spread to the adjacent building to the east of it."

Mr. Songhurst said the north building contained woodworking machines and lumber, while the east building housed two half-ton trucks, a four-ton truck and a new fork lifter. "The fork lifter alone cost me \$10,000 last year," he said at the scene of the fire. "I was told by an eyewitness that lightening struck the roof of the north building," he contin-ued, "both of them were up in flames when I got here." Mr. Songhurst said he arrived in Ingersoll during the height of the fire after returning from

In ingersoil during the height of the fire after returning from his cottage at Turkey Point. "It was quite a shock to say the least," he said, "luckily, both buildings and contents were fully covered by insur-ance." Beachville and Thamesford

Beachville and Thamesford fire brigades were called in to help Ingersoll firemen under the Mutual Aid Program.

JOINS ACTION

Dereham township brigade was represented at the scene by coincidence. "I just happened to be pass-

"I just happened to be pass-ing through Ingersoll on the way back to Dereham from Wood-stock", said volunteer fireman Kenneth McConkey. "When I saw the fire I realiz-ed they needed all the help they could get, So, I changed my clothes in the car and joined in the battle." Both buildings burned to the ground before firemen mana d to control the blaze. The lumber in the buildings smould-ered all through the night. Flames and smoke were vis-ible for a five-mile radius of the town during the height of the fire. Manager C. V. MacLachlan

the town during the height of the fire. Manager C. V. MacLachlan of the Public Utilities Commis-sion said water used at the blaze came from the new water tank "because pumphouses were knocked out by power failures." A feeder station was put out of action at the corner of King and Hall Streets by the storm, but Mr. MacLachlan said dis-abled Ontario Hydro power lines from Woodstock accounted for most of the town being without power for two hours.



Max Parker's 1966 Dodge A-100 pickup is mostly stock, but does have a few upgrades, including a four-barrel carb, electronics and reworked cylinder and cylinder heads.

Parker's Dodge A-100 pulls his other classic



BY AL WILSON

This week's feature car guy and the first for 2003 lives in Dorchester and is tetired from Overland Express, where he was employed from 1978-2001 in the

was employed from 1978-2001 in the parts department. Max Parker is a familar face around Woodstock since he worked at McKerlies Auto Supply (1960s) when it was located where Webster's Furniture today, at the corner of Dundas and

Wilson streets. After McKerlies, Max worked at Godard Ford in parts with Ross Magee and many others, then moved on to Overland in Woodstock in 1978 and fin-ished in Mississauga in in 2001. If you don't remember Max and his

always grinning face from those places, you might remember him when he worked part time ('60s-'70s) at his uncles' gas station. His uncles were the late Gord and Andy Smith, who owned Smith's Sunoco and ice business. That's when Max bought his black 1962 Valiant that he still owns (another story)

Another hobby Parker has been involved in for years is raising and showing dogs in Canada and the United States.

Max bought his 1966 Dodge A-100 pickup 25 years ago (Oct. 10, 1987), from a fellow in Baton Rouge, La. The man he bought it from bought it new in '66 for \$2,062, plus \$61.66 in tax. Today, you'd be lucky to find a front humaer for that price

bumper for that price.

The unique green A-100 is powered by 225 slant six "bullet proof" engine with a three-on-the-column standard trans-

a three-on-the-column standard trans-mission and a 323 positraction rear end. The 60-year-old retiree says he has done some modifications to his pickup, like a four barrel carberator, electronics updates, mild camshaft, a reworked cylinder head and headers. These were done not so much for performance, but for extra power to pull a car trailer that

carries his Valiant to car cruises and show-and-shines.

Both of Parker's vehicles have won many awards at cruise nights and spe-cial Chrysler MOPAR events.



The Ingersoll Times, October 17, 1990

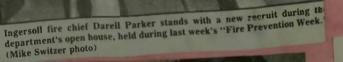


Ingersoll fire chief could be named

action 5 to

Could be named County's deputy fire co-ordinator/trainer Town of Ingersoll fire chief Darell Parker could take on an-other job. At a recent meeting, Oxford County's finance and administra for committee recommended Parker be named Oxford's deputy fire co-ordinator/trainer. The deci-sion was made in a closed-door ses-sion.

<text><text><text><text>

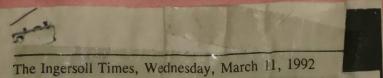




John Innis (left), operations manager of Res-Q-Tech presents a plaque to Ingersoll fire chief Darell Parker to mark the department's lease of a new fire truck. (Liz Dadson photo)

Heartsave Oxford puts on a course called Heartsaver regularly for his groups. It teaches them to recognize a heart attack and how (cardiopulmoniary resuscitation if a heart attack does occur. Local first takes one of the many steps needed to receive a heart attack victim. an, Darryl Park

4, 2003



Good move by local unions

Community spirit.

This town could use a bit more of it.

It glimmered at the time of the downtown fire almost a year ago. It surfaced again last fall when one of our police officers was shot and killed while on duty.

And this same spirit has struggled to life once more as two local unions joined forces to give back to the community some of what their workers have received.

Despite severe lay-offs and a dismal economy, the unions at Ingersoll Machine and Tool and Ingersoll Fasteners -United Steelworkers of America Locals 2918 and 3683 have offered the \$1,200 for fire chief Darell Parker to attend this year's fire chiefs' convention.

In a letter to Parker which was brought up at the administration and finance committee meeting last Wednesday night, Kelly Hoskin of Local 2918 and Don Steenburgen of Local 3683 noted the town has found it fiscally impossible to send the fire chief to the convention.

"In these difficult economic times, we have decided to offer you approximately \$1,200 to attend this convention if it is possible for you to attend," the letter states. "We in the labor movement know the value of conventions for educational purposes and of its particular value to a volunteer force.

"We are very appreciative of your efforts with major fires in the past year and feel it is important to our community that you attend this convention to retain the excellent level of service that you and your force have provided."

Parker admitted to the committee that he had mixed feelings about accepting the offer as he didn't want to embarrass town council. However, he emphasized how important the convention is and welcomes the support from the two unions.

Mayor Brian Rodenhurst said there was no embarrassment to council whose job is to protect the taxpayer's dollars.

"If these organizations see fit to use their money to help firefighting in Ingersoll, that's great," he said. "that's what we're missing in the '90s - community involvement - I'd like to see more of it."

The committee agreed - and council will likely agree tonight - that the unions should be commended for their show of support.

It's a good display of community spirit that other organizations and individuals should emulate.

--Liz Dadson

Unions sponsor fire chief's attendance at convention

Two unions have joined forces and finances to ensure Ingersoll fire chief Darell Parker attends this year's fire chiefs' convention.

In a letter addressed to Parker and discussed at the administration and finance committee, the United Steelworkers of America unions at Ingersoll Machine and Tool and Ingersoll Fasteners offered to supply the \$1,200 for Parker to attend the convention.

"We in the labor movement know the value of conventions for educational purposes and of its particular value to a volunteer force," the letter states. "We are very appreciative of

"We are very appreciative of your efforts with major fires in the past year and feel it is important to our community that you attend this convention to retain the excellent level of service that you and your force have provided."

The letter was signed by Kelly

• Saturday, February 13, 2010

" I've been given added responsibility in Ingersoll. I just won't have the time to give Norwich what it deserves," Parker said during an interview at the Ingersoll fire hall last week.

Parker recently accepted the position of deputy chief administrative officer for Ingersoll and expects his broadened duties to start early this summer after wrapping a few outstanding projects in Norwich Township.

Since he was hired in June 1998, significant changes have taken place in the way fires are handled throughout the township.

Parker spent a great deal of time early in his time here devising a sort of master fire plan otherwise known as an operational review.

His first step was bringing the four stations, Otterville, Norwich, Burgessville and Oxford Centre together as a team.

In 2004 the township moved in the direction of mandatory two-station call outs.

Throughout his years here almost all of the township's fire vehicles have been replaced and a building program implemented.

The new station in Norwich was completed last year and work has begun on a new station in Otterville, which is expected to be completed before Parker hangs up his hat in Norwich.

Also both Burgessville and Oxford Centre fire stations have received upgrades in the last year.

Both Parker and Mayor Don Doan agreed the position of chief would be filled and that fire services would not revert back to its previHoskin, president of Local 2918, and Don Steenburgen, president of Local 3683.

"I had mixed feelings (about the offer)," Parker told the committee. "I didn't want to embarrass council in any way. It's important for me to go (to the convention) and I welcome it (the offer)."

"There is no embarrassment to council," said mayor Brian Rodenhurst. "If organizations see fit to use their money to help firefighting in Ingersoll, that's great. That's what we're missing in the '90s - community involvement. I'd like to see more of it."

"I have no problem with this," said councillor Mike Hennessy, adding a letter should be sent to the unions, thanking them for their assistance.

The committee report has yet to be passed at the council meeting tonight.

ous state of each individual station having its own fire chief.

Staffing levels in the municipality are currently under review from an outside consultant firm. Details of the consultant's findings were given to councillors during a closed-door session to discuss personnel matters Tuesday.

Teins to round out men research.

Norwich Township

After 12 years as Norwich Township's fire chief, Darell Parker has given his resignation.

Councillors were told behind closed doors last Tuesday during a regular council meeting. Page 6 - The Ingersoll Times, Wednesday, September 1, 1993

Ingersoll's fire chief in

By YVONNE HOLMES MOTT

When about 12,000 Oxford County elementary school children head back to school next month they will be learning something entirely new - and it just might save their lives.

Learn Not to Burn, a successful fire prevention program, will be initiated this September in Oxford County Schools.

And it is thanks to Ingersoll fire chief Darell Parker that this safetyconscious program exists.

Parker has been concerned for a long time about the number of children who die in fires in Canada.

"We have a pretty poor record for fire safety in this country and it is very discouraging," he said. "To

make it even worse, so many of the victims are children."

Parker realized that if you could get the message to the kids, they, in turn, would take it home to their parents. But how to get the message across?

Finally, the he found the answer: Learn Not to Burn. There was only one problem - the cost. Text books which include the entire curricu lum, will cost \$8,400 across the county.

Enter the Ingersoll Kinsmen Club. with an offer to help with the cost.

At the same time, Optimist Doug Hallard of Thamesford was seeking a program which the Optimist Clubs of Oxford County could help sponsor and which would save children from fires.

He started doing research through the Fire Marshall's Office and various insurance organizations.

Mayor gets pat on the bac

Dear Editor

We, the people, elected Mr. (Brian) Rodenhurst as mayor of Ingersoll. We have made the right choice.

Since he took office, this town has become a friendly place to all of Oxford County.

Mr. Rodenhurst always has a friendly smile, and waves to most of us all.

He always has time for a little chat with people. He has done more for this town than any other mayor.

With most other mayors went beyond, let me give you a example, "I'm the Mayor," a the rest of us are lower class.

I am proud and glad to say w have Mr. Rodenhurst as mayor

With the next election, I hop he will be elected again. Keer up the good work, Mr. Roden hurst.

And thank you for everythins you have done for us in Inger

> A. JOHNSON Ingersoll

What a wonderful future we could have

Dear Editor:

I was the only citizen spectator at the Oxford County Council meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 11, 1993. It was a pretty important and perhaps historic meeting. Why, you may well ask?

As your paper reported the following week, a motion to charge tipping fees at the Salford Landfill was passed 11-6 on a recorded vote. Generally, the "No" votes came from Ingersoll, Tillsonburg and two from Woodstock.

resource the fastest pay the m what a wonderful future we co have!

> JOHN B. FINL Liberalcandic

Best of luck groups in lo

Dear Editor:

As the Back to School lo appears across advertisements,

The "Yes" votes came from Fire Marshall's Office is slated to be here Sept. 2 and Nov. 19 to train the trainers.

> The trainers, in turn, go back to their respective schools and teach the teachers. Each school will have a set of three texts: K-Grade 2 Grades 3-5 and Grades 6-8. Each set has a total of 25 different behaviors incorporated into the regular lessons.

For instance, in physical education classes, kids will be taught to "stop, drop and roll", an important manoeuvre to know should your clothes ever catch on fire. Mathematics students will be taught to measure exits in a room. Science students will be taught about aero-sol cans and waste material, while a language teacher might assign her pupils to write an essay about

Town's first firehall facility to be proud ...

The town has its first real fire station.

"This is the first firehall the Town of Ingersoll had designed as a fire facility. I think it's some-thing to be proud of," Fire Chief Darell Parker said last week. Ingersoll's last firehall on Mu-tual Street was originally a main-tenance building

tenance building.

Before that the fire department was working out of a hall designed for horses, built in the 1850s, on Oxford Street.

Although the department is presently manned by volunteers, that could change one day. And volun-teers have to be as well trained as full-time firefighters today anyway

"The volunteers deserve a good building to work out of," Parker said.

The new building was designed for now and for the future, he said.

When Parker and the architects sat down to design it, they had both the present and future in mind. Plans were set out to incorporate today's needs and future requirements.

Parker said they had to look at the possibility of future community growth and plan for it.

If in 30 years the hall had to be manned by a full-time department instead of volunteers, the new building makes that possible, he said.

The men's locker room upstairs in the two-storey building has lock-ers for 25 men. Next door is a women's locker room with six lockers. Presently there are no women volunteers but that could change at any time.

The town's station also boasts another new item, a training room. Training sessions are presently held at Cami Automotive Inc. or at the Victoria Park Community Centre. But when the new training room is finished the department will have its own classroom centre.

The training room is big enough to house a sleep room if in the fu-ture the department is manned full time by more than one firefighter.

A traditional fireman's pole can be found outside the room

chief Darell Parker said last week construction crews



THE RECEPTION AREA in the new fire hall is designed to welcome visitors to the station. The desk is set up for computers, and a public address system. Capt. Don Wright was on hand to welcome Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute co-op student Jayson Storry last week.

In the old firehall a resource room was always combined with the bedroom. The new resource room is on its own and the resource base the department is trying to build can now be kept in one place, said Parker.

Ingersoll's department is pres-ently manned around the clock, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Volunteers spend the night at the firehall waiting for calls to come in. A bedroom, lounge area and kitchen have been set up almost like a small apartment. Having someone always at the station speeds up the response to calls.

"For a town this size we have a really good response time," says Parker.

When the public enters the new firehall they are greeted by a new reception and waiting area.

"We wanted to make it as friendly as possible to the public," Parker says.

The reception desk also offers a base station for computer and radio systems.

It is equipped for a dispatcher if the department needs its own in the future. For the time being, calls continue to go through the police dispatcher

One of the new hall's best features is a generator that will supply power to both the firehall and new police station in the event of a power outage, said Parker

"We are fully operational in case of a power failure," he said. Phone lines and radios will always be powered by the generator.

Other features of the new station include:

Emergency access to the road

□ Well lit and secured building.

Suitable parking for all staff and volunteers

Drive-through bays so trucks do not have to be backed in and out.





FIREFIGHTERS SPRAY P. T. Walker Furniture Ltd. during the early hours of Tuesday's blaze in downtown Ingersoll. Shortly after this picture was taken the front

of the store collapsed, sending the aluminum front and the brick behind crashing onto the street. The store, which has been in town for more than 50 years, ended as a pile of rubble.



INGERSOLL VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS pump water on the remains of five stores in the town's core

Wednesday. Damage of the Tuesday night blaze is conservatively estimated at \$2 million.

1927 fire truck restored at cost of \$100,000

By BRIAN CLEEVE The Ingersoll Times

Ingersoll Fire Chief Darrell Parker says the department hopes to unveil "a showpiece of the town," a 1927 restored Lorne Pumper fire truck, sometime this spring.

Parker and the firefighters are looking to raise another \$30,000 to pay the estimated cost of more than \$100,000 for the restored vehicle. Parker says the vehicle has always been in the fire department's possession but in 1996, firefighters began the fund raising for restoration.

It was sent to Classic Coachworks in Blenheim (just south of Chatham) in October 2000 and returned to Ingersoll just before Christmas 2001.

Firefighters have already raised about \$70,000 of the cost through fund raising and "generous" sponsorship from local businesses.

Parker says the truck has been restored to its original condition and will probably be used at fire musters and parades, although it is fully operational.

It was manufactured by the Lorne Tractor Co of Tillsonburg.

Stan Uher, owner of Classic Coachworks in Blenheim says "we dismantled it completely; we started from the ground up.

"It was a solid vehicle, it was not better than new."

rusted. It had been stored well through the years."

Uher says the pumper was taken apart "right down to the metal."

"The pumper is fully functional, it could pump water out at the drop of a hat."

Uher and his firm spent about 1,200 hours on the project and worked meticulously to rebuild the vehicle to its original shape, including the installation of 24 carat gold trim for the leaf. "We restored all the pin striping and graphics. We went through several layers of paint and copied what was there then restored it."

Uher says the pumper cost \$4,500 in 1927 which was more than the average house cost

"We restored it for about \$100,000 which is less than the average house costs today, so everything is relative."

Uher's shop in Blenheim is modelled after the John Little home on Bell Street in Ingersoll which is now a variety store. He says Little manufactured funeral coaches and ambulances from the late 1930s to the 1950s and adds that Little's daughter Mary is a good friend of his and was an impetus for the project.

Mary Little, 82, of Ingersoll, the daughter of John Little, owner of John J.C.Little Coachworks, says: "It's beautiful, it's



Ingersoll Fire Chief Darrell Parker sits behind the wheel of the recently restored 1927 Lorn Pumper at the Ingersoll fire station. The pumper cost \$4,500 in 1927 and the rebuilding is expected to cost or \$100,000. The Ingersoll firefighters have generated about \$70,000 of the cost and expect to raise the remainer through fund raisers and donations (Dutan Cleeve photo)



New fire chief

BY MIKE SWITZER

The Ingersoll Fire Department has a new chief.

Darell Parker, who officially assumed the office on July 1, said he is looking forward to serving the management certificate from Fanpeople of Ingersoll, and hopes his shawe College. services will be required as little as possible.

Former chief Ken Campbell recently retired after 41 years with been involved with organizing the the department

At 31, Parker is the town's youngest fire chief to date. He does possess a number of qualifications which he said should help him adjust interaction with the community.

ment as a volunteer. Two years later he was hired full-time, receiving open to the public. Anyone who has promotion to acting captain in 1984. In 1985 he became a captain, main- any reason whatsoever.'

taining that position for five years until assuming the chief's hat.

Parker has two diplomas in firefighting technology from the Ontario Fire College in Gravenhurst. He has also received a municipal

For two years Parker has served as parade chairman during the Heritage Days festivities and he has annual "fire musters" competitions. Public relations is extremely important, Parker said, and efforts will be made to ensure a good degree of

to the new position. In 1980 he began with the depart-oriented," he said, "and I'm always approachable. The doors are always any questions is free to drop by for

Capt. Jeff Thom is honoured by Chief Darell Parker at the town council meeting Wednesday night for completing a general level firefighting course. (Andrea Bailey photo)

umper at the 100,000. The through fund

CELEBRITY READER

00

Ingersoll Fire Department Chief Darrell Parker reads to a Grade 1 and 2 class at St. Jude's Catholic School Wednesday afternoon. Parker, and a few other prominent Ingersoll officials, read to the students as part of the children's reading skills curriculum. Photo by Jason Ransom

THE INGERSOLL TIMES, Wednesday, March 20, 2002 - Page 7



Laurie Hawkins, an officer with the Ingersoll Police Department, Darell Parker chief at the Ingersoll Fire Department and Barbara Dennis a civilian radio operator with the Ingersoll Police Department accepted staff recognition pins at a town council meeting last Wednesday night. (Theresa Uniac photo) The Ingersoll Police Department accepted staff recognition pins at a town council meeting last Wednesday night. (Theresa Uniac photo) The Ingersoll Fire Service Chief Darrell Parker. The fighters have been raising funds for about four years and have generated more than \$2, 300. (Brian Cleeve photo)

New fire safety program released

By Lisa Di Gianfelice

INGERSOLL – It's a new program that could save your child's life

Risk Watch, developed by the National Fire Protection Asso-ciation and Lowe's Home Safety Council, is designed as a safety curriculum for students in preschool through Grade 8. The Ingersoll Fire Depart-

ment wants to implement the program in local schools this eptember, but is relying on children's organizations and safety agencies to help out.

"The school system in the community has a number of special interest groups that are vying for the teachers' time to meet safety needs of children in various areas like farm safety, water safety," said

Chief.

'Risk Watch forms a collaboration of all these groups and introduces a curriculum for the teachers to use

Emphasis is placed on eight risk areas, including motor vehicle safety, fire and burn prevention, poisoning prevention, bicycle and pedestrian safety and water safety.

Risk Watch activities combine teaching and imagination to help children learn to promote safety.

An initial meeting between the fire department, local school and health officials and police agreed the program is worthwhile for students. Parker said

"We're teaching students a

Darell Parker, Ingersoll Fire life skill – how to play safe and Chief, eventually how to work safe," Parker said

And with the involvement of many agencies, students can learn first-hand about safety from professionals in various areas

'Teachers can ask someone like a lifeguard to come in and talk about water safety, or a police officer or firefighter, Parker said.

Another goal of the program is to create awareness among children and their families

Children can take what they learn about safety home to their families.

"One of the tactics is to get to the children and create a lifelong approach to safety," Parker said



The Ingersoll Fire Department has an opening for a

Volunteer Firefighter Interested parties should submit a resume by July 27/90 Resume to the attention of **Fire Chief**

Darell Parker 110 Mutual St. N. Ingersoll, Ont. N5C 1Z7



Ingersoll Fire Chief Darell Parker is hoping to install a new safety program called Risk Watch in local schools in September with help from children's organizations and safety agencies



6 al O isl

Mike Watson, left, of Shaw Cable, dropped by the Ingersoll Fire Hall last Thursday to present the department with some teddy bears. Accepting the bears are John Warner and chief Darell Parker. The bears will be given to children who are going through traumatic situations. (Matthew Smith photo)

Highway sign refused

Hats off to Ingersoll **Fire Fighters!**

When we are counting the blessings of living in our small town, especially since we are doing it in the middle of Fire Prevention Week, one of those blessings definitely should be the fire protection we have here.

The Ingersoll Fire Service is second to none. Chief Darell Parker is recognized among his peers as an excellent chief. One just has to think back to the fire of 1991 when Parker, still new to his position, took control of all the departments that came to assist us and from his command position earned the respect of every fire fighter there.

The other two full time fire fighters, Deputy Chief Don Wright and Captain Jeff Thom are experienced, well trained men who are dedicated not only to their profession, but to making Ingersoll a safe community

Then there are the 20 volunteer fire fighters. Never, never forget the volunteers! They are the men and women who, at the drop of a hat, leave whatever they are doing and head full tilt to the fire. They give up days off, weekends and holidays to secure the necessary hours of training.

That training is so complete that they could compete with any full time fire fighter from a city and come out equal at the very least.

It doesn't end there. Through their Fire Fighters Club they raise money through various efforts, including brunches, lottery tickets, social evenings and sales of shirts. And what does that money go to? Restoring the historical old fire truck, purchasing fire fighting equipment, purchasing binders for school projects, posters to promote their Tapp-C Program, prizes for competitions and many other things that assist the community

When you talk to Fire Chief Darell Parker, he speaks with pride of the members of his department. When you speak to fire fighters they speak with admiration of their fire chief. No doubt that is part of the secret - the secret that makes the Ingersoll Fire Department a service for

which we can be thankful and of which we can be proud. Hats off to the Ingersoll Fire Fighters! And thank you. - Y.H.M.



Photo by Tim McKay Ingersoll Fire Chief Darell Parker carries a dog to safety after a fire broke out in a Cherry Street apartment in Ingersoll Thursday. Firefighters arrived at the scene at around 11 a.m.

Family escapes blaze without serious injury

By Tim McKay THE INGERSOLL TIMES

INGERSOLL - Wendy Cole and her two young children escaped their Cherry Street home without serious injury after a fire started in the kitchen yesterday morning.

Trixie, the family's beagle, was carried out by Ingersoll Fire Chief Darell Parker after spending about 30 minutes in the smoke-filled four-plex. The dog was fine.

Ingersoll firefighters arrived on the scene around 11 a.m. to find smoke billowing from a side entrance. Two pumpers and numerous volunteer firefighters had the situation under control within an hour.

A worried Cole and her two children found refuge across the street in the home of Ralph and Linda Gordon. Darryl Cole arrived home from work shortly after, relieved to find his family unharmed.

Linda Gordon, an acquaintance of the Coles, said she had just started to make lunch for two children she babysits when she heard the commotion outside. She went to a window and saw smoke pouring out of the apartments.

'She (Cole) was really shaken up," said Gordon. "I just happened to see her come running out of the house with the two children and I told her to come in here."

Parker said late yesterday the cause of the blaze was determined to be accidental. A heating element on the stove had been left on and came into contact with something combustible, he said.

"Damage is estimated at \$25,000 to the apartment where the fire was contained," said Parker.

Another resident of the four-plex, Gary Pembleton, said he was at work when the fire started, but he doesn't think his apartment will have anything more that smoke damage.

Parker confirmed that, saying there was some minor smoke damage to other apartments in the building.

One of the children suffered burns to his fingers, said Parker.



Ingersoll Fire Chief Darell Parker carries a dog to safety after a fire broke out in a Cherry Street apartment in Ingersoll Thursday. Firefighters arrived at the scene at around 11 a.m.

Family escapes blaze without serious injury

By Tim McKay THE INGERSOLL TIMES

INGERSOLL - Wendy Cole and her two young children escaped their Cherry Street home without serious injury after a fire started in the kitchen yesterday morning.

Trixie, the family's beagle, was carried out by Ingersoll Fire Chief Darell Parker after spending about 30 minutes in the smoke-filled four-plex. The dog was fine.

Ingersoll firefighters arrived on the scene around 11 a.m. to find smoke billowing from a side entrance. Two pumpers and numerous volunteer firefighters had the situation under control within an hour.

A worried Cole and her two children found refuge across the street in the home of Ralph and Linda Gordon. Darryl Cole arrived home from work shortly after, relieved to find his family unharmed.

Linda Gordon, an acquaintance of the Coles, said she had just started to make lunch for two children she babysits when she heard the commotion outside. She went to a window and saw smoke pouring out of the apartments.

"She (Cole) was really shaken up," said Gordon. "I just happened to see her come running out of the house with the two children and I told her to come in here.'

Parker said late yesterday the cause of the blaze was determined to be accidental. A heating element on the stove had been left on and came into contact with something combustible, he said.

"Damage is estimated at \$25,000 to the apartment where the fire was contained," said Parker.

Another resident of the four-plex, Gary Pembleton, said he was at work when the fire started, but he doesn't think his apartment will have anything more that smoke damage.

Parker confirmed that, saying there was some minor smoke damage to other apartments in the building.

One of the children suffered burns to his fingers, said Parker.

e. Chief as an excelre of 1991 ontrol of all om his

ICIU.

Page 8

nal, it could of a hat." about 1,200 orked meticule to its origimstallation of or the leaf. or the leaf.

-h coveral lay.

New fire chief

BY MIKE SWITZER

aken apart

I through

The Ingersoll Fire Department has a new chief.

Darell Parker, who officially assumed the office on July 1, said he is looking forward to serving the people of Ingersoll, and hopes his services will be required as little as possible.

Former chief Ken Campbell recently retired after 41 years with the department.

At 31, Parker is the town's youngest fire chief to date. He does possess a number of qualifications which he said should help him adjust to the new position.

In 1980 he began with the department as a volunteer. Two years later he was hired full-time, receiving promotion to acting captain in 1984. In 1985 he became a captain, maintaining that position for five years until assuming the chief's hat.

Parker has two diplomas in firefighting technology from the Ontario Fire College in Gravenhurst. He has also received a municipal management certificate from Fanshawe College.

For two years Parker has served as parade chairman during the Heritage Days festivities and he has been involved with organizing the annual "fire musters" competitions.

Public relations is extremely important, Parker said, and efforts will be made to ensure a good degree of interaction with the community.

"I think I'm reasonably peopleoriented," he said, "and I'm always approachable. The doors are always open to the public. Anyone who has any questions is free to drop by for any reason whatsoever."

> be proud. ink you. Y.H.M.

Parker to do double duty? Ingersoll, Norwich share fire chief

By YVONNE HOLMES MOTT of The Ingersoll Times

Town Council is expected to pass a by-law tonight (Wednesday) that will formalize an agreement between the Town of Ingersoll and the Township of Norwich to share the services of Ingersoll Fire Chief Darell Parker.

To date, the matter has not been discussed in public forum, but has been dealt with Otterville. in Legal and Personnel.

ago, about the possibility of such an arrangement, has made the news public.

District Chiefs in Norwich He sees his role as someone to Township, who also have been acting as chiefs in their own area. Fire stations are located in Oxford Centre,



Darell Parker

Burgessville, Norwich and

Parker says the agreement However, Norwich Coun- means he will be Fire Chief cil, which had approached for the over-all township. The Ingersoll about two months District Chiefs will retain their status.

Parker says the recently passed Bill 84 is one of the There are currently four main reasons for this move. bring the stations together. Acknowledging there is a great deal of paper work and administrative work to be done in a

management, proper documentation, current training and meeting the standards set by the Province of Ontario will be among his immediate goals.

The Ingersoll Chief stresses that in no way is he going to go over to Norwich and start imposing Ingersoll methods on them. "The Township of Norwich is a separate entity" he emphasizes, "and deserves to be treated as such. They will have their own problems and together we will find the solution to those problems."

Parker says he is really looking forward to working there and meeting the challenges. "I'm particularly looking forward to working with the district chiefs and the fire fighters. There is a wealth of experience there. We can build on that experience and with everyone's co-operation were

department today; he says risk going to end up with an excellent over-all department,'

> Chief Parker has been with the Ingersoll Fire Service for 18 years. He started out as a volunteer and became a full time Fire Fighter in 1982. He was made captain in 1984 and promoted to chief in 1990.

He is a graduate of the Ontario Fire College and has earned both general and advanced degrees in fire prevention/technology.

Currently, he is also Deputy County Fire Co-Ordinator for Oxford County.

Chief Parker stresses he is not deserting his Ingersoll responsibilities. He expects to spend about eight hours per week in Norwich, but "Ingersoll won't suffer. I'll make sure of that".

(With files from John Tapley, The Norwich Gazette).



The Ingersoll Fire Department officially took delivery of a \$650,000-\$690,000 1997 Simon LTI 85' Aerial Fire Truck . Manufactured by Simon LTI in Pennsylvania and sold by the Woodstock-based ResQTech Systems Inc., the unit is designed to last the community for 20 years. One feature is an aerial platform equipped with a 2,000 gallon/per minute fire pump. Pictured, from left, Mayor Paul Holbrough; Brian Innis, president of ResQTech ystems Inc., (former) Mayor Jack Warden, on the job for the last day before taking up duties as a councillor; and Fire Chief Darell Parker. (Geoff Dale Photo)



RED HOT SAVINGS John Warner (left), representing the Ingersoll Firefighters Association, poses with fire chief Darell Parker and the 50 free smoke detectors being

offered by the Ingersoll fire department. The association and branch 119

of the Royal Canadian Legion are sponsors of the detector give-away.



The recent performance by Yuk Yuks provided more than just laughs for Ingersoll audiences. The show netted \$9,000 for the Ingersoll Public Library Fund. Participating in the recent cheque presentation were, left to right, Rotary president D: arke. librarian Rosemary Lewis; show organizer Jerry Daniel and Kinsmen president John . Julligan. (Geoff Dale Photo)

Darell Parker will soon be dividing his time as the chief fire official for both the town of Ingersoll and Norwich Township. The councils of both

municipalities have reached an agreement that will see Parker handle the extra responsibilities

New chief on the An agreement between the Township of lays out specific mandates and obligations

Norwich and the Town of Ingersoll will see the two municipalities share a chief fire of-

If all goes according to plan. Ingersoff fire chief Darell Parker will assume similar dutic for Norwich June I

Parker will head up the township's volinteer fire department which is comprised of four stations including Oxford Centre, Burgessville, Norwich and Otterville

The chiefs in the four wards will continue to be the ranking officers in their respective stations.

Under the agreement, Parker will spend in estimated eight hours per week on Norwich fire department business

In exchange for Parker's services, the township will pay Ingersoll Town Council an annual fee of \$20,000.

Township of Norwich mayor Mark Harrison said council has been pursuing the idea for approximately the last two months. He said the decision to retain a fire chief for the entire township came about as a result of the Ontario government's Bill 84 Fire Protection and Prevention Act. The act ceived by the firefighters.

for fire departments resulting in vastly increased responsibilities and hability for firefighters

Harrison stressed that council's decision in no way reflects upon the job the volunteer chiefs have been doing.

'We're not saying they haven't done a great job. We just didn't think it was fair that they get saddled with this," he explained.

According to Harrison, council examined various options before pursuing an agree-ment with Ingersoll, including the possibility of hiring a full-time fire chief, however, the cost was prohibitive

When council struck upon the idea of sharing a fire chief with Ingersoll, Harrison said the concept seemed almost "natural" since Parker began his firefighting career as a volunteer and oversees a mainly volunteer department in Ingersoll. Officers and firefighters of the township

department were informed of the agreement between the two councils at a meeting on Wednesday night. Overall, Harrison said the idea was well re-

arker looking orwar

Darell Parker says he's sees a staff of two full-time looking forward to working employees and 20 volun-with Township of Norwich teers. firefighters

Parker, a native of Ingersoll, has been with the town's fire department for the last 18 years. He began his career as volunteer and took on a full-time role in 1982. In 1984 he was promoted to captain and in 1990 began chief

He is already somewhat familiar with Norwich Township. He is the deputy county fire co-ordinator for Oxford which, among other things, means that if there is an extreme emergency in one area of the county and additional equipment and human resources are required, he helps arrange for the necessary assets to be deployed.

Parker is also involved in an ongoing communications study aimed at making improvements to county fire departments' radio communications system.

Aside from work, Parker said he has fished in some local streams

Married with two children, he is a graduate of the Ontario Fire College with both general and advanced degrees in fire prevention/technology.

Fire and protection

The total capital budget for fire protection is \$516,500, with \$341,500 coming from reserves and \$175,000 from taxes. The biggest item in that budget is the replacement of one of the fire service's tankers for the

wich"

While he expects to spend approximately 25 per cent of his time dealing with Norwich fire department business, Parker said he won't be rushing out to every fire call District chiefs will still handle normal on-seene command. Even if a major incident were to arise. Parker said he will be taking a "team approach" to the situation

He said when in Norwich he will be Norwich's fire chief and "won't be bringing Ingersoll solutions to N

While he will be getting more familiar with local firefighters in the near future, he feels the four township sta-

and staffed by competent and experienced people Parker plans to meet with the district chiefs in the near future to establish some goals and objectives of the new arrangement.

tions are well established

Thursday, February 5, 2015 • Oxford Review 9

Otterville fire hall, with a price of \$300,000, which has been saved in reserves over the years. Acting fire chief Darell Parker

said the price of the tanker could fluctuate before the final figure is available, due to the change in value of the Canadian dollar in relation to the US, which is where the tanker is purchased. Legge added that there are reserves available, but if the tender price is more than the \$300,000 budgeted, a report will come before council with that information and explanation.

and explanation. Parker also explained the department's capital budget includes \$56,500 for replacement of various small equipment items, as per the asset management plan, which will be funded through taxes. The replacement of the department's communication equipment is an ongoing project and is budgeted for \$160,000 -with \$41,500 from reserves and the remainder from taxes.



estoration of the 1927 pumper fire truck received another boost recently when fire chief Darell Parker, left, accepted a cheque for \$2,000 from Jim Hacking, president of Ingersoll Machine and Tool (IMT). The challenge for members of the corporate and residential community is to add to the \$20,000 already raised towards the \$60,000 goal to restore the old fire truck. Proceeds from Nevada tickets at Bridge Variety store are one way to help the truck from being put away and a part of Ingersoll history disappear in the process. (Mario Boucher Photo)



THE INGERSOLL TIMES, Wednesday, July 9, 1997 - Page 5

Visibility, progression keys for new chi

Hail to the chief!

As of July 1, Darell Parker took over the top spot at the Ingersoll Fire Department, replacing re-tiring chief Ken Campbell.

"I was pleased (to get the job.) "I was glad to get it and I looked forward to taking over."

Things should go smoothly, as

far as he sees. "We've got a great department right now.

"All the guys are dedicated."

Born and schooled in Ingersoll, Parker was the department's fire captain before taking on his new position. The jobs are different, he says, in that as captain he an-swered to the department's senior officers — now he is responsible to council, the community and his men

Having a department accessible to the public is something he wants to maintain.

"I'd like to say the department keeps a high visibility in the community."

Teaching young and old the ins and outs of fire safety is one way the department will keep up its links with the public. As captain, Parker did a lot of that work but now that he's the chief his teaching time will be more limited.

"But I'll probably still slip out," he grins.

As far as the future of the depart-ment goes, he wants to continue with ongoing programs and bring in new ones to enhance the operation.

"To bring (the department) into the '90s with good, solid programs" is his plan, he says.



DARELL PARKER is the new fire chief in Ingersoll. Born and schooled here, he was pleased when he found out he got the job

Parker first began his firefighter training in 1980, when he joined as a volunteer. He didn't start taking

the courses necessary to become chief until he switched to full-time duties in 1982



Darell Parker, captain of the Ingersoll Fire Department, sifts through the debris from a fire in one of the compactors at the Collins and Aikman plant on Ingersoll Street. Firefighters were called to the scene Wednesday afternoon and spent an hour digging smouldering garbage out of the bin. The cause of the blaze is undetermined. (Liz Dadson

Workers taken to hospital & Aikman after fire at Collins

Almost 20 Collins and Aikman workers were taken to Ingersoll's Alexandra Hospital after they returned to work following a fire at the plant Wednesday afternoon. Sue Blair, director of nursing, said 17 employees were treated for smoke inhalation at the hospital's emergency department between 4:50 and 6:30 p.m. All were released that evening. Thirteen firefighters were called to the Ingersoll Street plant at 2 p.m. where debris was smouldering in the garbage bin. It

took almost an hour to extinguish the fire and dig out the compactor, said Darell Parker, captain of the Inger-soll Fire Department. Parker said the official cause of the fire is undertermined. "It is difficult to tell," he said. "We found some cigarette butts (among the garbage) which could be

a possible cause." According to a management employee, who declined to give his name, the plant was having an out-side inspection done and testing the fire alarm system Wednesday. The plant manufactures carpets for the auto and truck industry.

Second in a month

No cause or damage estimate established in townhouse fire

BY LIZ DADSON

No cause has yet been determined and no damage estimate set in the second fire to hit Ingersoll in a month

Nineteen firefighters arrived at the 1 a.m. blaze at Walnut Grove Estates at the northeast end of town where fire ravaged eight townhouse

units under construction on Garland Crescent and eight occupied units on Beckett Road.

The firefighters had the blaze under control within 25-30 minutes, said fire chief Darell Parker. But several stayed at the scene until almost 5 p.m. to watch for "hot spots" and assist the fire chief and the Ontario Fire Marshall with the investigation

The fire lit up the sky only a month after a devastating \$4- million fire that destroyed five businesses and left four people homeless in the downtown. In fact, Friday night a benefit dance was held to help the victims of the June 4 fire.

People living next door to the townhouses said they saw a lot of smoke and the roar and flame were 'incredible.

Tammy Harris, whose parents and brother occupied the unit at 301 Beckett Rd., said she awoke at 1:10 a.m. and the wall of her bedroom

was hot when she touched it. "I saw a flash in the area that was under construction," she said. "Then I saw the fire was rolling. I woke up my mom and dad and my brother. In a matter of three minutes, the fire was at the end of

the construction area."

Mike Donovan, site supervisor for County Contracting which built the townhouses that were occupied, said all eight units beside the fire scene were burnt, while eight others had the siding melted off them.

All 16 can be repaired, he said. "It's up to the insurance company. We can save all of the units."

Donovan said no damage estimate has been set and the occupants of the eight burnt units have been put up in hotels around town.

The eight townhouses that were being constructed belonged to Canadian Fine Homes of Woodstock

Owner Balwant Rai said the units were at least three-quarters complete. One unit was already sold and another was being sold, he said. "People were planning to move in Sept. 1."

He said the estimated loss of the units is about \$500,000. His company plans to rebuild as soon as it is allow ed on the site.

In the meantime, over at the Relax Inn, Martha Clark is counting her blessings that her family got out

of 297 Beckett Rd. alive. "We were pretty lucky," she said. "We lost a lot of the things out of the kids' rooms at the back (next to the fire scene). Most of the contents are

still intact but they may be water damaged and smoke damaged." She said her son heard the next door neighbor pounding on the door. "He ran into our room and said the townhouse was on fire. We grabbed our clothes, wallet, purse and the hamster (her son's pet).

Clark, her husband, Dennis, and their children, Tony, 7, and Samantha, 3, have been put up in the hotel by their insurance company. She said about four families are at the Relax Inn.

The insurance company told them it could be three months before they d.

in

can return to their home. Clark, who works at the Canadian Tire in Woodstock, and her husband, who works at CAMI Automotive Inc., had just sold their townhouse and were moving to a new single

family dwelling on Hutcheson Street. The closing date was Nov. 1. Eva Mendonca, her husband, Jose, and brother-in-law, who lived at 301 Beckett Rd., are also at the Relax Inn

Continued on Page 2

A number of Ingersoll firefighters stayed at the scene of Friday's early mor ning fire in Walnut Grove Estates, at the northeast section of town, to watch for "hot spots" and to assist fire chief Darell Parker and the Ontario Fire Marshall with the investigation. Here, deputy fire chief Gerry Hutson (second from left) is assisted by firefighters in hosing down a section of the con

struction site where eight unoccupied townhouses burnt to the ground. Eight occupied units were also burnt and eight other units had siding melted off them. No cause has been determined and no damage estimate set. (Liz Dadson photo)

Fire chief wants action on problem areas

INGERSOLL — The town fire chief wants action taken on some areas of Ingersoll which he says lack proper fire protection. Chief Darell Parker has sent a let-ter to the town Public Utility Com-mission bringing attention to three problem areas

problem areas. First, 399 and 389 North Town

around ingersoll

Not yet determined

INGERSOLL — The cause of the Wednesday fire at the former Bell Street Auto dealership here has yet to be determined.

to be determined. Town of Ingersoll Fire Chief Darell Parker said Thursday dam-age to the building and a 1968 Cadil-lac convertible which was parked below a vacant apartment at 260 Bell St. is estimated at \$20,000. The fire broke out shortly before 9 p.m. Wednesday and firefighters were at the scene for about two hours. The building jointly owned by

nours. The building, jointly owned by several parties, is insured. Officials from the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office were called in to investigate

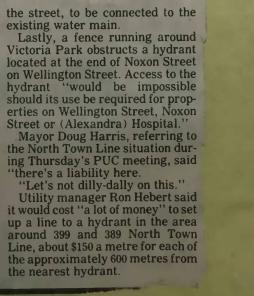
The lone tenant of the building is Caddy's Auto Restoration.

Line are so far away from the near-est fire hydrant that "effective fire streams producing the volumes of water needed to extinguish a fully involved fire' could not be ob-tained." The nearest hydrant is lo-cated at the corner of North Town Line and Oxford Avenue, about 600

Line and Oxford Avenue, about 600 metres away. In addition, the only fire hydrant available at the south end of McK-eand Street (between the Canadian National Railway tracks and the Thames River) is located inside a fenced compound behind a locked gate of the town sewage treatment plant. plant

"This situation would drastically slow down our ability to deliver wa-ter to a fire in those critical first minutes." Parker put in a request that a new hydrant be installed at

the street, to be connected to the



Section 2 Page 2

The Ingersoll Times, Wednesday, June 8, 1988.

Fillent.

1111

Fire department 125th anniversary

By JONATHAN STOVER

With 10 years as Ingersoll fire chief and nearly 40 years in the department, Ken Campbell has seen a lot of Ingersoll's firefighting history from the inside. The chief said he intends to write a book on the history of fire fighting in Ingersoll if he ever gets the time. Until then, Campbell's notes on the department, the information upon which much of this article is based, will have to do

Keeping track of the department's history isn't an easy matter, despite the existence of numerous log books and newspaper articles dating back into the 19th century. This is due to an information gap in the department's records between 1890 and 1920. The log books and records from this time period, encompassing the tenure of two fire chiefs, are nowhere to be found

Leaping ahead to our modern-day firefighting. Campbell notes that he has again put in a budgetary request for "hydraulic spreaders and accessories," better known to the public as Jaws of Life, the name of one brand of this device. Used to pry open motor vehicles which have been involved in accidents, such an addition to the department would add another lifesaving device to its fire and accident fighting arsenal.

The department was incorporated under Ingersoll Bylaw 78 in 1863, with that legislation being signed by the reeve and clerk of Ingersoll on April 6. Under the overall title of Fire Brigade, a number of smaller companies functioned. These included the fire company, hook and ladder company, property saving company and a committee to oversee the operation of all of the components. R.H. Carroll held the first chief engineer position, from 1863 to 1871, missing the chance to lead the department against Ingersoll's greatest fire by just over a year

Ingersoll's chief engineer commanded absolute control over all gines and equipment used by the Fire Brigade, as well as over all persons working at a fire. His powers also extended, in limited fashion, over all male Ingersoll residents between the ages of 16 and 60, as he could order them to help out in the event of a fire. Refusing to obey the chief under such circumstances brought possible fines and jail sentences.

Chimney fires and other relatively minor occurrences occupied the fire department's time for the first decade of its existence. However,

1872 brought Ingersoll its worst fire in history, an inferno which has been described as the worst town fire in Canada up to that time.

Like most small Canadian towns of the late 19th century, Ingersoll was built primarily of wood. This included not only the buildings, but the sidewalks as well, made of planks. The closeness of most buildings to one another made conditions even more hazardous. In such an environment, and with the relatively crude firefighting equipment of the time, fires could easily rage out of control if allowed to get underway.

An abandoned stable on the corner of Oxford and Charles streets provided the incubator for just such a fire, on May 7, 1872. By the time Ingersoll, London and Woodstock brigades brought the blaze to a halt, 80 buildings had been destroyed and two men had died trying to help the department fight the blaze. Ingersoll's downtown business section was gutted, and it took several years for the community to fully recover.

Department boasts interesting history

The fire equipment of the time was restricted by both the lack of machine- powered transportation to get to the fire, and by the need to rely on available wells or reservoirs for water, rather than the more dependable fire hydrants and town water supply available today. It was not uncommon, into the last half of the century, to see bucket brigades still being utilized in some

Where the modern fire department utilizes two-way radio and portable paging devices to alert its members of a fire, the fire fighters of Ingersoll's past didn't have such modern conveniences to call upon. Before the advent of the telephone, a bell was sounded to give the fire call, with the number of rings indicating what section of town -- or "wards," as the sections were called - the fire was in.

When telephones finally found their way to Ingersoll, the switchboard operator would, after routing any emergency fire call to the station, phone each fireman's home individually to alert him. This began in 1927, and continued until 1963. The end of the town switchboard system brought about the use of radios then portable pagers, which are in use today. Even the business of directing

department's anniversary. The displays will be in

firefighters at an emergency has changed dramatically over the years. The chief engineer, assistant chief and officers would use trumpets to direct their men. Today, the megaphone and the radio have replaced that.

The actual machinery used to battle fires has also metamorphosed greatly since the bygone days of bucket brigades. The first steam engine powered pump was purchased in 1873, for nearly \$5,000. All that's left of that engine – high technology for its time – is one of its lamps, sitting in a place of honor at the current fire hall.

With the purchase of that engine, horses became necessary to transport the engine and pump assembly to and from fires. Their coming was seen as a turning away from the good, traditional ways of fighting fires. Many firemen fought against the advent of the use of

horses. Years later, they would fight just as stubbornly to try to keep the horses in operation, after it had

become obvious that the day of the internal combustion engine was at hand. The horses, usually crossbred from light and heavy draft animals for an optimum mix of speed and strength, lived in the fire station. Upon their retirement, the fire department would see that they were taken in by a good owner.

Captain Darell Parker and Chief Ken Campbell stand in various Ingenoll buildings and are covered with

Come

Help

Us

,elebrate!

MARTY 125 BIRTHING

利用留

front of some of the displays put together for the artwork by area school children.

Many changes over the years

1927, which saw the startup of telephone usage for the Ingersoll fire department, also brought the first full time fire chief, John Williams, to the town. A busy year of change, the end of the equine era also came about. The last team of horses was sold in April, as the department had purchased its first motorized vehicle the year before. This fire truck, a Model T Ford

hook and ladder truck, remained in use until 1946. A pump truck was ourchased in 1927, and this Stewart Fire Pumper may still be seen at

the station today, although it hasn't been in use since 1958 Numerous other fire trucks have been purchased over the years, to keep the Ingersoll fire department as modern as is financially feasible.

Chief Campbell has seen many changes in the ways Ontario acts to fight its fires during his career. The first firemens' college in Ontario was opened in Gravenhurst in 1958, to give the firefighters of this province formal schooling in both fighting and preventing fires. The Mutual Aid system, established in 1954, allows Oxford County fire departments to more rapidly and efficiently come to the aid of one another in the event of major fires

On the topic of what was the worst Ingersoll fire he has seen in his tenure as chief, Campbell admits that property losses aren't what stands out in his mind when it comes to town blazes, as he feels that usually what was destroyed can be rebuilt better than it was before its destruction. The fires that stand out in his mind are those in which lives are lost, said the chief

There haven't been many of

these during Chief Campbell's days - only five people have died in fire related incidents in Ingersoll in the last 40 years - but the one that comes to mind most vividly was a 1975 blaze on King Hiram Street which claimed the lives of two children. "It's always bad," said Campbell, "but it seems the worst when some young kids get killed."



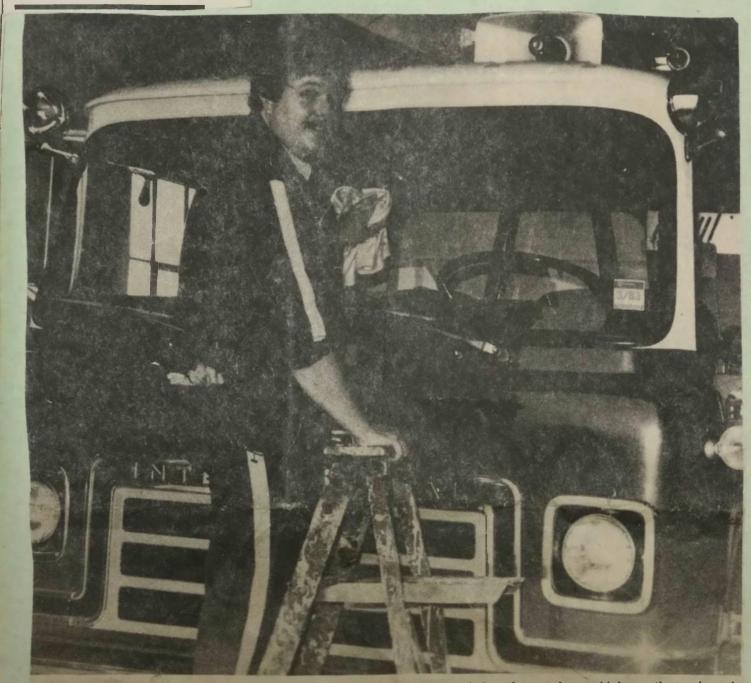
About 150 people toured the new fire hall on Mutul Street on Sunday, for its open house. Fire Chief Ken Campbell was pleased with the turnout. Firefighter Darell Parker spent

GENEROUS DONATION

some time befo fire equipmen October 9 to 1



-- only five people have died in fire related incidents in Ingersoll in the last 40 years -- but the one that comes to mind most vividly was a 1975 blaze on King Hiram Street which claimed the lives of two children. "It's always bad," said Campbell, "but it seems the worst when some young kids get killed."



About 150 people toured the new fire hall on Mutul Street on Sunday, for its open house. Fire Chief Ken Campbell was pleased with the turnout. Firefighter Darell Parker spent some time before the open house shining up the trucks and fire equipment. Chief Campbell also reminded citizens October 9 to 15 is Fire Prevention Week.

GENEROUS DONATION



John Tapley Ingersoll Times The Cowan Foundation made its third and final installment to complete its \$36,000 pledge to the Fusion Youth Centre/Big Brothers Big Sisters partnership Friday, Nov. 2 at Fusion. The \$12,000 was presented by Bryce Sibbick, Cowan regional manager, centre, to, from left, Fusion manager Jason Smith, BBBS executive director Deb Landon, Deputy Mayor Fred Freeman and Ingersoll CAO Darell Parker.

overed with

Station 13

IIII

ough it hasn't Numerous been purto keep the ent as ly feasible seen many ntario acts to s career. lege in Onavenhurst in hters of this ling in both g fires. The tablished in unty fire apidly and aid of one major fires.

was the has seen in mpbell ades aren't mind when it as he feels destroyed ian it was The fires ind are those said the

nany of

During special program **Firefighters move metal**

Thirty-seven fire fighters in Oxford County had three weeks of classroom and practical experience cram-med into one week during a special program put on by the Ontario Fire Marshall's office. "There are more than

23,000 volunteers out there," pointed out Dave Sherratt, fire services advisor for the Fire Marshall's office. He noted many of them took part in the programs offer-ed last week and many gave up their own holidays to take part.

"These fire fighters have the ability, skill and knowledge, we are just showing them the technique with safety in making them better," he explained. He instructed an extri-

cation and rescue course at a wrecking yard south of Weodstock. In the rain and cold during most of the

week the fire fighters learned to rescue mock victims trapped in vehicles. Safely removing metal away from the victims was one of the many important aspects of such a rescue.

"The goal is communicat-ion and co-operation for the common goal of the vic-tim," Mr. Sherratt explain-

"We moved a lot of metal," the fire services advisor said, noting that about 50 vehicles were literally cut to pieces with various pieces of equip-

ment. There are basically two types. There is the more elaborate power hydraulic equipment including the 'jaws of life' or a less expensive but equally ef-ficient 'hands on' equipment which includes which includes more com-mon tools such as hack saws, chains and pry bars. Throughout the week Mr. Sherrat stressed that the expensive equipment is not really required and through practical demonstrations proved that basic hand tools een extringthe junt or used.

can extricate just as well. "I found that the hands on equipment was better," suggested Darrell Parker of Ingersoll, who took part in the extrication course. "It does the same job, is lighter and is more affordable."

"I had no idea you could

take cars apart using basic tools," Mr. Parker said. "Confidence is what they learn here, both in equip-ment and themselves," Mr. Serratt noted. Often those attending an accident scene suffer from

......

'tunnel vision', and 'pucker power.' That is where rescuers get too caught up with the fact they are attending to an accident and forget to properly assess the entire situation. Be they police, am-bulance drivers or fire figh-

what Mr. Sherratt calls

ters the entire accident scene must be surveyed including topography, the nature of the accident and of course the condition of the victims.

In one mock accident this writer was a victim who experienced the sounds of a jaws of life cutter removing a door on one side while a hands on hydra-spreader removing the other door. Both pieces of equipment worked like a can opener on a can.

As it turned out the less expensive hydra - spreader (\$1,000) removed the car door faster and easier than the more expensive jaws of

The Ontario Fire Mon-shall's Office, which oper-ates under Ontario Solicitor General Roy McMurtry, has recommended provincial fire departments to prfire departments to pr-chase a basic hands on rescue equipment. The /ost is about \$2,000 and go/ern-ment subsidy for the duip-ment will likely be nade available in the near fuure. Other courses offered ast week included officer tran-ing transportation of an

ing, transportation of dngerous items, ladder nd hose care, pumper op at-ion, defensive driving and vehicle maintene

or on the other side. The hydra-spreader removed the de gicker and easier to handle.

Operation rescue is completed as Darrell Parker is hauled from the vehicle. 'Jaws of life' removed the door on the driver's side while a less expensive hydra-spreader



Ingersoll Fire Chief Darell Parker presents a donation of \$1.600 to OPP Sgt. Glyn Parsons which will be placed in the Hawkins Family Memorial Fund. The money was raised through the sales of carbon monoxide detectors and the generous donations of many organizations and individuals within the community. Left to right are Ian Robertson representing the Kiwanis & Ingersoll Community Foundation, Fire Chief Darell Parker, Sgt. Glyn Parsons, Paul Edge and Bob Armstrong representing Ingersoll Rotary Club.



Ingersoll Fire Fighters Darrell Parker plays the role of a



oll Times, October 14, 1981 Page

before extrication

I side. The hydra-spreader

The Kinsmen Club new executive held their annual meeting at the Venus Dining House July 1. In the back row, from left to right: Al Dolson, vice-president; Ed Collins, secretary; Bill Jellous, treasurer; Davis Landon, bulletin editor and Jim Robins, director. In the front row: Dan Morrison, deputy governor for Zone E, Darell Parker, past president and Bruce Fleming, new president. (Photo by Marg Rovd)

nd in n in but

said.

Potential charges, insurance Wednesday, March 23, 2005 costs anect local fire fighters

By JOHN TAPLEY Staff writer

Highway Traffic Act charges and massive insurance rate hikes can be slapped on volunteer firefighters in Ontario if they drive their personal vehicles to emergencies on closed roads.

The potential ramifications came to light in February 2004 when a volunteer firefighter drove his personal vehicle to an emergency on a closed road and was involved in an accident.

accident. Following the incident, the OPP received a legal opinion from the Ministry of Transportation stating that firefighters' personal vehicles are not considered fire department vehicles and therefore are not allowed on roads that have been closed.

"Despite the fact that no charges were laid, the fire-fighter did receive a substan-tial increase in his personal insurance rate," wrote Ingersoll fire chief Darell Parker in a report to council

Parker said the Ontario Fire Marshal is looking into changes that would protect

firefighters but a solution is still months away.

"Right now, we're operating on the goodwill of the volun-teers," said Parker. "They're really operating at their own peril as far as personal finances are concerned. I think it's wrong."

"They're really operating at their own peril as far as personal finances are concerned. I think it's wrong." **Chief Darrell Parker**

Under the Highway Traffic onder the Highway Traffic Act, driving an unauthorized vehicle on a closed road can result in a \$105 fine and three demerit points, he said. Firefighters are subject to personal insurance rate increases under those circum-ctances as under

increases under those circum-stances as well. The situation also holds implications for emergency response and staffing, occu-pational health and safety, mutual aid as well as recruit-ment and retention, said Parker

He noted that the legal and financial risks extend beyond weather related road closures

weather related road closures to include closures due to accidents, fog and hazardous material spills. While firefighters are sub-ject to Highway Traffic Act charges, Parker said his real concern is the possible impact on firefighters' per-sonal insurance rates.

"I'm having trouble under-standing why we can't put a short term solution on this to protect the firefighters of this province," he said. "I just don't know for the life of me

don't know for the life of me why we're waiting 16 or 18 months to get it changed." Firefighters not being allowed on closed roads will have a definite negative effect on service delivery, wrote Parker in his report to council council.

council. "It is not practical in our response system to wait for the staffing necessary to fight a fire to respond to the station nor do we have the required seating in the fire apparatus to accommodate such num-bers," he said. "We can't phys-ically carry enough bodies in fire trucks to get the numbers we need." we need.

Staff changes take place at local fire department

Several changes have taken place in staff at the Fire Department recently. **Volunteer firefighter Darell** Parker has become a fulltime member of the department and volunteer firefighter Jack Milne has been named Deputy Fire Chief, both effective June 9.

av th tu

> Jack Milne has been with the local department since December, 1948 when he joined as a volunteer. "At the time, I knew a lot of the fellows who belonged to the department," he explained as one of his reasons for joining. "I worked in the police office and it was close for being on call," he added. Mr. Milne recalled several major fires over the years including the old arena and the Eatons order office on Thames Street South. He said the job was never exciting but rather it was something that had to be done in the community.

"Somebody had to do it and we did the best we could," he explained, "regardless of whether it was a cold winter night or a nice summer night."

Mr. Milne is an avid supporter of the Fire Department and noted the various changes which have taken place over the years. "I am enthused about the fire department. In this last while, the department has taken quite a step forward. There are three men there full-time now and there is better equipment," he ex-

'The Ingersoll Fire Department is going ahead ... now they are talking about a new fire hall. I can't say enough about it. I feel it's a good thing. I really feel good about it," said Mr. Milne.

Darell, 23, has been with the local department for a year - and - a - half and joined because he was terested in a firefighting career. After being a volunteer, and a full-time position came open, he decided t

give up his job as a carpenter and take on firefighting full-time.

"I was interested in firefighting and I wanted to make it my career. It's the direction I wanted to go," he explained.

With his new job, Darell will now be working every other weekend, Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday, 12 hour shifts, and half days, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

"There's always something new to learn," said Darell about being a firefighter. "I enjoy taking courses and learning more about it."

However, he pointed out, when it comes to fighting a fire, it is just a job and he does what has to be done. "There's a little bit of excitement there." he admitted.

With the shifting of positions at the department, Fire Chief Ken Campbell is now looking for more volunteer firefighters. He said he would like to have the positions filled by July 1. Applications are available at the fire hall.



unteer and lame a full-time member June 9.

'Like akid

den

Page 2 - THE INGERSOLL TIMES, Wednesday, June 5, 2002*



placed in detectors to right a Parker, Sg

Fred Richens sits behind the wheel of the Lorne 1927 fire truck at the Ingersoll Fire Service lot with fire chief Darell Parker who gave the 90-year-old Ingersoll resident a ride last Thursday. His daughter Shirley Lovell and her family donated \$100 to the truck restoration fund. (Brian Cleeve photo)

'Like akid on firetruck

By BRIAN OFFE The Ingersolmes

So what do you get for average man when he turns 90 year?

For Shirley Lovell thaver was easy. Lovell and herfamilydard \$100 to the restoration fund fort 1927 Lorne pumper and gave herfatFred Richens a ride on it with IngesFire Service chief Darell Parker.

"This is a great long truck; I'm looking forward to then haid Richens, just moments before Pa wheeled the big red truck out of the for a cruise around Ingersoll.

Lovell, the curator he Ingersoll Cheese Museum, says ther was like a "kid in a candy storhen he heard about the opportunity a ride for his birthday on June 9.

"He was around thealways interested as they built the tw." she said. The pumper will begisplay on Sat-

urday, June 22 during arade that commences at 11 a.m. athebersoll fire hall and goes to CentennialPk as part of the Antique Fire Truck Pare and Show. Dickert says he expas there will be

about 10 fire vehicles inhe parade. The 1927 pumper, asvell as other fire vehicles, will be on dispay at the Cheese Museum on Saturday and Sunday between about noon and 4p.m. in conjunction with the museum's 25th anniversary. The pumper has already been out for

The pumper has already been vehichle public view. It won best antique vehichle in the Calithumpian parade on Victoria Day in Thamesford and was voted judges favourite at the Kitchener-Waterloo Fire Muster, where it was transported free by Oakwood Transport of Ingersoll.

Dakwood Transport of Ingenetic above a point of Ingenetic above a point of Ingenetic above a point of the Lorne Pumper in December 2001, after about two years of restoration work by Stan Uher in Blenheim (near Chatham.) The town originally took delivery of the truck March 7, 1927 and sold its team

of horses the next month for \$300. Built by the Lorne Tractor Company of Tillsonburg, the truck sits on a Stewart Chassis. Stewart Trucks were built in Buffalo from 1912 to 1939. It was powered by a 500 cu. in., six-cylinder Waukeshaw engine with dualignition. The restoration cost about \$120,000 and the town provided the up front money. Parker says about \$80,000 hasbeen raised to return the money. The parade group is looking for donations at the dow

By Eric Schmiedl STAFF WRITER

INGERSOLL – Town residents were left in shock when a freight train struck an elderly Ingersoll woman's car Friday, killing her instantly.

Dead is Mary Timbs, 78. "I'm still shaking ... my whole body's trembling. It's not a pleasant thing to see," said eyewitness William Bale, who lives just north of the Thames Street rail crossing where Timbs died. "My heart's still in my mouth."

Police said an eastbound train had just cleared the controlled crossing when Timhs drove into the crossing. The warning bells and lights were again activated by the approach of a westbound CN train. Apparently, police said, Timbs hesitated and stopped her car, becoming trapped when the barrier arms lowered. Timbs was trying to turn her car around when struck by the train at about 3:19 p.m.

Timbs was the car's only occupant, police said. Emergency services struggied to remove her body from the wreck of her car. After the crash, the train

S

fi

M

ju

er

D

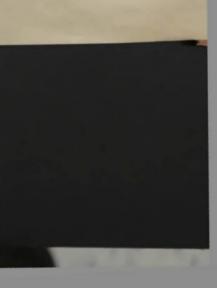
to

D

na

(.1

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Page 12 - THE INGERSOLI. TIMES, Wednesday, October 30, 2002



SERVICE AWARD: Jane Parker, wife of Ingersoll Fire Chief Darell ourker, pins a 20-year service medal on her husband at a council meeting on Oct. 21. (Brian Cleeve photo)

NEIGHBOURS IN SHOCK, DEMAND **RAIL OVERPASS**

alf ago as

By Eric Schmiedl STAFF WRITER

INGERSOLL – Town resi-dents were left in shock when a freight train struck an elderly Ingersoll woman's car Friday, killing her

instantly. Dead is Mary Timbs, 78. "I'm still shaking ... my whole body's trembling. It's not a pleasant thing to see," said eyewitness William Bale, who lives just north of the Thames Street rail cross-ing where Timbs died. "My heart's still in my mouth."

Police said an eastbound train had just cleared the controlled crossing when Timbs drove into the crossing. The warning bells and lights were again activated lights were again activated by the approach of a west-bound CN train. Apparently, police said, Timbs hesitated and stopped her car, becoming trapped when the barrier arms lowered Timbs was trying to turn her car around when struck by the train at about 3:19 n m. about 3:19 p.m.

about 3:19 p.m. Timbs was the car's only occupant, police said Emergency services strug-gled to remove her body from the wreck of her car. After the crash, the train experienced mechanical dif-ficulties resulting from the collision and had to be repaired before it could be moved. All four Ingersoll crossings were blocked by the 178-car train until it could be moved at 7 p.m.



Thamesford Fire Chief Bill Cairns and the Thamesford Fire Department would like to thank Fire Chief Darryl Parker, Capt Jeff Thom, and the Ingersoll Fire Department for their assistance through mutual aid at the large fire at Cold Springs Farms last week. The Town of Ingersoll should be very proud of the services these men and women provide.

Sincerely Bill Cairns and the Thamesford Firefighters



Photo by Eric Schmiedl Emergency services personnel converge around Mary Timbs' car Friday afternoon. The Ingersoll woman died when a train struck her vehicle.

OCTOBER 10, 2007

Holding their first boot drive in several years recently, ingersoil firefighters collected \$6,200 for Muscular Dystrophy Canada in just a few hours. Here, firefight-er Steve Hilton, left, and chief Darell Parker present the cheque to Deanna Totten Muscular Dystrophy Canada district coord-nator for Southwestern Ontario. (John Tapley photo)



nd in m in but said.



MORE THAN 50 pupils who will start kindergarten in September, and their parents met a policeman, a public health nurse, and the teacher at the get-acquainted meeting

h e l d yesterday in Princess Elizabeth School. In the photo, from left, Constable W. R. Smith of Ingersoll Police Department gives safety pointers to Darrell Parker, son of

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Parker, McKeand street, with Miss M. E. Gilbert, public health nurse, as an interested spectator, while Mrs. Ruth Tingle,

kindergarten teacher, tries to hold the attention of Lynn Peach, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Don Peach. Mutua street, at the gel-acquaintee day assembly. (Staff photo)

WHAT, NO SALT AND VINEGAR?



Children from Growing Concern Day Care enjoy a potato-chip break during their morning walk yesterday after stopping at a variety store. From left are Payton Mann, Hannah McInnis, Alex Pergonil Howe, Emme Chute and Elizabeth Fenton. All are two. ISOLL TIMES, Wednesday, March 30, 2005

Editorial & Opinion

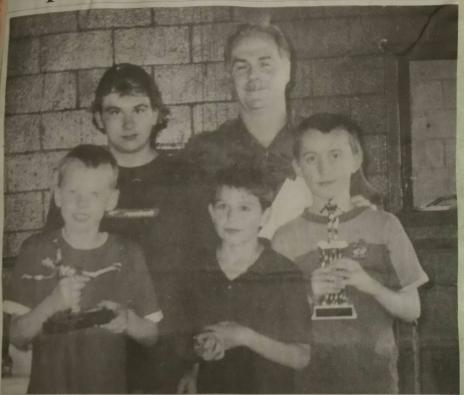


EGG TOSS: Darell Parker seeds the field at Victoria Park with chocolate treats in preparation for the annual Rotary Club of Ingersoll/Shoppers Drug Mart Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday. The colourful eggs were easy to spot on the white blanket of snow that was still on the ground. (John Tapley photo)

Page 2 - THE INGERSOLL TIMES Wednesday, July 7, 2004



SPECIAL RECOGNITION: Three ingersoil firefighters were recognized for their years of service recentty. Firefighter Kirk Franklin and Lieut. Jim Griffin received 10-year service pins and deputy chief Don Wright received a 20-year pin. Here, from left, chief Darell Parker and Mayor Paul Holbrough pose for a nd in on in , but said. Sports



AWARD WINNERS: Several swimmers were recognized at the Ingersoll Speed Sharks' awards banquet at the end of the season recently including front row, left to right: Tyson MacDonald, first SEAL final; Andrew Elliott, highest points team champs; Colin Versnick, second SEAL final. Back row: Nick Parker, third SEAL final and Tom Bradley, head coach. (Submitted photo)

harks give out awards

The Ingersoll Speed Sharks swim team wrapped up their 2003-2004 season with their final banquet at the

The coaching staff of the Sharks is very pleased with the progress of the team this year, and are already look-ing forward to next season.

2003-2004 award winner: King Newell, Swimmer of the Year: (Tie) - Alex Brown and Danielle Bell Boucher

President's award:

Krista Crawford Sportsmanship award: Most improved: Mickaela Elliott Madeline Major Kaulin Prinzen Chelsea Dodd Colin Versnick Andrew Bradford **Most dedicated:** Mimi Nguyen David Nguyen

Mary Tilford Emilia Wawrzyn Dylan Lennox **Good sport:** MacKenzie Hartung Tyson MacDonald Caroline Beastal Rachelle Cadman Mark Parker Plans for the 2004-2005 season are underway. See the Sharks' bulletin board at the complex or call Joyce Crawford at 425-1966 for details.

DONATIONS



John Tapley Ingersoll Times

Ingersoll's Town Centre now has an automatic external defibrillator (AED) in the lobby thanks to the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario. The device, which can deliver an electric charge to a restore a normal heart beat in certain situations, was presented to the town last week. Town staff and staff at the Ingersoll Library will receive training on its use. Ingersoll CAO Darell Parker accepts the defibrillator, worth about \$2,000, from Oxford County EMS representative Joe Pember Jr.



Jennifer Vandermeer Ingersoll Times

t

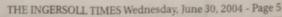
Ingersol 9. Chief i Exempla Canadiai involving Canadiar

service is Thom sin

The Cowan Foundation made the second of three donations of \$12,000 to the Fusion Youth Centre and Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Ingersoll, Tillsonburg and Area Wednesday, Nov. 16. The funding is used to help support sports and fitness programs that both organizations operate. From left are Big Brothers/Big Sisters Executive Director Deb Landon, Fusion manager Jason Smith, Ingersoll town treasurer Gary Seitz, Frank Cowan company rep Bryce Sibbick, Ingersoll CAO Darell Parker and Mayor Ted Comiskey.



Dave and Ingersoll Mayor Ted Comiskey, far right, presented exemplary service medals to Ingersoll Fire Service Deputy Chief Don Wright and Captain Jeff Thom during an Ingersoll town council meeting. Chief Darell Parker, who had previously received the medal, was presented with service bars for the award.







FIRE FUNDRAISER: Ingersoll fire chief Darell Parker holds up one of 300 watercolour prints firefighters are selling to raise money to help pay off restoration work on their 1927 Stewart fire truck. Titled Small Town Charm, the print sells for \$125 each and features his-toric scenes of Ingersoll. (John Tapley photo)

OFFICIAL GROUND BREAKING



Jennifer Vandermeer Ingersoll Times

Sifton Properties officially broke ground on the 54-lot first phase of its HarrisView development on Harris Street Wednesday, July 25. Many members of the Sifton organization and Ingersoll town representatives were on hand. The official ground breaking was done by, from left, Sifton's vice president of new homes Rick Gooyers, vice president of neighbourhood development Phil Masschelein, Ingersoll Mayor Ted Comiskey and Ingersoll CAO Darell Parker.

For the mayors of Woodstock, South-West Oxford, Tillsonburg, Ingersoll and Zorra Township, the proposed landfill, Woodingford Lodge and a shortage of industrial land all topped the list of biggest issues facing the county in the coming years.

The Sentinel-Review asked all Oxford County mayors to offer some insight into the issues facing area municipalities and what to expect in 2014.

Ingersoll Mayor Ted Comiskey

What was the biggest issue(s) affecting Ingersoll/Oxford County in 2013?

A: The biggest issue affecting not only the town of Ingersoll but the county as a whole in 2013 has to be the proposed landfill issue in the Carmeuse lime quarry. The time and energy the town has put into the research, discussions, meetings and

motions to prevent this has been enormous We all pray common sense will prevail next

year. **Ted Comiskey** What was council's (either Ingersoll or Oxford County) greatest accomplishment in 2013? A: Ingersoll's greates accomplishment in 2013 has

to be CAO Darell Parker and council's assembly of one of the best administrative staffs that could ever be amassed. We have been told the openness, transparency and the willingness to help and assist has made Ingersoll Town Hall a pleasure to visit. Check our web site or just come in and say hello.

What challenges are ahead for Ingersoll/Oxford County in 2014?

A: It seems over the last few years the focus has been on solving major issues with less funds from the province, rising OPP costs, cost pertaining to landfill and other issues from the past that burdened our budget. Over the past two years we have addressed most of those issues. I believe 2014 will be a strengthening year for Ingersoll



John Tapley Ingersoll Times

Oxford County MP Dave Mackenzie, left, and Ingersoll Mayor Ted Comiskey, right, presented exemplary service medals to Ingersoll Fire Service deputy chief Don Wright and captain Jeff Thom during an Ingersoll town council meeting on Monday, Jan. 9. Chief Darell Parker, who had previously received the medal, was presented with service bars for the award. The Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal, from the Federal Government, was created on August 29, 1985, honours members of a recognized Canadian fire service who have completed 20 years of service, ten years of which have been served in the performance of duties involving potential risks, and were employed on or after the date of creation of the Medal. Recognized fire services include Canadian fire departments, fire marshals' offices, fire commissioners' offices and the Canadian Forces fire services. Exemplary service is characterized by good conduct, industry and efficiency. Wright has been with the Ingersoll Fire Service since 1984, Thom since 1986 and Parker since 1980.

MCL GSL) Wednesday, March 1, 2006

It's the law

As of today, smoke alarms are required on all levels

By JOHN TAPLEY Staff writer

There's no question that smoke alarms save lives. That's why for years provincial law has required that there be at least one working smoke detector in every residence.

On March 1, new provincial regu-lations came into effect requiring smoke detectors on every level of a home to increase the safety factor even further.

While the provincial rules have changed, homes in Ingersoll have been required to have smoke alarms on every storey under a town bylaw that has been on the books since 1984

The new regulation is in addition to the existing requirement to have smoke alarms outside all sleeping areas

Not having working smoke alarms

Not having working smoke alarms on every level of your home can essued by the fire service. Landlords can be subject to penal-ties of up to \$25,000 for individuals or \$50,000 for corporations for not having the correct number of work-ing smoke alarms in their buildings. "Smoke alarms have been proven to be effective in the prevention of loss of life and property," said ingersoll fire chief Darell Parker. "Most people have working smoke alarms in their home."

Continued on page 2

John Tapley Ingersoll Times

John Tapley Ingersoll Times Oxford County MP Dave Mackenzie, left, and Ingersoll Mayor Ted Comiskey, right, presented exemplary service medals to Ingersoll Fire Service deputy chief Don Wright and captain Jeff Thom during an Ingersoll town council meeting on Monday, Jan. 9. Chief Darell Parker, who had previously received the medal, was presented with service bars for the award. The Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal, from the Federal Government, was created on August 29, 1985, honours members of a recognized Canadian fire who take completed 20 years of service, ten years of which have been served in the performance of durins involving potential risks, and were employed on or after the date of creation of the Medal Recognized fire carvices include Canadian fire departments, fire marshals' offices, fire commissioners' offices and the Canadian forcins fire services. Exemplary service is characterized by good conduct, industry and efficiency. Wright has been with the ingerso Fire Service since 1986, Thom since 1986 and Parker since 1980.

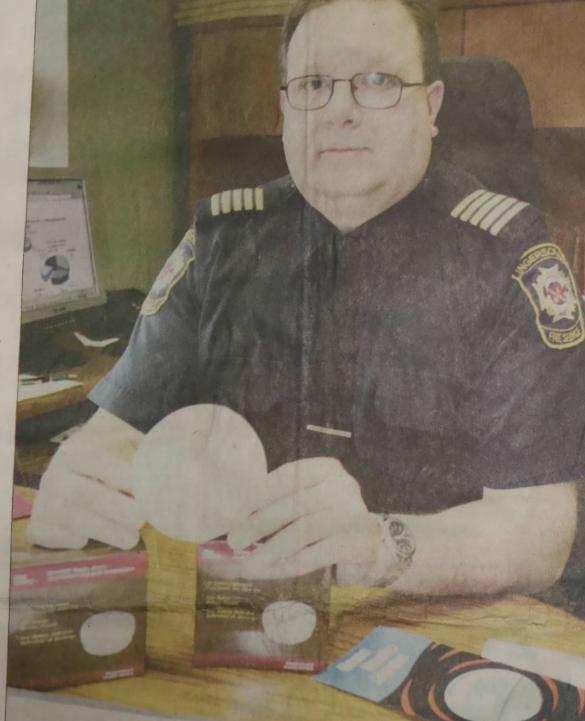
NEW REGULATION: Ingersoll fire chief Darell Parker displays a couple of smoke detectors which, as of March I, are required to be installed on every level of homes in Ontario. Homeowners found in violation of the new regulations can face a \$235 fine. (John Tapley photo)

SOLL TIMES



JANUARY 6, 2010

Ingersoll Fire Chief Darell Parker presents a donation of \$1,600 to OPP Sgt. Glyn Parsons which will be placed in the Hawkins Family Memorial Fund. The money was raised through the sales of carbon monoxide detectors and the generous donations of many organizations and individuals within the community. From left are lan Robertson representing the Kiwanis & Ingersoll Community Foundation, Fire Chief Darell Parker, Sgt. Glyn Parsons, Paul Edge and Bob Armstrong representing Ingersoll Rotary Club. (Submitted photo)



Hawkins memorial fund receives \$1,600

(incl. GST) Wednesday, April 18, 2007



BE PREPARED: Jackie Beam, assistant emergency management coordinator, and Ingersoll fire chief Darrel Parker display some of the items included in emergency preparedness kits Ingersoll Fire and Emergency Services will be selling during an open house at the fire hall May 2. (John Tapley photo)



Thursday, April 15, 2010 • Oxford Review 65

John Tapley Ingersoll Times

Ingersoll fire chief Darrel Parker and Rev. Dr. Lonnie Atkinson were among a group of volunteers who ran a barbecue fundraiser outside of Giant Tiger Saturday for the Canadian Cancer Society Relay for Life in Ingersoll this weekend.

Ingersoll CAO headed for retirement

Darell Parker started as firefighter

John Tapley Ingersoll Times

arth

fre

Ingersoll will be looking for a new chief administration officer (CAO) in the new year.

Darell Parker, Ingersoll's

former fire chief who has been the town's CAO for the past two years, is heading into retirement at the end of January

"I've been looking at (retiring) for some time," said Parker who informed council of his decision on Tuesday, Nov.

Parker started his career with the municipality as a volunteer firefighter in 1980. Two years later he was hired as a full-time firefighter and then promoted to fire chief in 1990.

He also served (concurrently) as chief of the Township of Norwich Fire Service for 12 years

Retiring from the fire department, Parker became Ingersoll's CAO in late 2011

He said town officials have been aware for a number of years that the municipality would be facing a large turnover in senior staff due to retirements.

"My transfer from fire hall to town hall was in part to take us through this transition and to rebuild the senior management team," said Parker.

The retirements have included Ingersoll's chief building official and director of public works.

Gene McLaren, Ingersoll's director of engineering, will also be retiring at the end of November.

"I have nothing but respect for those individuals who have served our community with dedication for many, many, years," Parker said.

Over the past two years, the town has built an incredibly experienced and talented senior management team, he said

"I am excited for Ingersoll and its future and I am proud to be part of the early part of this transition."

Parker said serving his hometown for over 33 years has been a privilege. "I am truly thankful for the opportuni-

ties that have been passed my way, and I am humbled by the trust given to me by

this community through past councils." He commended all town staff "who work so hard every day to make Ingersoll a safe and wonderful community to live and work."

"I would also like to give Mayor Ted Comiskey, Deputy Mayor Fred Freeman and Councilors John Fortner, Dave McLeod, Gord Lesser, Cathy Mott and Kristy Van Kooten-Bossence my thanks

for their steadfast support throughout the past two of years.

Ingersoll Mayor Ted Comiskey said Parker has been instrumental in working through the transition

brought about by the retirements and in putting the town's administration in good shape.

"We're all sorry to see him go, but we're all happy for him," Comiskey said. 'We wish him the best."



Contributed photo

The Mark Warnick team from Ingersoll - Bob Armstrong. Mark Warnick, Dave Swatridge, Bruce Richards and Darell Parker - won Reserve Champions of the Men's Open Bonspiel at the Norwich District Curling Club held on Saturday, February 18. The bonspiel, which was sponsored by Norwich Packers, Homeland Grain and Micacchi Warnick and Company, was won by the Eric Davlacement Comment Rooker team from Cayuga.



Parker



letters to the editor Letter may have left false impression

To the editor:

<text><text><text><text><text>

<section-header><text><text><text><text>

Darell Parker, Ingersoll



A teeny babe waved to the crowd as part of his "driver in training" role during the Ingersoll Rotary Christmas Parade on Saturday, Nov. 19, 2016.



MORRIS LAMONT The London Free Press

BOB GAGE WINNERS: Retired Free Press sportswriter Bob Gage is flanked by this year's award winners — from left, Grade 12 winners Andrew Judge of John Paul II and Meghan Weaver of Lucas and OAC winners Georgea Richards of Laurier and Randy McAuley of CCH.

GAGE AWARDS: 'It's nice to be recognized for your efforts'

From Page E1

The OAC student at CCH already garnered the Greg Anderson Memorial Award in football and was the male OAC SPECTRA winner as one of the city's top graduating high school athletes.

"It's a pretty big honour to win this award," said McAuley, who will compete in the senior boys' 100 and 200 metres this weekend. "It's nice to be recognized for your efforts, not that I haven't received recognition already.

"But there's been a lot of hard work put in by everyone here I'm just lucky it didn't feel like a lot of hard work. It wasn't like pulling teeth to get me out there and this is just the icing on the cake."

Weaver, a Grade 12 student at Lucas, is the prohibitive favourite in the junior girls' discus and shot put. She's got her sights on the OFSAA junior girls' discus mark of 43.42 metres set back in 1981.

"If I can get my nerves under control, I think I have a shot," she said, adding that being such a big favourite in both events is a mixed blessing. "I like to be the chased but I also like to do the chasing. It's good to know I shouldn't have to worry about where I'll finish but I like to have to have that little pressure on me, too."

Weaver credits her steady improvement throughout high school to her coaches, Sylvia Kontra and John Allan.

"They've put in an awful lot of time. Plus my focus has really changed. My practices are really intense now, whereas in Grade 9 it was more like, 'You've got the size, why not try it?' "

Judge, a Grade 12 student at John Paul II, will be aiming to win the senior boys' triple jump tonight — he's the top seed — and shrug off not qualifying for the long jump or 110metre hurdles at regionals. "I'm hoping to get my first jump way out there, maybe 14.30, and make everyone chase me. It's not that I'm putting added expectations on me, but more a case that I'm confident," he said.

"I won gold in Grade 9 and this isn't that much different from Grade 9, but that's not to say second will be OK.

"I didn't really grasp what this meant until today," he added of the award. "I mean, I've got Georgea Richards, Randy McAuley and Meghan Weaver standing beside me. I hope this says something about what I've been able to accomplish."

Death Notices

ARTFIELD - Peacefully at Oxford Regional lursing Home, Ingersoll on Monday, May 0, 2004, Myrtle (Loucks) Harffield, in her ard year. Wife of the late Fred Harffield 1976). Survived by her children Melvin of ngersoll, Shirley Murray (Harry) of London nd Barbara Ziraldo (Walter) of Victoria, J.C., grandchildren Steve (Anita), Bradley Cathy), Gordon (Heather) and Fred tartfield, Lindsey Milligan (Colin) and Vichael Murray (Heather Hackney), David Ziraldo, Lisa Lachance (Ray), as well as five great-grandchildren Stephen, Kaitlin, Callum, Shannon, Tasha and Taylor. Prede-ceased by great-grandson Bradley (1996), daughter-in-law Jean (2003) and brothers Cornelius (1979) and William (1979) and sisters Vera, Jean Manning (1976), Margue-rite McMillan (1991) and Dorothy Firby (2003). Friends will be received at the MCBEATH-DYNES FUNERAL HOME, 246 Thames Street, South, Ingersoll Tuesday 7-MCBEAT H-DYNES FUNEHAL HOME, 246 Thames Street, South, Ingersoll Tuesday 7-9 p.m. where a Memorial Service will be held on Wednesday, May 12, 2004 at 1:30 p.m. Rev. John Lambshead officiating. Interment later Harris Street Cemetery. Memorial do-nations to the Sunshine Foundation or First Baptist Church would be appreciated.

> arry Maier grabs a pop can, drops it into his makeshift crusher (it's really a makeshift crusher (it's reality a french fry slicer) and yanks the handle. Then he tosses the flattened can into the trailer hooked to his wheelchair. "These cans keep me going,"

If you ask me, it's not the If you ask me, it's not the cans that keep him going. There's something else, hidden inside this man's awk-ward body, that keeps fuelling him forward, driving him on. Whatever that thing is, you can't see it. In fact, if you use just your eyes to appraise the 41-year-old man, you'll likely see nothing more than a body that's bent and battered by cerebral palsy, epilepsy and hypoglycemia.

> "People will take what's on the outside instead of what's in here," he says, bouncing one fist off his chest. "And I have news for you — there's a whole different person inside." Larry Maier

And if that's all you see, you might dismiss Maler as a "retard" — that's a word he says he hears a lot — who deesn't do much of anything. And that would be a big mistake

atake. "Everything I've ever anted in my life, I've had to ght for," says Maier. Then he lowers his head and hoots me a hard stare. "People will take what's on the outside instead of what's in here," he says, bouncing one fist off his chest. "And I have news for you — there's a whole different person inside."

e man has great ge," says George Zubick, runs the John Zubick Ltd. Joyard on Clarke Road, a taking what he's got and trying to run with it.

Death Notices

PARKER - Suddenly at home in Ingersoll on Saturday, October 28th, 2006, Marjorie (Pratt) Parker, of Ingersoll, in her 89th year. Wife of the late Lloyd Parker (1984). Dear mother of Phyllis Peters, Joan Jackson and Dick Parker and his wife Pegi all of Ingersoll. Dear sister of Olive Stewart of Stribberg and Learen Peters of Orderade all of Ingersoll. Dear sister of Olive Stewart of Strathroy and Leona Palmer of Orlando, Florida. Also survived by 9 grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren and 2 great great grandchildren. Predeceased by two sisters Mildred Perry and Beatrice Miners. Friends will be received at the McBEATH-DYNES FUNERAL HOME, 246 Thames St. S., Ingersoll Wednesday 2-4 and 7-9 p.m., where service will be held on Thursday, November 2nd, 2006 at 1 p.m. Rev. Carmen Holbrough officiating, Interment Ingersoll Rural Cemetery. Memorial donations to Trinity United Church Foundation would be appreciated.

PARKER - At People Care, Tavistock on Monday, July 21, 2008, Fern Underhill (Rohrer) Parker, formerly of Ingersoll, in her 89th year. Wife of the late Jerry Rohrer (1971) and the late Dean Parker (1991). Dear mother of Jeanette and her husband Fred Haydt of La Salette, Ruth Haydt of Delhi, Marvin Rohrer of Kirkland Lake, Patricia and her husband Clarence Lehman of Tillsonburg and Danny Rohrer of Tillsonburg. Stepmother of Jack Chute and Bill Chute both of Hamilton, Alan Parker of Hamilton and PARKER - At People Care, Tavistock Hamilton, Alan Parker of Hamilton and Rich Chute and his wife Cindy of Woodstock. Sister of Ralph Underhill vived by 22 grandchildren and 29 great grandchildren. Predeceased by one son Ivan Rohrer (1982), two brothers Morley Underhill and Blake Underhill, and three sisters Muriel Faye, Doris Wells and Freda McBride, Friends will Wells and Freda McBride. Friends will be received at the MCBEATH-DYNES FUNERAL HOME, 246 Thames St. S., Ingersoll Wednesday 2-4 and 7-9 p.m.. where service will be held on Thursday, July 24, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. Major Larry Bridger of the Salvation Army officiat-ing. Interment Harris Street Cemetery, Memorial donations to the Alzheimer Society of Oxford or charity of your Society of Oxford or charity of your choice would be appreciated.

HUNT - Peacefully at Victoria Hospital on June 28, 2007, William Hunt passed away at the age of 72. He will be missed by his wife Gail and is children Bruce (Cheryl), Phil (Jane), Shelley, Missy (Doug) Donaldson, Robert, Becky and grandson Jake Rossewy. Grandfather to Ryan, Carrie-Ann, Cody, Jessica, Derek, Kayla, Jocelyn, Jeffery and great-granddaughter, Kayleigh. He will be remembered by many family members and friends. A memorial service will be held at FOREST LAWN MEMORIAL CHAPEL, 1997 Dundas MEMORIAL CHAPEL, 1997 Dundas St. E., (at Wavell) on Wednesday, July 4, 2007 at 11:00am, with visitation 1 hour prior. Memorial Donations to the Kidney Foundation would be greatly appreciated by the family. A special thank you to the Adam Linton Dialysis Unit for taking excellent care of William. Memorial Funeral Home in care of arrangements 519-452-3770.

GILLESPIE: Home-based can drop-off safe from interference

From Page B1

"We admire the man. I mean, given what he's got to work with, he probably works harder than a lot of us. Some-body like Larry, you can't help but treat him as a friend "

help but treat him as a friend." Maybe you've seen Maier around. To be honest, he's not that easy to miss. If you've ever driven down Nelson Street, you might've noticed the house he rents. It's the one with the big sign in the front window that reads: "Please drop pop and beer cans here. Outside. Thanks, Larry." Or you might've seen Maier navigating his electric chair around city sidewalks as far as Byron and Masonville Place.

maybe you've seen r making his regular run ubick's, towing his trailer attened pop and beer cans le scrapyard, where he ects \$30 or \$40 for his load

Tech tar or so to so to



DEREK RUTTAN The London Free Press

WORKING MAN: Larry Maier collects scrap pop and beer cans at his house and then tows them in a trailer behind his motorized chair to a scrapyard. "I can't stand doing nothing at all," he says.

behind his bicycle. But about three years ago, his rig was clipped by a car and Maier smashed his hip. Now, he relies on his motorized chair nei his oright' willow three wheeled trailer — welded by a neighbour — to carry his cans.

had visited his house and warned him he couldn't keep amassing cans in front of the house where he lives.

God bless you, we'll do what

we can for you.' " When I first spoke to Maier

earlier this week, he was upset. He said a city official

'Somebody like Larry, you can't help but treat him as a friend.' George Zubick, John Zubick Ltd.

But a city hall spokesper-son says they've received no complaints about the prop-erty and Maier's landlord spot isn't threatened. The landlord says a meter reader was concerned about the pile of cans obscuring an electric meter, but as long as the pile is kept neat, there's no problem. That's good news for Maier. And it's good news for Maier. And it's good news for anyone who applauds a brave and special brand of determina-tion when they see it.

tan Gillespie's column appears Wednesday, Friday and Satur-day. He can be reacted at 4507; outside the London dialling area 1 800-265 4105, ext. 4507. E-mail him at igillespiew (press.com

He's certainly a familiar sight at the scrapyard. "He's an upbeat person, quick to laugh, and he works very hard," says Zubick. "In "teamy," could tobr." "took, there's heavy traffic here and we don't want you on the property." But we basis cally look at the guy and say,



Sue Bradnam/London Free Press

It took more than three metres (10 feet) of paper for Family and Children's Services's supervisor Inger Parker to chart the number of times one 13-year-old boy has run away from authorities.



Darlene Clemens, parent facilitator, Janet Stephens, program co-ordinator, Mona Wright, child facilitator, Brenda Gayford, member of the board of directors, Jean Smart, child facilitator, and Sherri McMillan, co-op student, are ready to cut the cake at the official opening of the Oxford Community Child Care drop-in centre at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church recently. The centre is open every Friday from 9:30-11 a.m. and registration fees are \$2 per child, newborns to school-age, and \$5 per family. The church works in co-operation with Oxford Community Child Care, providing funding for the child-care centre. (Tia Chiericos photo)

THE INGERSOLL TIMES, Wednesday, November 2i, 1997 - Page 15



The Ingersoll Children's Care Centre held a draw last week atthe facility and the lucky winners were Louise Bihari and four-year-old Tori Gerou. The grand prize is a children's party staged at and by the centre. Pictured with the winners is the centre's supervisor Darlene Clemens, right. (Geoff Dale Photo)

of hi ident at thi y the

irns d Fri

Toying with the idea of playful education



CASSANDRA PERRY is in the middle of the junior snaps, as it's called, but she has her eyes on another toy which she later toted her new choice home.

y BARDEL HATJE I The Section-Review

She's got the best job in the vhole wide world. Or so many kids vould believe.

Darlene Clemens is the toy lirarian at Oxford Community 'hild Care Inc. Not only does she eruse the toy catalogues, she has lmost 300 toys in the library when hey're all in.

"I look for safety and durability - something I can wash and disintect without harming the toy," says Clemens. "I like toys that do more than one thing, suggest more than one way to play — educational toys which are going to appeal to some aspect of a child's development."

The toys in the library are hands-on, pull-apart, and put-together, not the computer games and automatic toys advertised on television.

"We don't get into the toys that med batteries," says Clemens. But that doesn't mean she is

against those kinds of toys Clemes says it's good to expose children to the computerized toys becluse that is the direction society isgoing.

regoing. The toy library caters to infants right up to school-age children, with the majority of toys for the preschool three to five-year-old tykes.

"We have a catalogue listing of al the toys, games and books, so you can reserve," says Clemens. And that is necessary.

"The most popular toy isn't here

The moor populat coj ibi t dele

right now." says Clemens. "But it's the Little Tikes Place "

The library has two of these large doll bouses and their contents.

The most popular for infants is the Fisher Price Activity Walker, says Clemens, which has been on reserve every time it is brought back.

The toy library is three years old now. More than 100 families take advantage of the toys at the library.

Clemens says many parents borrow a toy before buying it, to see if their children do like it.

She replaces the toys when it's needed, and estimates that half the toys are new while some have been here since the inception of the library. All the toys are washed and disinfected before they go out.

There are three types of membership — a family membership for \$15, an OCCC caregiver, parent or member membership for \$10, and a preschool or primamy teacher membership for \$30. A \$10 security deposit, covering lost or broken pieces, will be returned at the end of the one-year membership if no toy pieces have been lost or broken.

Members can borrow two toys and one cassette tape or resource book for a two-week period. Preschool and primary teachers can borrow four toys for two weeks.

The library is open Monday to Saturday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m., and is in the OCCC centre at 375 Finkle St... beside Fanshawe College in Woodstock.



Tara Clemens concentrates on putting her ideas on paper during the Ingersoll Creative Arts Centre painting classes with instructor Pat Gibson Saturday morning. (Liz Dadson photo)



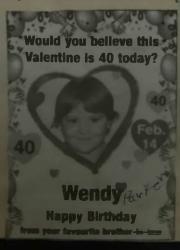


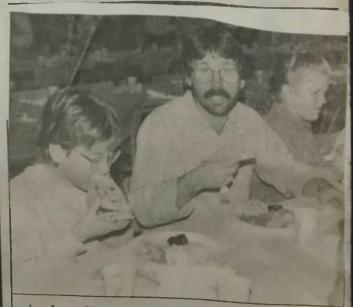
Grade 5 student Tara Clemens goes through the U-turns and precision stops on the course as part of the bike rodeo held Friday at Princess Elizabeth Public School. (Liz Dadson photo)

From the back left to front are Coach Penny McDougall, Erin Barber, Candice Smith, Elizabeth Fountain, Alaina Beemer, Coach Amy Wilson, Tara Clemens, Amber Douglas, Tiffany Pembleton, Lee Jellous, Marlene Pryzkling, Breanna Beacon, Erin Proulx and Angela McKim.



Skaters with the Ingersoll Skating Club who participated in the Mooretown and Delhi competitions include, from left: Jennifer Bourgeois, Tara Clemens, Melissa Hammond, Alaina Beemer, Marlene Przykling, Lee Jellous, Sarah Wilson, Connie Brown, Kelly Jellous, Candice Williams, Kelly Keenan and Erin Barber. At the right front are Eric Keenan, Andrew Lucier, Lisa Boersma and Melissa Tenbergen. At the very back are professional coaches Penny McDougall (left) and Amy Wilson. (Liz Dadson photo)





eacher Larry Marchant enjoys the turkey dinner with two of his rade 5 students, Erin Fleck (left) and Tara Clemens. The students om Princess Elizabeth Public School packed the upstairs at the igersoll Arena Friday for the Christmas meal, put on hy thehool's Parents' Association. (Liz Dadson photo)



JANSEN - BANCROFT Maureen and Bill Jansen of Ingersoil and m and Bill Bancroft of Goderich are pleased to innounce the Forthcoming Marriage of their children, Rebecca Lynn and Jason Ezra, November 2004.



Ingersoll skaters who competed in the H.O.M.E. competition include, in front, from left: Eric Keenan, Hope Caldwell, Adam Caldwell, Lisa Boersma, Carrie Butterworth and Melissa Tenbergen. Seated, from left, are Jennifer Bourgeois, Melissa Hammond, Alaina Beenner, Danielle Richens, Elizabeth Fountain, Kerry Gee and Breanne Beacom. Standing, from left, are Stephanie Borja, Sara St. Onge, Kathleen Harrison, Chrystal Brydges, Amber Douglas, Tara Clemens and Kelly Jellous. Absent for the photo are Carolyn Hurley and Vanessa Coyle. (Liz Dadson photo)

Frontier Days

Front: Angela Beam
2nd Row (L-R): Jennifer Pollard, Kelly Jellous, Lauren Ellis, Katie Riddick, Rebeccah Travis.
3rd Row (L-R): Tara Clemens, Jody Starchuck, Cassandra Robb, Roxanne Kish.
Back: Brandy Starchuck.
Absent: Connie Brown, Sonya Fagan.

left are: Jin Clemens, su



Page 6 - THE INGERSOLL TIMES, Wednesday, June 8, 1994



Ingersoll Optimist Club member Bill Corkwell marks Grade 6 student Heather Parker in the normal intersection and double "L" event in the Princess Anne Public School bike rodeo held last Wednesday. The Optimists sponsor the bike rodeo and Steve Butterworth's ESSO donated about 50 prizes for each school this year. (Liz Dadson photo)

- -

Teams place third at WOSSA finals **IDCI** swimmers make waves

had a successful run this year, leading them to WOSSA and **OFSAA** finals

At WOSSA, the girls of IDCI placed third overall. placing second in the carded category and third in the non-carded category. Meanwhile the boys placed third in the

carded category. Individual results are as follows: Annette Dejong, eighth place in 50 free and seventh place in 50 fly; Adriana Dejong, first place in 50 free and fourth place in 100 back; Danielle Markham, sixth

eenan, , from

intain,

thleen

to are

The IDCI swim team has place in 50 fly and 100 free, 100 IM. seventh place in 100 breast;

troubles with an aggressive qualified him as a finalist.

swimmer taking her lane. school division competition, Dejong, Parker, Binga and al-Adriana Dejong placed 19th ternate Markham placed third in the 50 free and 22nd in the

seventh place in 100 breast; In the carded division at Heather Parker, first in 100 OFSAA, Heather Parker placed back, fourth in 100 free and 20th in the 100 fly; Kayleen third in 100 fly; Christie Binga placed 10th in the 200 Bradley placed second in 100 IM and 12th in the 100 free; back, fifth in 100 free and Marlene Przykling placed sevthird in 400 free; Erik Binga enth in the 100 back, sixth in placed first in 50 and 100 frees the 100 fly and was qualified and third in 100 back and fly. as a finalist; and Erik Binga An honourable mention goes placed 13th in the 100 free and to Melissa Finley who had third in the 100 back which

The IDCI women's 4x100 In OFSAA finals high free relay team of Przykling, overall



The IDCI swim team had a successful year. Here are team members (clockwise from bottom left): Adriana D Rebeccah Travis, Kayleen Binga, Heather Parker, Marlene Przykling, Dave Forbes and Annette Dejong show some of the medals won this year.



The bright sun and warm temperatues last week encouraged Michael Silk, 7, (left) and his brother. Justin, 5, to eisurely stroll home from Princess me Public School through piles and piles of fallen leaves. Bicycling behind hem is Heather Parker, 7. Colder experatures this week indicate that winter is only a few short weeks away. (Terry Parker photo)

Born to bobsled



Sandra Hickey (in front) tries to steer the bobsled while Heather Parker gives it the momentum in this high-flying event at the Princess Anne Public School Winter Olympics held Friday afternoon. The games began with a parade of Olympics flags and saw 10 countries participate in a number of events, including skating, curling, slalom and biathlon. (Liz Dadson photo)



Sandra Budd, cle 6 Budd, 12, tried planting be seeds in va-rious positions to be if a certain mostions to for doortain whether they are planted ways, she found ey all grew equally well.

Kristy Van Dy and Cheryl Ulch, Grade 5: Vi Dyke, 10 and Ulch, 11 mixed to her a baking soda and vinegan proceed to to produce some can bioxide to see the gas effect in a candle flame flame.

flame. Janson Bancroft, ade 5: Ban-croft, 10, researche, e planet Ju-piter to come up with me facts on the fifth planet in the lar system. He found the plane roduces its own internal heat, 9 r cent of it is made up of gas 1 that it is large enough to come 100 planet Earths. Earths.



Five-year-old Jessica Parker uses a straw to blow the paint around, creating a pretty picture during the craft time activity at the Professional Development Day Camp held Friday at the Victoria Park Community Centre. About 25 children joined in the day of fun which was a good turn-out for the first-time event, said organizers Sarah Pinney and Linda Cowell. (Liz Dadson photo)



The Kiwanis Ingersoll Speed Sharks chewed up the opposition at a recent relay meet. Junior Speed Sharks major awards winners: back row, from left, Kathy Ebel (coach), thus far this season. (Jim Douglas Photo)

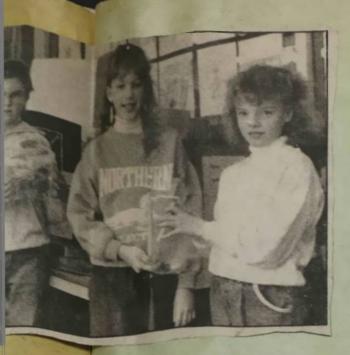


Shown here are the winners of the 8-and-under medley relay race: (left to right) Kathryn Amanda Harris (most dedicated), Laura Leslie (good sport) and Jessica Parker (good Markham, Jessica Parker, Matthew Bradley and Todd Hutcheson. The Sharks started off sport). Front row, from left, Mikey Heath (most improved), Kristi Rich (most improved), the day strongly by winning a cheering competition, moving into the pool for another Todd Hutcheson (good sport), Matt Bradley (good sport), Kathryn Markham (most strong outing. Coach Kathy Ebel is pleased with both the team's performance and spirit dedicated), James Leslie (most dedicated) and Whitney Rich (good sport). (Mario **Boucher Photo**)





Heather MacIntosh, who led the cartooning workshop for children at the Ingersoil Creative Arts Centre talks to Jason Bancroft and Keelan Martin, A painting program for children is scheduled to start next week









l (coach),

ker (good

nproved),

am (most

). (Mario

Happy 60th Wedding

Anniversary

February 28, 1948 Love Scott, Kathy, Leanne, Mike & all of your family & friends



The websitecommittee at IDCI has been busy these days keeping school activities alive on the website. (Kim Barnett Photo)

goes global

BY KIM BARNETT tor The Ingersoll Times

Two or three years ago, a website committee was created at Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute (IDCI). Beand many of the members left for post-secondary education, it slowly began to fall apart.

Last year when Jason Bancroft and Scott Hardeman took OAC computers, they decided to do their project on organizing a website committee and creating a homepage for IDCI.

The committee consists of Michael Harwood as the staff advisor, Jason Bancroft and Scott Hardeman as the copresidents and Jitin Sondhi, Mike Jansen, Dylan MacNeil, cause there was no co- Jen Beuttemeyer, Colin Swartz ordinator for the committee and Allun Lewis as honorary members.

The IDCI homepage comes up on the screen when the computers in the school are turned on. It allows students tofind out current events going on around the school and up-coming events.

Some of these sites include an on-line course calendar, a monthly calendar with all of the events taking place, an art page and a geography page. "Right now these courses are the only ones who have their own page on the website." explains Bancroft.

ting every subject its own page.

Basically, these pages ex-

plain to students what type of things would be covered during the year in that particular course and it would also show work from students who have taken the course.

Despite the thought of computers being a quick and easy way to find things out, it has not been all that easy to get the homepage where it's at. "It has taken a good year and a half to get the page where it is now," Bancroft says.

"It takes a lot of time and effort on the part of the committee as well."

With the end of the year approaching quickly and some of the members are not returning to IDCI in the fall does not worry any of the members right now

"We are all really confident that the homepage and com-"But we're working on get- a mittee will remain a strong club when fall rolls around, Bancroft explains.

> "There are many Grade 9 and 10 students who have become involved this year and are already talking about next year.

The address to get connected to the IDCI homepage is www.execulink.com~idqi (Kim Barnett is an IDCI cbop student working at The Times until June).



Top fund raisers

These three members of the Ingersoll Speed Sharks swim team were the top three fund raisers at the recent swim-a-thon in Ingersoll. From left are Brady Penz, third highest; Meagan Michalski, second and Nickolas Parker, top fund raiser. In rear is Tom Bradley, speed sharks president. (Brian Cleeve photo)

wire taken Hydro down

A Canadian Building Materials (CBM) truck hit a service entrance hydro wire, tearing it down on Daniel Street, the public utilities commission was told last Wednesday night.

Operations Vito manager Genovese said the truck height was about 12 feet and should have been able to go under the wire. However, the wire was sagging near the pole, a condition which has existed for more

than a year, he said. "We weren't aware of the situa-tion," Genovese said. "We don't know that if the wire had been taut,

know that it the wire had been taut, if it would've cleared the truck." By law, the minimum clearance for the wire should have been 14.7 feet, the operations manager said. "The road was a dead-end street at one time," Genovese reported. "The hydro wire height across Daniel Street was in fact too low (less than 11 feet)." 11 feet).'

Shawn Parker, owner of the pro-perty at 7 Daniel Street, submitted a claim to CBM but the company wrote to the public utilities commis-sion, stating it believes the commis-sion is liable because the accident occurred on a public road, Genovese said.

"The law says the wire should be that high (14.7 feet) so we pay," said Mayor Doug Harris. "What choice do we have?"

urc

The cost of repair to the Daniel Street property was \$593.28. Hutchinson said it would be pru-dent of the commission to go around the town and look at various lines so this problem would not happen

Sherry Parker, general accounting supervisor at Cami Automotive Ltd., fires off the ceremonial gun recently to help start the Cami Invitational Swim Meet at Victoria Park Community Centre. Teams from London, Sarnia and other centres in the area joined the Ingersoll Speed Sharks at the meet. (Brian **Cleeve photo**)

Speed Shark swimmers churned up the waters at the SEAL Meet in Aylmer on Sunday, Jan. 20. Team Captains Angela Beastall and Nickolas Parker were the leaders as they continued to exhibit their improved swimming techniques and be an inspiration to the new and young Speed Sharks.

Mark Parker continued his improved swimming with three-fifth place finishes - 25Y Back and Breast and 100Y IM. Both Andrew and Mark achieved one



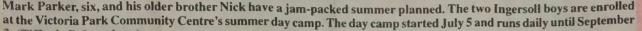


SHAWN & SHERRY ARKER NICKOLAS

Costumes aplenty

Halloween costumes were in full view at the Ingersoll Children's Centre Friday. Pictured are (back row, left to right) Sarah Savoie, leader Marsha Kaufmann, Mark Parker, (front row) Justin Cooper and Ryan Hutchison. (Andrea Bailey photo)







The 5th Ingersoll Beavers of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church gather around a sleeping bag as they gear up for the big Beaver Sleep-over slated for this weekend at Toronto's SkyDome. Along with the 12 Beavers who are attending, will be two Keeos, the three leaders: Dave Innes, Herb Hathaway and Jim Hunt, and three parents. (Liz Dadson photo)



Members of the Ingersoll Speed Sharks swim team swam the Great Lakes at Victoria Park pool last Sunday in a fund-raising effort for the club. Swimmers put up as many lengths as they could in one-half hour and collected pledges. One of the swimmers shown here is Mark Parker. (Jennifer Vandermeer photo)

Parker's a happy camper

INGERSOLL - Seven days at a Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) camp helped change Sherry Parker's life.

"The things I got to do that week made me feel better about myself. It was amazing," Parker, 23, told members of the Ingersoll Rotary Club Thursday.



The Ingersoll group spon-sored Parker's trip to the RYLA camp held at the University of To-ronto recently. This is the first

Parker is employed at Cami Automotive Inc., where she orders parts and is involved in a teaching program. Her experience at RYLA helped change some of her attitudes towards work.

"I found out I was taking over too much and I needed to listen to others' opinions.

Parker said she also learned new ways of accepting rejection and her mistakes. She found out she could work together with the other 45 people at the camp and find answers to all types of problems.

Since the conference, Parker has taken a few serious looks at her life. One of the things she is hoping to have in her life soon is a university degree and she has applied for courses starting in September.

She would also like to get in-volved with Rotoract, an extension of the Rotary Club for people aged 19-29, if the Ingersoll club ever decides to start one in town.

PARKER - Nickolas Michael is happy to announce the birth of his little brother, Mark Jacob, born March 31, 1993 at 8:47 p.m., weighing 9 lbs. 3 oz. Proud parents are Shawn and Sherry (nee Travis) Parker, grandparents Steva and Alice Travis and Marjorie Parker, greatgrandparents Louise Nutt, Ken and Mary Andrew and Delmar Travis.

PARKER Shawn and Sherry (nee Travis) are pleased to announce the birth of their first child, a son, Nickolas Michael, born March 28, 1989 at 7:06 p.m., weighing 7 lbs. 12 oz. Nickolas is the first grandchild for Steve and Alice Travis, sixth grandchild for Harold and Marj Parker and first great-granden for Jouros Nitt Kon and Mary grandson for Louise Nutt, Ken and Mary Andrew and Delmar Travis.

club has had to send a student to RYLA since it was established in Parker June of 1990.

Helping children brightens her day

Working with children is something Marj Parker en-joys very much so it's no surprise she spends four mornings a week volunteering for Oxford Community Child Care.

She provides an extra pair of hands at the child/ parent drop-in program in Ingersoll and helps set up before and clean after up the program.

Parker

Parker also helps with the play groups, preparing crafts for the kids and making a few herself.

Part of her time is devoted to the toy library where she disinfects and counts the toys, makes sure there are no pieces broken or missing. She has also learned to use the computer since the toy inven-

tory is now computerized. But it's the contact with kids that she enjoys most since she started volunteering last October.

"I like to help people," said Parker. "I relate to children very much."

It's meou ... or never. Jara has never owed Moran anothing! what alout repect, love raditide, apprepriation don:



Marjorie Parker, a volunteer with Oxford Community Child Care, was recommended as an amazing senior" to The Ingersoll Times, both for her volunteer work and for the cheerful way

nazing senior" to The Ingersoli Times, bour for net version et al. which she offers it. inker spends Tuesday at First Baptist Church where she washes babies' and children's toys and es administrative duties while mothers enjoy their day out there. Fridays find her at St. Paul's esbyterian Church, looking after the infants while their mothers take part in OCCC activities th as crafts or listening to speeches. other of five children and grandmother of seven, Parker does not see anything unusual in what e does. "I love babies and children and I love looking after them" she says. arker says volunteering fills a void in her life and "I receive as much as I give". arjorie Parker is seated in a rocking chair with babies Melissa, on the left and Erin on the right, on the Plusibeth Monsere).

o Oxford Review • Thursday, April 15, 2010

Ingersoll native brings big band sound to Oxford for May 29 event

Music has flowed through Brian Smith's life like an undulating melody that plays again and again. The Ingersoll native will be sharing that unwavering love of music when he brings the Guelph-based Royal City Big Band to Woodstock next month for a unique fundraising partnership.

Swing 2010

A graduate of Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute (Class of '75) Smith, now of Kitchener, is director of the 18-piece Royal City Big Band.

He readily agreed to bring the band to the area for a high school reunion and fundraiser all rolled into one event. The Sat., May 29 evening at the Oxford Auditorium (Woodstock Fairgrounds) is a fundraiser for Ingamo Family Homes and the Michael Stoop Memorial Fund at Ingamo. And, while open to the community at large, the event will also be a reunion of Smith's IDCI classmates who began their high school journey in 1971.

The impetus for this special fundraising event came from a group of IDCI grads who have kept in touch over the years since they departed the halls of Ingersoll Collegiate. They were looking for a unique way to celebrate their 35th reunion in 2010, while generating funds for the Michael Stoop Memorial Fund at Ingamo Family Homes. The fund was established in memory of Michael Stoop, the 19-yearold son of former Ingamo board member and Class of '75 grad Suzanne (Hanson) Stoop and her husband Neil. The purpose of the fund is to sustain Michael's memory and example while providing young people with opportunities to pursue talents or activities they would not otherwise be able to afford, whether

they be sports, music or other endeavors.

Proceeds from the big band evening--dubbed Swing 2010-will go to the memorial fund and to support women's and children's programs at Ingamo.

"I know we're playing for a worthy cause," said Smith who was eager to take part in the event, adding, "...it's about time we had another reunion!"

The last gathering took place 10 years ago in Ingersoll.

Following university, Smith spent 20 years teaching high school

music in Kitchener but his own musical career began at the tender age of six when he started piano lessons. The son of Noreen Smith and the late Jack Smith of Ingersoll, Brian moved with his family from Sarnia to a farm outside of Ingersoll when he was nine years old. He resumed his piano lessons at that time with Salford piano teacher Leta Beth Ranney.

His musical journey continued in high school where he took music each of his five years at 1DCI. He broadened his instrumental music experience through participation in the IDCI orchestra, playing trombone for the most part, but sometimes trying his hand at the baritone (euphonium) and occasionally the baritone bugle in the high school marching band. His high school music teacher and mentor Harold Riddolls is remembered fondly by Smith.

"Harold Riddolls was my favorite teacher," said Smith. Riddolls provided many musical opportunities for Smith and other interested students far beyond the orchestra, involving them in music conferences, high school musicals (Oliver, Guys and Dolls, South Pacific) and encouraged participation in small ensembles. He "even organized a major music trip to Fort Myers Florida in early 1974," Smith recalled. "He was a really great person as well as a fabulous music teacher. He was the role model I

see SWING Page 9



