

People In Fire Area Living In Unbelievably Strange Conditions

By Elmer Murphy

The people of the fire area of west Prince are living under unbelievably strange circumstances. At times their homes are in danger, at other times the air is filled with dense smoke and at all times they live in an "occupied" area. It is occupied in the sense that for all disciplinary purposes it has been taken over by the organizations that are fighting the fires.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police cars patrol the roads constantly, army and RCAF vehicles are to be seen in large numbers, the smartly turned out members of the army provost corps are on duty at all main intersections, strange fire trucks and men in a great variety of fire fighting attire are busily engaged at various points, and civilian cars are stopped as soon as they reach the perimeter of the area and are turned back unless the people have a legitimate reason for being there.

Focal point of all this activity is the Canadian Legion Hall at Ellerslie which is headquarters for the whole fire fighting effort. Yesterday afternoon the usual air of great activity and urgency prevailed. About 75 large trucks were lined up from the hall through the village and out into the country. These trucks are ready should it be necessary suddenly to evacuate an area. Fortunately this has never been necessary, although a few homes have been emptied and the furniture moved to a storage point.

Directly across the road in a yard is the RCMP dispatch car. To this car come messages from the patrolling RCMP vehicles asking for fire fighters and equipment which are then dispatched.

Adjacent to the building is a yellow Royal Canadian Air Force vehicle which has been brought to the area to serve as the RCAF headquarters. It is equipped with a telephone, short wave radio communication with the air station, and communication with the RCMP car across the road and with the other units in the building by means of an intercommunication system which has been set

up. From this headquarters communication is also maintained with RCAF vehicles in the field. The RCAF has 270 personnel detailed to fire duty under F/L M. A. Gilmore and Warrant Officer Somerville.

In the area next to the building are parked miscellaneous RCAF and Army vehicles and to the rear is an army field kitchen operated by the RCAF. Here, hot meals are prepared for the fire fighters.

About 25 army provost corps men are in the area, some from the mainland and the remainder reserve army personnel from Charlottetown.

The upper floor of the building is a large dormitory with cots and mattresses covering the floor. Here weary fire fighters catch some sleep while off duty or between calls. The number of men who have come in to the area to serve on the fire lines has been very gratifying and to date there have always been sufficient men.

In the basement the main area is a dining room where food is constantly, night and day. It is estimated that over 2,000 meals are served here during a 24-hour period. This is being done by the Red Cross, the ladies of the Legion Auxiliary, Women's Institutes plus volunteer helpers brought in by the Red Cross from Summerside and other centers.

On this floor is also located the communications center where telephones are manned night and day to take calls from people needing help and to maintain communication outside the fire area.

At some time in the future when this fire has finally been extinguished and all the people and vehicles have left and the area returns to normal, the people will have undergone an experience that will be unique for their lifetimes. However, for many years evidence of the fire will remain in the blackened and bare forest areas and the giant slashes made through standing timber as fire breaks. It will be years before nature will be able to erase the evidence of the fire tragedy of 1960.

Fires Continue to Burn But Kept Under Control Over Holiday Week-End

Over the holiday weekend not much change occurred in the forest fire situation in West Prince. The fires continued to burn and at times threatened some buildings but for the most part were kept under control. There now appears to be sufficient men and equipment in the area to contain the fires under normal circumstances but only nature, by means of a lengthy period of rain, can extinguish them.

Yesterday the most serious area was in Foxley River and Freeland where the Catholic and Anglican churches were both in danger. There were also brisk fires burning in the Portage and Enmore areas.

However, the situation as explained to a Journal-Pioneer reporter yesterday by Major Orrin Simons, civil defense chief, is that north of the Mount Pleasant airport there is now really one big fire burning. This includes Enmore, Portage, Foxley River, Freeland, Black Banks area and Conway. Another fire is centered in the area bordered by Tyne Valley, Port Hill and Ellerslie.

Yesterday these fires were throwing up dense clouds of smoke which were clouding the

atmosphere over all the central part of the province. However, a drive through the area discovered few areas actually blazing, although there must have been considerable burning deep in the woods to make such a pall of smoke.

In many places the fire fighters were standing guard to protect properties and crews were spotted throughout the area. One such place was the farm home of Mr. Russell Key of Foxley River which has been in danger since Friday. Dense woods border Mr. Key's property and a crew from the Hayes Construction Company was posted in his yard. At times they have had to hose down his buildings but he has not moved out nor does he intend to. He has confidence that the fire fighters can handle any situation that may develop.

About 20 fire engines, some 30 portable fire pumpers and a great many tankers and bulldozers are in the area with approximately 800 men in various capacities. Major Simons said that undoubtedly this represents a greater accumulation of fire fighting equipment than has ever previously been assembled in this province.

<p>Major Simons expressed gratification that in spite of the large number of men working with large pieces of equipment, accidents have been almost nil. There have been several minor incidents but nothing to cause concern.</p> <p>The Royal Canadian Mounted Police have taken over the Freeland school as a headquarters and are also using the building for sleeping quarters. The Mounties patrol the roads constantly day and night and several times a day. As soon as every building is inspected or a new outbreak is spotted, word is</p>	<p>radioed to the police car which never moves from the headquarters at Ellerslie. The dispatcher is located in this car and he sends out whatever help is necessary.</p> <p>One of the reasons that the fire is impossible to extinguish is that it is burning underground. It was explained that a person could walk in some of these wooded areas which show no signs of fire but that in places one's feet would sink about 18 inches in the ground and, if not removed quickly, the shoes would catch fire.</p>
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A Sad Sight

Some day, which we hope will not be too long deferred, the forest fires now burning so fiercely and so dangerously in west Prince will be extinguished. When that happy day arrives, and for some time afterwards, the area will be visited by a new horde of tourists. These will be people from other parts of the Island who will drive through these districts to see for themselves the damage that the fire has wrought. They will travel through places which have been so much in the news like Tyne Valley, Ellerslie, Port Hill Enmore, Portage, Foxley River, Freeland, the Black Banks. They will drive along such thoroughfares as the Murray Road and the Rafferty Road, which they no doubt never heard of before.

They will be different from the sightseers who have been making a nuisance of themselves since the fire started by being in the way of the fire fighters while attempting to satisfy their curiosity. These people, who visit after the fire is out, will be legitimate travellers who will have a perfect right to travel through the area and view the results of the Island's worst forest fire. What will they see?

They will see a sad sight. They will see acres and acres of charred tree stumps and blackened ground. Where once stood fire stands of timber they will see only forest graveyards. They will see the remains of destroyed homes – but fortunately only a few. They will see other ugly scars where men and machines devastated the forests by knocking down trees in order to avoid greater destruction.

These blackened areas and ugly fire-breaks will remain for years as evidence of this great conflagration. However, the standing homes will be a monument to the almost super-human efforts that were made by many men during this long period. This will be an event that will not soon be forgotten either by the people who live in the area or by those who visit it for many years to come. Certainly an area of great natural beauty will be defaced and scarred until nature can heal the wounds.





AN AMERICAN summer resident flees in car, above, as flames close in behind. His two-story summer residence was evacuated in fifteen minutes by four men working at

extreme speed to clear the advancing flames. But the ordinary tasks of life must go on regardless of fire or other pestilence. Below is a picture of women peeling carrots to make

a part of the tremendous daily meal output to feed the hungry. The women are from the Summerside Canadian Legion ladies auxiliary.



FREELAND, CONWAY, ENMORE

Fires Stir New Threats To Prince County Homes

Speed Is Shown Under Pressure

By **JOHN BOND**
Guardian-Patriot Staff Writer

The speed with which jobs have to be handled as men labor under pressure of peril and impending disaster was instanced yesterday as a home in the Enmore district was completely emptied within 15 minutes.

The two-storey frame building was occupied by an elderly American summer resident. Becoming aware of the threat to his home that was developing suddenly, he began to pile the most valuable of his possessions into his car. As he started from the house, some of the articles fell from the car and he was forced to stop and, still with no one in the area to lend a hand, reload everything into the trunk and onto the top of the car.

After making a few more feet toward safety, the load again fell to the road. By this time several vehicles had converged on the scene and volunteers helped the shaken man to reload his possessions.

Then while a fearless bulldozer operator turned his machine toward the oncoming flames and began cutting a firebreak around the house and a pumper kept it wet down, volunteers stripped the building of its furnishings.

ACTION IS FAST

Six men and a girl removed every article of furniture, clothing and food in the house and loaded them onto a gravel truck that materialized virtually from nowhere.

The pantry was cleaned of the food it contained, dishes were taken carefully from shelves, family pictures taken down from the walls and furniture removed from every room.

Even the potted plants were rescued, as were the curtains at the windows. The whole process took less than 15 minutes.

Fire almost completely surrounded the house at a distance of about 50 feet while the evacuation was being carried out. The workers, realizing that they could easily be trapped in the upstairs of the building, worked on the sec [clipping ended and started again in another section missing part] removed. The stairs to the second floor were against the wall nearest the burning forest.

The scene was in the fire sector where sudden winds, shifting from north west to north east, drove smoke and flames back upon surprised firemen, throwing then into a panic.

Two other houses were immediately threatened by the oncoming fire. One of them disappeared from observers view in a cloud of smoke. It was not immediately known if it was lost.

With such an outbreak, men and machines can do nothing. All efforts are concentrated on cutting breaks to contain the fire if possible and to protect life and property. The fate of the forest has been decided by the fire.

The men and machines must wait for a drop in the wind and a subsiding of the wind before they can counter-attack the fire in the forest.

DAILY PATTERN

The fire that caused the evacuations at Enmore and serious flare ups in most of the other fire zones seems to be following a grim schedule. Daily, at nearly the same hours, the fire launches a new attack that continues to a seeming predetermined hour, when it will once again subside.

When the fires flare up, strange things happen. One fireman looked down to see his socks inside the light shoes he was wearing catch fire. Fire destroyed a half-mile long stretch of bush leaving a foot wide strip down the centre untouched.

SHEEP KILLED

Sheep were found wandering blindly some distance from any fire, their eyes apparently ruined by smoke. They were destroyed mercifully by firemen.

Wild animals look to humans for protection against the flames that destroyed their domain. Birds vacate the area at the first signs of smoke. Smoke turned the sun to an orange ball and daylight into night, leaving only an eerie glow in the sky.

Once narrow back roads have the appearance of turnpikes from the wide firebreaks cut along each side of them.

Scenes such as these are everyday occurrences at the fire scene but go unnoticed or are taken for granted by those fighting the fire. To them it is all part of the overall battle against the flames.

Menace Is Checked On Properties' Edge

BY **GEORGE WOTTON**
Guardian-Patriot Staff Writer

SUMMERSIDE — The Prince County fires yesterday continued to race through woodland towards homes and properties, only to be checked at woods edge only yards away from wooden structures.

The worst fire areas were again in new locations at Freeland, Conway, and Enmore, with other fires throughout the entire disaster area receiving attention of firemen while numbers of small fires again smouldered or burned up briefly.

A shortage of volunteer fire fighters, following the weekend holiday, necessitated in an appeal for fifty

additional men, and a number of volunteers responded to the call.

6 MILES OF HOSE

An additional 15,000 feet of hose was flown in from Montreal yesterday bringing to more than six miles the total length of new fire hose brought into the area since the fire began.

With water needed in large quantities for use in the kitchen area where the fire fighters are fed in numbers which result in a major dish-washing project, the Ellerslie Legion building committee hired a Summerside plumbing company to dig a sixty-foot well, from which water was flowing into the building as required, last evening.

Houses were still being evacuated yesterday and two homes in the Enmore district, one the residence of Charles Coughlin, and the other belonging to a Gillis family, were both emptied of household effects during mid-afternoon when a fire developed and spread quickly through woodland toward the residences.

At Freeland, fire moved practically to the back door of the new residence of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Blackett, while firemen held grimly to the defence of the home. When the wind changed suddenly the development of a fire on the other side of this woods sent fire tankers and back-pack crews into action in a new location where the home and buildings of Wilbur Hardy were in danger, along with the store and residence of Harold Phillips, all located near thick woods where the fire burned briskly.

LIKE OCEAN STORM

In the Conway district, flames raced through thick timber about a half-mile north west of Conway station, with a roar like a stormy ocean, flames leaped great distances in the sky, sending heat waves and smoke pouring upwards, as it advanced along a front of about a quarter of a mile until it burned the tall trees right to the edge of the woods.

In continuation of the teamwork which has made the fire fighting program so effective and efficient, the whole fire devastated area is under the control of Major O.R. Simons, civil defence co-ordinator, who directs the operation through a control center in the Ellerslie Legion, while an RCMP dispatch car at the centre maintains constant radio communications with patrol cars in the three areas into which the fire swept territory has been divided.

Dispatching from the control center is being done by local army officers, working eight-hour shifts with a member of the RCMP in the dispatch car. These men on dispatch work include Capt. W.B. LePage, Capt. Don MacIntyre, Capt. Harry Bishop, Lt. Jack Hobbs, and Lt. Tom Davies.

The fire area has now been divided into three sections, each patrolled by an RCMP car in which an RCMP officer works on a team with Frank

Gaudet, provincial forester, in the area north of the Conway Road; while Dick Found, of Ellerslie biological station, who has been on duty since the fire began, is in charge of the area between the Conway and Ellerslie Roads; and W-O Somerville, of RCAF Station Summerside, in the area east of the Ellerslie Road.

Gordon Bell, of Charlottetown, the chief fire fighter in the program, is in charge of heavy equipment and its use in the fighting of fires.

ABOUT 50 INJURED

Reports from the Red Cross first aid post at the Ellerslie communications center indicate that about fifty fire fighters have been treated for minor injuries from the smoke and fire.

Mrs. Harry Cudmore, director of first aid for the Red Cross, said the men were treated for minor burns, chapped lips, and smoke burned eyes, but to date no serious injuries have been reported.

Red Cross first aid posts have also been active in the Freeland and Foxley River fire areas to handle any possible emergency which may arise, and a mobile first aid unit is on constant patrol on the roads.

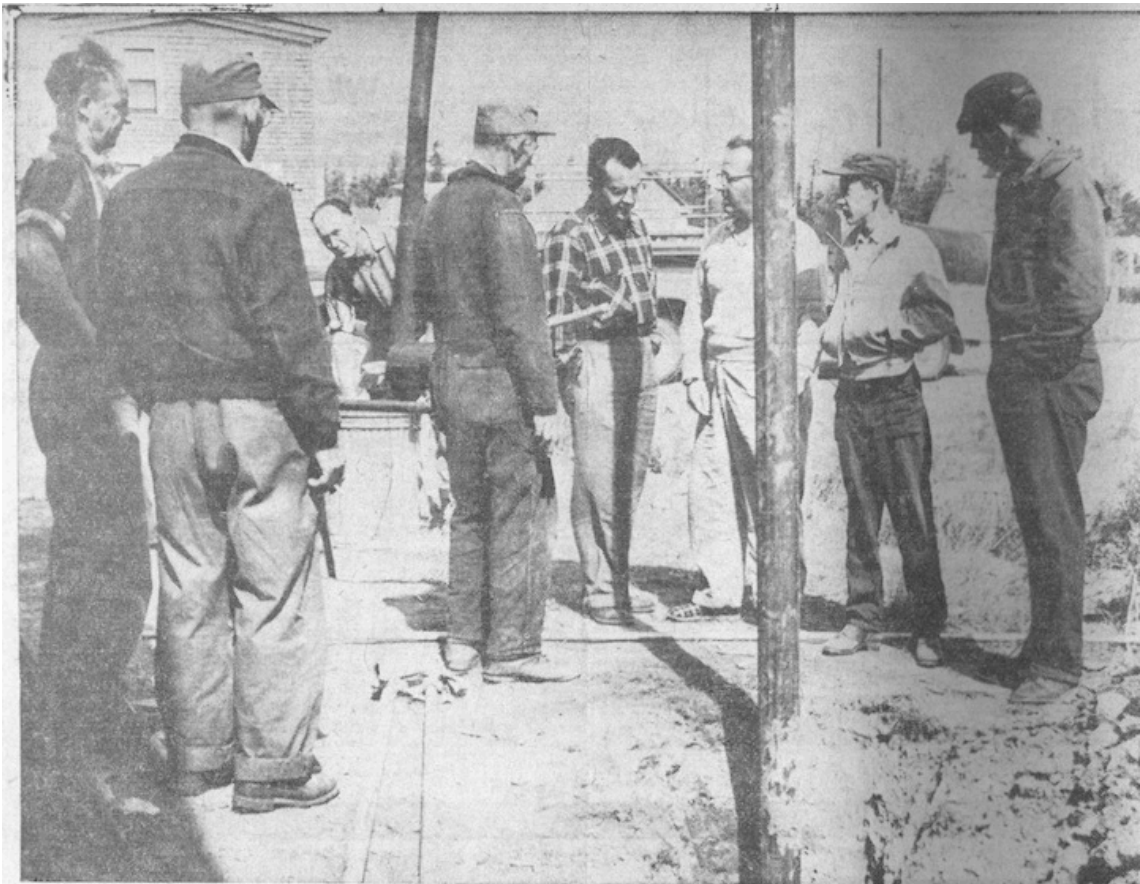
Several volunteer fire fighters have suffered from painful foot blisters caused by the intense heat penetrating their heavy boots as they battle the fire on the scorching earth of the burned woodlands.

Thick, choking smoke is the dreaded annoyance to eyes and throats. Respirators have been issued to men at the fire fronts, but these tend to fog and block the vision of the fire fighters making it more difficult to use.

FAIR GOES ON DESPITE FIRE

Despite the forest fire that has devastated a wide area of Prince County, plans are well underway for the annual Egmont Bay and Mont Carmel livestock Exhibition.

The big show will be held as usual at Abram's Village Thursday.



WELL-DRILLING AT FIRE HEADQUARTERS

When water supplies necessary for preparation of meals and other uses at Ellerslie Legion Home were depleted, a call

plumbers to drill a new well. The 60-foot well was completed last night, and a good supply of fresh water was made available at the busy

Ellerslie center of the forest fire fighting operation. The above photo shows the well-drilling crew in operation yesterday.

FAIR GOES ON DESPITE FIRE

Despite the forest fire that

Strong Winds Expected To Fan Flames; Fire Fighters Now Being Hired

As the 11th day of the battle against forest fires got under way this morning, the prospect was for another day of vigorous battling against the stubborn flames. A Journal-Pioneer reporter driving through the area this morning reported the densest smoke that has yet been seen this early in the day. He reported that the road between Ellerslie and Tyne Valley was extremely dangerous for travelling as the visibility was almost zero.

Brigadier A. W. Rogers, who was in charge this morning, stated that last night was relatively quiet but that today outbreaks were being reported just before noon. The first call came from the MacNeill's Mills area.

Winds today will be stronger than yesterday, according to the Meteorological Section at the RCAF Station. Winds from the south-west of 20 miles per hour with gusts to 25 and 30 can be expected until sundown when they will again become light.

The forecaster on duty said that there is no rain in sight but he pointed out that should hurricane Donna reach this area it would bring the much needed rain. However that would not be for several days. He said that the heavy rains with the hurricane would offset any increased danger from the high winds.

Fire fighters were being hired at the Summerside office of the Unemployment Insurance Office yesterday for the Department of Public Works at 75 cents an hour and about 40 men from this area were sent out at this rate. Whether they are paid on a 24-hour basis could not be determined. Up until this time all workers had been volunteers and many people from outside the area had spent days and nights away from their own homes and businesses helping in the battle against the huge fires which threatened at one time to wipe out the area.

The word this morning was that more men may be needed if the situation should develop adversely this afternoon.

Danger spots this morning seemed to be near Bideford and at Enmore but in the words of Brigadier Rogers "fires are springing up all around."

Prince County Fires Pose New Problem

CHARLOTTETOWN — (Special) — Premier Walter R. Shaw said this morning that one of the growing problems in connection with the forest fires in West Prince County is the large number of men who have been off their jobs for more than a week. These are among the volunteers who have been steadily fighting the fire during that period.

It was indicated here that the government intends to make an immediate effort to secure help from the Canadian Army at Gagetown, N.B.

Meanwhile, it was further learned here that some Charlottetown employers have released their employees while keeping them on the payroll. They say that they are perfectly willing that their men continue to fight the fire as long as the danger exists.

Home Saved, Factory Lost

ALBERTON BUREAU OF THE GUARDIAN

For the second time in less than a week, fire swept to within a few yards yesterday of the home of Lowell Matthews in the Black Banks area of West Prince County.

Working under appalling smoke conditions, volunteers from Alberton, who crossed Cascumpec Bay in boats, assisted in saving the large two and one half story home although an abandoned lobster factory nearby was completely destroyed.

The Matthews barn was on fire for a time but the blaze was brought under control by prompt use of a portable pumper.

Southerly winds on Tuesday brought the fire west of the Matthews house and a change to west yesterday forced the smoke and flames directly toward the buildings.

A continuous spray of water was kept on the house during the afternoon and both the house and barn were reported still standing last night.

The lobster factory, comprising six or seven buildings, was operated for some years by Arthur Clark of Alberton and later by Frank Purdy, formerly of Alberton and now residing in Toronto.



TOURS AREA

Highways minister J. Philip Matheson and his deputy, R. Gordon White, yesterday toured the fire stricken areas of West Prince County. Mr. Matheson paid tribute to all the organizations taking part in the campaign. "The organizations are in splendid shape up there and everything is being done that is possible to do," he said. The minister said the situation is still dangerous in the fire areas and the Department of Highways office in Charlottetown is maintaining round-the-clock contact with Ellerslie co-ordination center in case the services of the department are needed.

Enmore and Freeland Areas of Greatest Danger From Fires Yesterday

By Ron England

Yesterday afternoon the fire situation in Prince County appeared to be generally in hand but several areas were in danger. The danger areas were in the Enmore district, the Freeland area and a large centre to the north west of Conway village.

Fire fighters battled desperately to save two homes at Enmore when roaring flames accompanied by dark billowing clouds of smoke fed by small gusts of wind soared in on homes belonging to Jack Ballem and W. Gillis. Both homes situated on a narrow sideroad on the fringe area on the North Enmore district were immediately evacuated in record time and tanker trucks, along with bulldozers, brought in. Pumper crews wet down the houses and adjoining areas in a valiant effort to hold back the soaring wall of fire from the wooden structures, while dozer operators dared the licking flames by breaking firewalls through the woods to hold back the menace. Fire fighters did their share when they pressed forward into the smoke carrying backpack tanks, most of them donning firemasks. Many of the fighters later complained that the masks were so uncomfortable and so very warm they would rather face the blistering smoke than wear the protectors.

Both the Ballem and Gillis residences were saved by the efforts of the fire fighters, with Mr. Ballem suffering a loss in that a huge cranberry patch and a beautiful hedge row adjoining the house were completely destroyed.

Approximately one-half mile south of the major fire area at Enmore danger was still very imminent as fire raged in the woodlot immediately behind the home of Charles Coughlin about supper hour last evening. Vincent DesRoches, along with other members of the Miscouche Fire Department, were standing by, watering the buildings down in preparation for any possible action. A firebreak was built back of the Coughlin building and at several points soaring flames could be seen as they licked alder bushes and then bit at tall spruce on the fringe area of the woodlot only yards away from the Coughlin homestead.

Approximately one-half mile away from the Coughlin home, towards the east, a home belonging to Wilfred Campbell was being evacuated. Mr. Campbell pointed out three separate fires in the Enmore woods, making the comment that the fire seems to flare up “between the hours of 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.” Other fighters agreed that this pattern seems to have been a fairly consistent one since the fire broke out over a week ago, with the heavy air which accompanies nightfall marring the sky with a low smoke ceiling and causing the flames to subside leaving only ground level smoke.

Near Freeland a mill owned by Wilbur Hardy caught fire in the afternoon but was saved. Firemen from the Charlottetown Fire Department and the O’Leary Fire Department, along with backpack carriers, battled the fire in the woodlot behind the mill, in an area covered by a thick layer of sawdust. The Hardy homestead adjoins the mill while a modern home and store belonging to Harold Phillips is situated a short distance down the road. The latter was in danger several times throughout the day.

Toward Conway it was noted that huge cup-shaped clouds of smoke were billowing up in the north-west section of the area. The fire had spread with amazing rapidity from a central section of the dense woodland to a fringe field area approximately a half mile away from several barns in Conway. Here the fire appeared to be burning intensely within, but only smouldering on the fringe area. Trucks and pumpers were scattered within the immediate area with firefighters awaiting in a long vigil just in case a sudden breeze might stir action or spread spark on village homes. Many of the villagers were sitting on their lawns or just standing around, some facing the west towards the smoke filled sky of Enmore, others keeping a precarious eye on the north west woodlot and farther back, the Freeland woods.

Other fire areas of a less serious nature appeared to be in the McNeills Mills west district where a small fire was burning in a woodlot back of the home of Austin Phillips, occasionally centering out onto the field boundary area. Another fire area was behind Portage station, where to the east a few billows of smoke were seen rising but all appeared to be under control. North west of Port Hill station appeared to be flaring up at intervals with a great deal of smoke but no real danger. Meanwhile in the wooded area between Bideford and Tyne Valley several fires continued to burn with tanker trucks and fire fighters battling any serious outbreak in an effort to stall what could be a dangerous fire. Out of immediate area, the word from Lennox Island is that all is well with just a bit of smouldering blaze burning away from the reservation section to the north.

“Much better” is the word from Gordon Bell of Charlottetown, who is chief fire fighter. In these words Mr. Bell described the situation generally.

Major O. R. Simons, civil defence co-ordinator, stated that there was very little danger that any homes would be lost from now on. He did note, however, that a sudden strong wind could cause some skirmishing and probably could cause a lot of damage, but this happening seems very unlikely, he added. He pointed

out that the full crew of about 600 fire-fighters, volunteers, members of organizations, etc. are doing a fine job in battling the blaze and assisting in other duties. 15,000 feet of additional hose was taken in yesterday making a grand total of over six miles.

Mrs. Bud Williams, who is in charge of the personnel detailed to kitchen duties, has maintained a steady staff of willing volunteers for around-the-clock service to hungry and weary fire fighters. The volunteers are members of Ladies Auxiliaries groups, Institute groups, Aid members and everyday civilian workers from all parts of the Island who want to lend a helping hand.

The members of the Ellerslie Legion branch are themselves rendering untiring assistance along with the facilities of their modern building. The members foot the bill for heat, water, accommodation, etc. and were highly commended by many officials. A well was constructed yesterday for the purpose of providing additional water for the kitchen.

Cyril Williams, chairman of the Disaster Fund and a member of the Ellerslie Legion, stated that the fund was growing steadily with many persons being generous contributors to the worthy cause. Also on the Disaster Fund committee are president Earl Colwill; Bud Williams; Bill Noye; Stewart Montgomery; Carmen McNeill and Harold Phillips.

About fifty persons were treated for minor burns, scratches and other injuries, stated Mrs. Harry Cudmore, director of first aid for the Red Cross.

The disaster fire area has been divided into three sections, each patrolled by an RCMP car in which RCMP officers work with Frank Gaudet, provincial forester, in the Conway north area; with W. O. Somerville of the RCAF station Summerside in the Ellerslie-Bideford area; and Dick Found of the Bideford Biological station in the Enmore-Ellerslie West-Conway area.

Dispatching from the control center is being done by local army officers with the help of an RCMP officer in the dispatch car. These men on dispatch work include W. B. LePage, Capt. Don MacIntyre, Capt Harry Bishop, Lt. Jack Hobb, Lt. Tom Davies and Lt. Vimy Gregory.

As one elderly farmer put it “she’s going to be a desolate place after the fire burn out.” Life continues to go on at a normal pace with a reading of strain on the faces of persons living in the area. Many are rendering assistance by giving their homes as sleeping quarters for fighters and hope for the day when the Island’s worst fire will finally burn itself out, with the prayer that no one else will go homeless from now until that time.

Three Buildings Burned Yesterday As Strong Winds Fanned the Flames

By Jim Kennedy

Forest fires in West Prince once again broke out of control yesterday as flames soared high above the tree-tops due to the freshened southwest winds. At mid-afternoon fires were spreading and burning rapidly in the Foxley River-Freeland area and also in the Bideford district threatening many homes. This was one of the worst outbreaks in the disaster area since the terrifying afternoon of August 29 when many homes and properties were completely wiped out.

Fires broke out in the Bideford district yesterday at noon endangering many homes, but dozers were rushed to the scene and fire breaks were put up surrounding the woodland area and due to the many volunteer firemen who were fighting the blaze, the people of Bideford were considered to be out of danger last night. Dense smoke in this area was one of the major problems the fire fighters had to contend with as visibility at time reached zero.

A barn containing approximately 350 bushels of grain and belonging to Leo Lynch of Lot 11 was burned to the ground yesterday afternoon along with a woodshed as sparks caught on a haystack causing the barn to be completely destroyed in a matter of minutes.

Many trucks were standing by in the Foxley River – Freeland District for purpose of evacuation as nearly all homes in this area were in constant danger. Trucks, pumpers and firemen were standing by at nearly all homes

waiting for the fire to strike or subside as dense clouds of smoke covered the area.

For the second time in less than a week, fire encircled the home of Lowell Matthews in the Black Banks area. He had previously evacuated and then moved back again as the wind direction had changed. A pumper and thirty men from Alberton were standing by and an army truck from Gagetown was wetting down his home. The smoke was so dense in this area that gas masks were a necessity. The wild life from the woodland area were taking refuge on the sand near the water's edge at the Black Banks shore. Fires swept through an abandoned factory nearby wiping it out completely.

Fire swept out on the Tory Road which runs from Woodbrook to the Western Road and the homes of Mrs. Elizabeth Sullivan and her son, which were evacuated, were threatened while two trucks and pumpers along with many fire fighters were fighting the blaze under control.

Fires raging along the Murray Road burned to the ground an old, abandoned house as the woodland in this area was burning rapidly causing a dense smoke which surrounded the district.

Fires in the Enmore and North Enmore Districts were burning freely through the woodland area but there was no homes in this area in any immediate danger.

Stan McInnis, Civil Service Co-ordinator, stated that the fire is burning in a steady pattern as it breaks out at noon each day then

reaches its peak at 4 p.m. and begins to ease off at dark. The men move in with their equipment in the morning and are ready for the outbreaks which occur at noon.

Mrs. Evelyn Cudmore is Co-ordinator of all Red Cross Disaster Services. These services are co-ordinating efforts of volunteer workers in feeding firefighters and other workers, and delivering hot meals prepared in the Civil Defence Field Kitchen to hundreds of men in the woods. In addition to this, hot coffee and lunches are delivered to workers five times a day.

Besides the main centre at Ellerslie, there is another feeding centre at Tyne Valley under the volunteer leadership of Mrs. Carmen MacNeill, Mrs. Robinson and Mrs. Crosby. The cooking for this centre is being done by the women of the Tyne Valley area.

The services of Mr. Lorne Burleigh, Department of Welfare, have been made available to the Red Cross to investigate the needs of evacuated families.

Red Cross First Aid Service has set up a central post at Ellerslie where two qualified first-aiders are on duty 24 hours of the day. In addition three outposts have been established at Freeland, Foxley River and Enmore. There is a mobile unit patrolling the fire area and giving first aid wherever needed.

All Red Cross First Aid posts are under the direction of Mrs. Bruce MacLaren.



RCMP Car is Nerve Centre For Direction of Fire Battle

An RCMP radio patrol car stationed outside the Ellerslie Canadian Legion Home, the rallying point for men, machines and equipment used to fight the forest fire peril in Prince County, is the nerve centre of the forest fire campaign.

About a dozen RCMP radio cars constantly patrol the fire areas and when additional men and equipment are needed, the requests are radioed to the dispatch car at Ellerslie.

Chief dispatcher Dick Found, Ellerslie, who has a complete knowledge of what men and equipment is available at all times, passes the order to the transportation director Gordon Kerr, Charlottetown, who sends the men and equipment out to the fire fronts.

OVERALL DECISION

Overall decision on the dispatching comes from chief

firefighter Gordon Bell, Charlottetown, who listens by radio to all communications with the dispatcher and okays the movement of the fire-fighting forces.

A co-ordination centre to handle all communications with the outside world operates in the Legion hall. Manning the office are major O.R. Simons, provincial co-ordinator of civil defense; J.W. Saunders, St. Andrew's N.B., emergency measures officer; and Stan McInnis, Charlottetown, communications director. This office acts as a liaison among all organizations working in the fire areas.

In touch with the dispatch car by phone, the co-ordination office stands ready to call in help from outside areas, provide trucks and drivers for evacuation of areas deemed necessary by Mr. Bell, and requisition necessary supplies for all phases of the campaign.

FEEDING WORKERS

There has been no problem in feeding the hundreds of volunteer workers. Kitchen facilities at the Legion Hall are being operated by the Red Cross, the legion auxiliary, the Ellerslie Women's Institute and women from the surrounding areas. Hundreds of boxes of food have been received daily from local residents and an Army camp kitchen which can feed 200 at a time has been set up outside the hall.

Evacuees from the fire districts have not been a problem for the co-ordination centre as a receiving center for the evacuees was established at the Canadian Legion Home in Miscouche. From Miscouche arrangements for accommodations were made in Summerside. Many families were staying with relatives until the fire threat eases.



KEEPS LONG VIGIL

Jack Ballem, a resident of North Enmore is shown seated on a part of his household belongings last evening as billowing smoke swirled in the woodlands and marshland behind his home. Mr. Ballem, who lives alone, evacuated his home several days ago when fire fighters battled to save the dwelling. The home was saved but a large cranberry patch and woodlot were destroyed. He usually moves his bed back in at night and sleeps there.

— Journal-Pioneer Staff Photo

Strong Winds Give West Prince Fires Early Start; More Fighters Recruited

Still another bad afternoon anticipated was the word this morning from fire fighting headquarters at Ellerslie as strong winds fanned flames that never completely subsided last night. While the winds normally drop at nightfall, last night the usual pattern was not followed and the winds blew briskly all night, so that this morning the fires were all well under way with the winds uncomfortably high.

Worst areas at noon were the Freeland, Foxley River, Black Banks, Conway and the Murray Road. A fire was reported burning south of the MacNeill's Road and last night a report was received that the dormant fire on Lennox Island had come to life. The fire at Bideford was reported as being pretty well in check.

Major Orrin Simons told The Journal-Pioneer that the large number of fire breaks that have been made pretty well ensures against any widespread expansion of the fires but that nothing will

put the fire out except a lengthy rain.

Last evening the National Employment Service sent an additional 94 men into the fight. Forty-nine of these were recruited in Summerside and 45 in Summerside. They were transported by truck. This number was in addition to 40 sent up from Summerside the previous day. This first group are still on the job. The going rate of pay is 75 cents an hour.

Meanwhile, 250 soldiers are en route by road transport from Camp Gagetown and should arrive this afternoon. They will be gradually integrated into the lines held by airmen from RCAF Station Summerside and will eventually replace the airmen.

It was explained that when a disaster occurs, the nearest service provides emergency assistance until such time as the army, which has civil defence as one of its responsibilities, can be brought to the scene. The airmen have done outstanding service and have been fighting the fire since August 29th, which was the most

destructive day.

The "met" section at the RCAF Station forecast winds of 25 to 30 miles an hour all day, gusting to 40. It is expected that the winds will remain strong. No rain is expected except possibly a light shower or two. Hurricane Donna is still several days away if it comes this way.

Hope Hurricane Will Strike

The serious and destructive fires which have now been burning for twelve days in West Prince have caused a most unusual situation.

A number of people have been heard to say that the main hope for resolving this situation rests in Hurricane Donna coming this way. It is felt that the drenching rains which accompany a hurricane will effectively quell the flames.

It is the first time possibly that people have been hoping a hurricane would strike.



Flames Shoot High Over Burning Trees

BY ROY TURNER

Guardian-Patriot Staff Writer

SUMMERSIDE – Fighting a relentless battle over an area covering more than 100 square miles, fire fighters had contained four major fires burning in West Prince last night, but officials stated an increase in winds would greatly add to the ever present danger of flames jumping the fire breaks, placing many homes in peril.

Flames were still shooting above the treetops late last night in several areas as the winds abated only slightly after sundown.

Fanned by southwest winds of 20 miles per hour with gusts to 25, the four major fires in the Conway, Bideford, Freeland and Murray Road areas and several fresh outbreaks kept men and equipment in high gear all day yesterday and an all-out battle was needed to prevent loss of homes as well as two churches in the Bideford and Foxley River districts.

BARN IS BURNED

A large barn, filled with hay and grain, burned near "The Portage" Lot 11 yesterday afternoon. It was owned by Leo Lynch.

An old abandoned house near the Murray Road school was burned to the ground later in the day.

An abandoned cannery at Black Banks, comprising a cluster of buildings, also was lost to the wind-whipped flames during the afternoon when dense smoke covered almost the entire area adding to the many hazards.

The first major eruption yesterday occurred just before noon in the Bideford area, when several homes and the Bideford United Church were threatened but additional fire breaks hurriedly thrown up around the burning woodland contained the flames although the district was still in danger last night.

A fleet of trucks were sent to the Freeland area around 2:30 p.m. to evacuate several homes that were in danger but the occupants reportedly declined to move out, at least until the danger increased. The trucks were still standing by last evening in case they were needed.

Fresh volunteers arrived at command headquarters last evening to replace the men on the fire lines and these were dispatched to the areas that were causing the greatest concern.

250 SOLDIERS

Today about 250 soldiers from the Royal Canadian Dragoons Camp Gagetown, N.B. are expected to arrive to replace RCAF personnel from the Summerside station who have played a major role in fighting the fires since the outbreak twelve days ago in the Enmore district.

The Summerside fire department, working in liaison with fire fighting centre at Ellerslie, has offered much needed man power and equipment.

A shipment of 400 feet of damaged fire hose was sent from the area Tuesday night to Summerside, where members of the department worked for seven hours repairing and testing the blackened hose. A department spokesman said the inch and a half hose was badly damaged from the tremendous pressure of the pumpers and several sections were burned beyond repair. However, 2,300 feet were salvaged and went back to the fire area last night on the Summerside pumper.

Mrs. Evelyn Cudmore, director of Red Cross services, paid high tribute to those who are helping in so many ways at the Ellerslie control centre and especially to the local residents. Mrs. Cudmore said "they just can't seem to do enough – they want to do a little bit extra." She added "the best thing I know that comes of a disaster is the amazing desire of everyone to be helpful."

Meanwhile Mrs. Cudmore is on the job herself, day and night, co-ordinating the many services of her organization, assisted by other Red Cross officials and members as well as volunteers.

Winds were still blowing at 25 to 30 miles per hour from the south west late last night and the "met" section at the RCAF station Summerside reported that no rain is in sight for at least the next two days.



NORTH ENMORE RESIDENT EVACUATES HOME

Photo shows the home of an elderly couple, Mr. and Mrs. William Gillis, as it is being evacuated last evening by relatives and volunteer workmen. In a wooded area northwest of the dwelling the forest fire was

burning briskly at the time of the evacuation. The immediate area has been in danger since Tuesday afternoon when winds swept flames and smoke across the surrounding woodland. — Journal-Pioneer Staff Photo



FRANTIC EVACUATIONS

Mrs. Reginald Campbell of McNeill's Mills has been forced from her home by menacing flames five times, four of which times she was obliged to evacuate all of her furnishings. Shown here is Mrs. Campbell, her seven children and a neighbouring child. Each time the house was threatened RCAF fire-fighters came to the rescue.

— (DND Photo).



HOMES SAVED

The homes of Mrs. Eliza Phillips (right) of Inverness and Mrs. Harry Bryant of North Enmore were saved by RCAF fire fighters after the families had been evacuated. The young lad shown with the ladies is Larry LeClair whose father's barn was destroyed by the fires.

— (DND Photo).

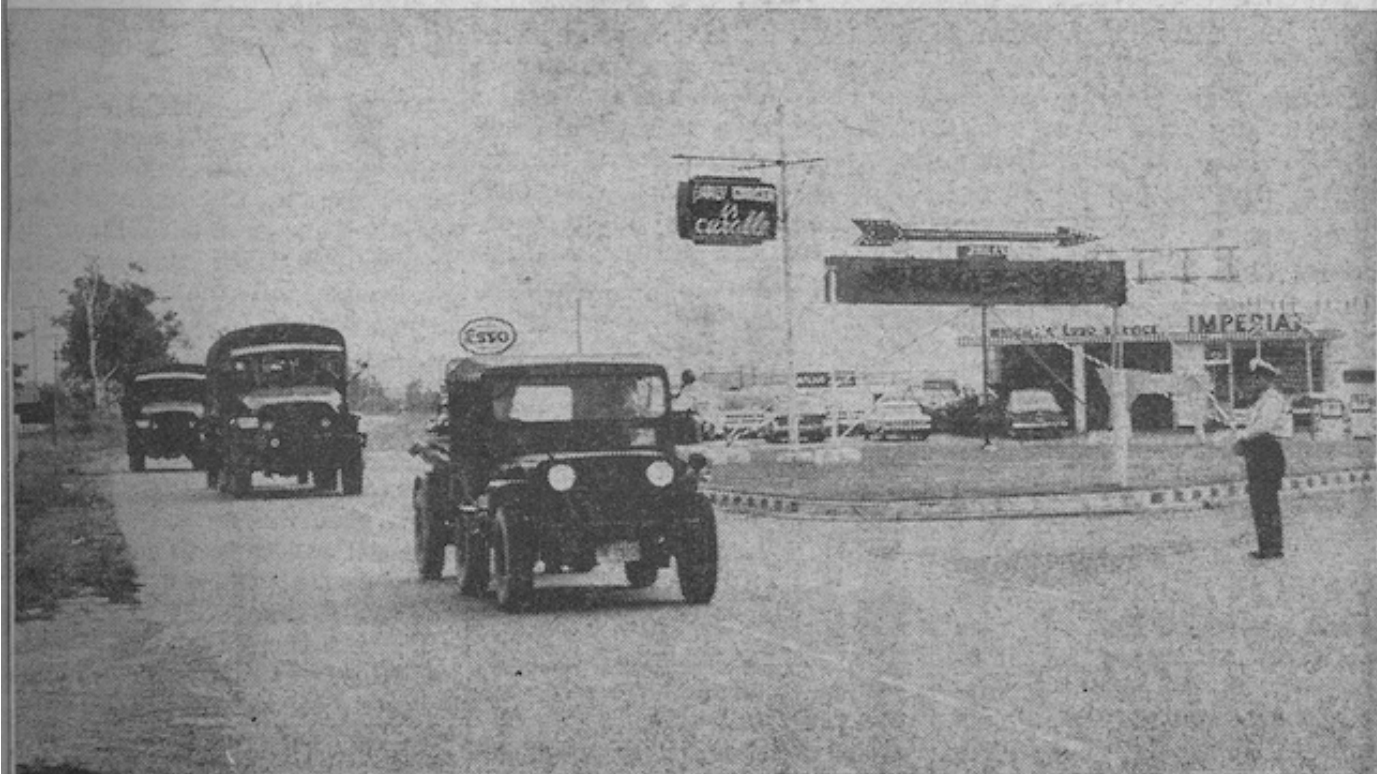


LEADS FIREFIGHTING FORCES

Lt.-Col. John S. Ussher, 44, right, of Toronto, commanding officer of The Royal Canadian Dragoons, Camp Gagetown, is commanding all armed forces personnel engaged in combating rampaging forest fires in the province. Col. Ussher is the link be-

tween the provincial government and the army's Eastern Command Headquarters in Halifax. Here he confers with one of his squadron commanders, Major John S. Paisley, 41, of Toronto.

— (DND Photo).



ARMY MOVES IN

More than 50 vehicles laden with troops, supplies and equipment head for fire-ravaged areas in Prince County after arriving in the province late Thursday afternoon. The 200-man task force from Camp Gagetown is

made up of personnel from The Royal Canadian Dragoons. Also included in the group are army engineers, signallers, mechanics and medical corps personnel.

— (DND Photo).

Fire Fighters Put In Another Hard Day As Wind Gusts Keep Flames Raging

Fire fighters in Western Prince put in another hectic day yesterday as numerous outbreaks occurred along the Western Road at Inverness, Mount Pleasant, McNeill's Mills, and Enmore, while gusts of wind kept the fires raging at Conway, Foxley River, Freeland and the Black Banks districts.

At North Enmore, three fire trucks were standing by and a barn belonging to H. Harvey caught fire three times but due to the prompt work of the firemen, the building was saved as they extinguished the flames.

Fire was blazing out of control in Enmore as it jumped the Ballem Road in mid-afternoon and was spreading rapidly through the woodland in a southerly direction. Dozers were rushed to the scene and fire breaks were being thrown up in front of the blaze as fire was hurling over the tree tops. Just before dusk Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Campbell decided to play safe and moved all their furniture out.

At McNeills Mills on the Western Road a barn belonging to James Bridges caught fire and his house and a service station belonging to Wendell Phillips were in the direct path of the fire which was burning in the woodland less than twenty-fire yards away. A truck-load of men working for F.A. Tucker, who contracts for Maritime Electric, was passing by, they saw the situation and stopped, bringing a ladder with them. They carried water in buckets and doused the flames on the roof of the barn and held the fire in check until a fire truck came to the scene.

Fire burning along the Western Road at Springhill, Inverness, McNeill's Mills and Mount Pleasant were causing flames to shoot up over the tree tops and destroying many telephone poles which were in their path. There was no immediate threat to any homes in this area.

Fires in the Foxley River, Freeland, Conway and Black Banks areas were spreading rapidly through

the dense woodland in much the same pattern as the previous day causing much destruction and a dense cloud of smoke to hover over the area. In this area there are many acres of dense woodland still untouched in the direct path of the flames, and fire breaks are being thrown up with trucks and pumpers standing by in an effort to control the flames, knowing that they cannot extinguish it altogether unless they get a heavy downpour of rain. There were no homes in this area in any immediate danger.

Later in the afternoon crews were constructing fire-breaks in the Port Hill station area and back of Northam where large fires were burning.

Towards nightfall the winds dropped and while the fires continued to burn, they pretty well ceased to move.

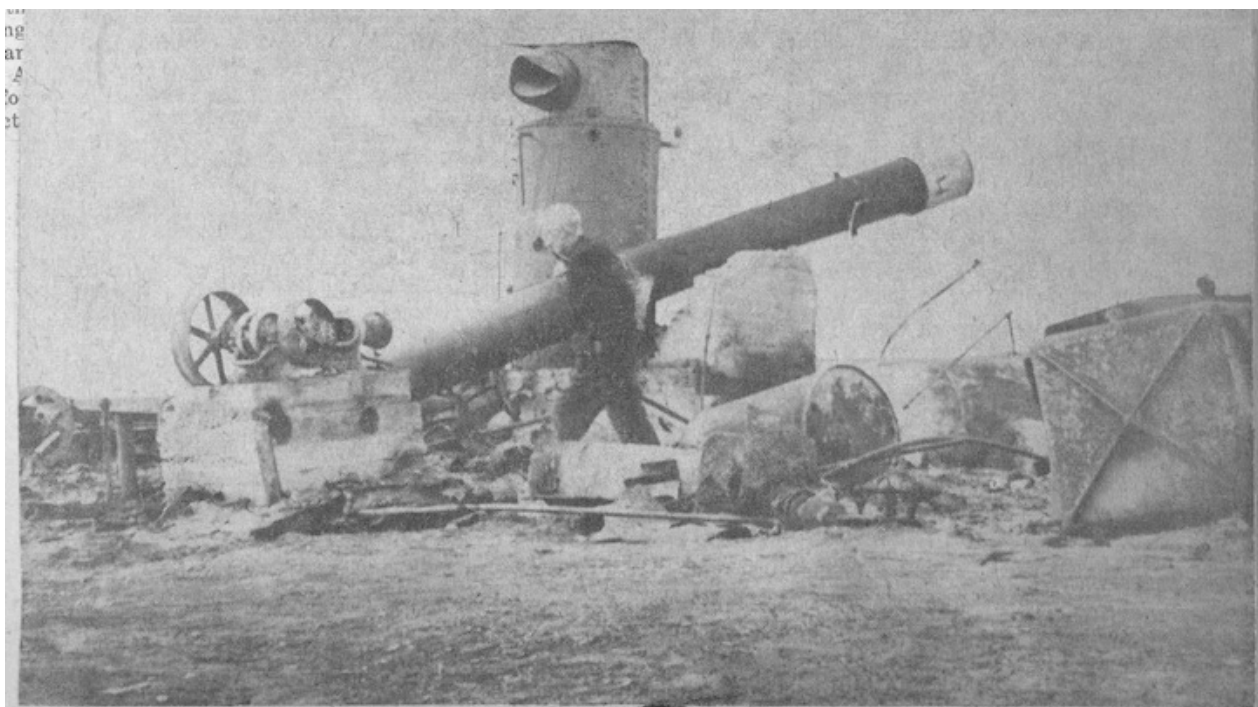
Record Low Rainfall in Aug.

CHARLOTTETOWN — (Special) — Unless something happens within the next 48 hours August, 1960 will go down in history as one of the driest growing seasons in P.E.I.'s history.

The Meteorological branch of the Department of Transport told The Journal-Pioneer this morning that so far in August only 1.01 inches of rain have fallen. At the same time a weatherman said that there is little or no rain in sight for the next few days.

To this is added that the rain that did fall through August has been spotty. In other words, the 1.01 inches of rainfall does not apply to all sections of P.E.I.

Agricultural visitors to the province this morning said that although P.E.I. is dry, there is a far greater degree of dryness in both Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.



LOBSTER CANNERY DESTROYED

Shown above are the charred remains of a deserted lobster cannery in the Black Banks area	of Prince County which was destroyed by forest fires last Wednesday afternoon despite the	vain efforts of fire-fighters. The factory consisting of three buildings contained almost new	equipment which had been installed just recently, and a work truck which was also destroyed in the blaze.
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DISASTER FUND DONATIONS

The following donations have been received at the Royal Bank of Canada, Tyne Valley, for the Ellerslie Legion Disaster Fund. The Committee hereby express appreciation and thanks for donations received as of September 20th, 1960, totalling \$14,979.90.

Government of P.E.I.	\$10,000.00
Canadian Legion, Summerside	\$1,000.00
Canadian Legion, Borden; Canadian Legion, Ellerslie; Personnel R.C.A.F. Station Summerside	\$500.00
The Polyclinic, Charlottetown	\$300.00
Canadian Legion, Kensington	\$250.00
Artificial Breeding Association	\$200.00
Seventh Day Adventist Church, Charlottetown	\$160.00
Sen. G.H. Barbour, Ottawa; Summerlea Enterprises Co. Ltd., Summerside; George Dewar, O'Leary; Sumner Co. Ltd., Charlottetown; Mrs. Louise Hatheway, Charlottetown; Alberton Canadian Legion	\$100.00
Mrs. Carrie Holman, Summerside; Irishtown Women's Institute; Lower Montague Women's Institute; Kelvin Grove Women's Institute; Egmont Bay Altar Society	\$50.00
Fortune Cove School District	\$41.25
Birch Grove Women's Institute; Souris West Women's Institute	\$30.00
Mrs. M.A. Burleigh, Ellerslie; Mrs. H.L. Dawson, Charlottetown; Hyndman & Co. Ltd., Charlottetown; St. Nicholas Women's Institute; Fred M. Haines, Chicago, Ill.; Margaret Francis, Eastern Passage, N.S.; Windmill Restaurant, Charlottetown; Keefe Drug Co., Charlottetown; G.H. Toombs & Sons, Charlottetown; Trustees Greenmount Church; Ladies' Auxiliary Souris Canadian Legion; Miss H.S. Gates, Charlottetown	\$25.00
Dr. G.E. Robinson, Tyne Valley; Mrs. G.C. Ramsay, Charlottetown; Rev. M.K. Charman, Ellerslie; North Pinette Women's Institute	\$20.00
Succersale No. 220 De St. Theodore L'Assomption, Wellington	\$15.00
Sherbrooke Women's Institute; Mr. and Mrs. Keith Kennedy; Mrs. Barbara Stonehouse, New Glasgow, N.S.; Mrs. Belle MacLean, Summerside; Mrs. C.J. Brannan, Saint John, N.B.; Gardner Marks, Summerside; George Hogg, Summerside; Alex McRae, Charlottetown; St. Thomas Women's Auxiliary, French River; Oyster Bridge Women's Institute; Louise Hazard, Charlottetown; Bellview Women's Institute; West Point Presbyterian Young People Society	\$10.00
Mrs. Mabel Morrison, Norboro School, Pupils And Teacher	\$7.00
Milo Women's Institute; T.C. Ramsay; Joseph H. Arsenault, Wellington; Mrs. Gertrude Crocket, Charlottetown; G.L. Rogers, Summerside; Mrs. W.H. Kiezer, Iroquois Falls, Ont.; Thos. Maye and Edna Jenkins, Bedeque; Mrs. Boswell Jenkins, Mt. Allison; Mrs. M.C. MacDonald, Caledonia; Mrs. Florence White, Summerside; Ina Phillips, Summerside; Florence Robertson, Charlottetown; Louise Wedge, Summerside	\$5.00
Mr. and Mrs. R. Dalziel	\$4.00
Anonymous	\$3.65
A Friend	\$3.00
Mrs. Julia Arsenault, Tyne Valley	\$2.00
George MacInnis, Summerside; Susan and Ann Dalziel	\$1.00



Half RCMP Force Were Constantly In The Field Fighting Forest Fires

CHARLOTTETOWN — (Special) -When the final story of the Prince County forest fires of 1960 is written, a large share of the glory will go to the Island's sub-division of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Today Inspector A. Sterling McNeill did a brief round-up of the effort made by the RCMP and at the same time he expressed appreciation for the cooperation his men had received from the government, the press and radio and the public in general.

Inspector McNeill says that during the fire one half of all RCMP personnel was involved in the field effort. While the Prince County fire was being fought the Montague and Souris detachments were busy playing their roles in the fire at Dundee. The men of the Alberton detachment stood by due to the danger of outbreak in the Palmer's Road area.

The head of the Island RCMP says that 13 radio cars were employed in the Prince County operation. One of these served, he said, as a communications control car at the Ellerslie headquarters.

As to the hours the men put in Inspector McNeill says that it would be impossible to tabulate. He reports that one man, purely by accident, was left on assignment for 36 hours without relief. All the men put in a great deal more than the average hours of a normal day.

The job of the RCMP was manifold. The basic service rendered was in the communications field. This work did not confine itself to radio alone. The radio cars moved about the area reporting new outbreaks and summoning new equipment to the

scene. Inspector McNeill says that the most important single role of the communications set-up was the continual calling for equipment and the deployment of the various pieces of apparatus and equipment in the area.

He speaks highly of the support that he got from provincial authorities who were continually on the scene. And Premier Walter R. Shaw told the Journal-Pioneer last week that he could not praise too highly the work of the RCMP.

Inspector McNeill says that the press and radio were particularly helpful when it came to appealing for help and appealing to spectators to keep out of the area.





200 Dragoons Arrive To Fight Forest Fires

Black-bereted soldiers of Canada's senior cavalry regiment, The Royal Canadian Dragoons, arrived 200-strong Thursday to join civilian authorities in combating major forest fire out breaks that have been raging in the western section of the province for the past two weeks.

The troops, from Camp Gagetown, N.B., left their home station at dawn, making the 225-mile trip in a convoy of trucks and scout cars. The Dragoons, one of the Regular Army's crack tank regiments, were ordered into the island province late Wednesday by Eastern Command Headquarters, Halifax.

Up until now, airmen from RCAF Station Summerside have been doing round-the-clock duty alongside civilian firefighting authorities.

The army troops, comprising a squadron group, make up a mobile, self-supporting force capable of operating independently for long periods. It carries its own tentage, rations, fuel and communication facilities. Although the majority of the force is drawn from the RCD, army engineers, signallers, mechanics, service policemen and medical corps personnel also are included.

USSHER IS O.C.

Heading the army component here is Lt.-Col. John S. Ussher, CD, 44, of Toronto, the commanding officer of The Royal Canadian Dragoons. Other officers with his headquarters staff include Major John S. Paisley, CD, 41, of Winnipeg, a squadron commander from the regiment, and Capt. C.C.

Gaskin, CD, 40, of Sackville, N.B., the regiment's adjutant.



400 IN ACTION

The move of RCD personnel to P.E.I. brings the number of Camp Gagetown troops battling forest fires in the Maritimes to more than 400. About 200 infants of the 2nd Battalion, The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada, have been committed to the Shelburne area of Nova Scotia.

The RCD, formed in Quebec City 77 years ago, is the armoured component of the 3rd Canadian Infantry Brigade Group of Camp Gagetown. The regiment returned to Canada last fall following two years duty with NATO forces in West Germany.

Quiet Seen Yesterday

SUMMERSIDE BUREAU OF THE GUARDIAN

The fire area in West Prince was relatively quiet yesterday for the first time in nearly two weeks as the fires, for the most part, failed to follow the usual pattern of exploding through the wooded areas during the day.

A light rain fell over most of the fire ravaged area around 9 o'clock in the morning, but had little or no effect on the deeply embedded fires.

The fires in the Enmore, Conway and Black Banks areas did flare up somewhat during the day when a brisk southeast breeze was blowing but they were not as dangerous as they have been during the past few days. However there has been no let up in keeping fire fighters and equipment constantly at the firelines checking smouldering fires and keeping them contained.

200 MORE

A squadron-group of Royal Canadian dragoons from Camp Gagetown arrived Thursday evening and are bivouacked in a field about one-quarter of a mile from Tyne Valley.

Another squadron-group consisting of approximately 300 men is expected to arrive this

evening bringing the total number of army personnel to nearly 500 to assist in the fire fighting.

The women of Tyne Valley and Ellerslie, with assistance from volunteers from various parts of the county, are doing a tremendous job in keeping the fire fighters well fed.

Delicious hot dinners are served in the Ellerslie Legion Hall and at MacNevin's restaurant in Tyne Valley.

Hot dinners are also taken to the men at the firelines as well as coffee and sandwiches at various intervals during the day and night. These are delivered by Red Cross volunteer helpers.

FOOD IS GIVEN

A request for contributions of food met with an overwhelming response as food items of every description were brought or sent to the two feeding stations. These consisted of pies, doughnuts, cookies, cakes, hams, other meats, fruits, etc., that have assured the fire fighters delicious meals each day.

Donations have come from as far east as Charlottetown and on Thursday Mrs. F. Walter Hyndman, wife of the lieutenant-governor, left a donation of food at the Ellerslie Legion while visiting the fire area with His Honor.



CONTROL TRAFFIC IN FIRE AREAS

Ten service policemen from Canadian Provost Corps units at Camp Gagetown, N. B., are shown boarding an RCAF Dakota at nearby Fredericton airport last Saturday for Summerside, where they are now assisting in controlling traffic in the fire-ravaged

areas west of here. The provost squad is headed by Sgt. John P. Templeton of Montreal and Oromocto, N. B., extreme right. On his right is Cpl. Douglas D. Larlee of Plaster Rock, N. B.

— (DND Photo).

Summerside Youths Battle Flames



Three Summerside boys, Joe Sonier, Layton Sonier and Kier Arsenault are shown as they pump water from their back packs on

to a smouldering flame. The boys are making an effort to hold this fringe area fire in check.

— Journal-Pioneer Staff Photo.

Helicopter Procured

A helicopter to permit faster coverage of danger areas by Gordon Bell, chief provincial firefighter, has been procured at the request of the provincial government, it was learned last night.

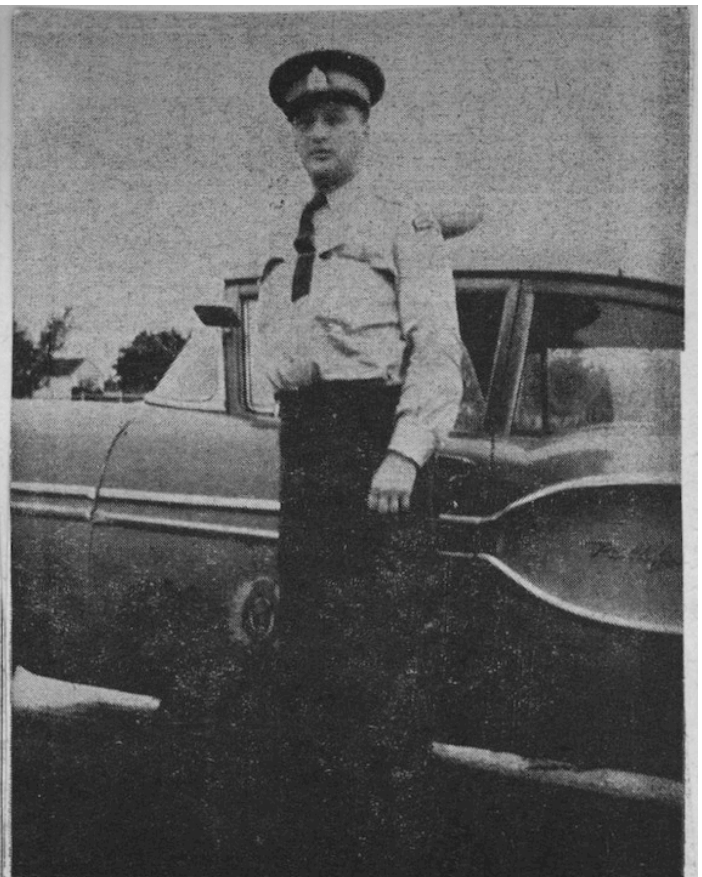
The copter is coming from Greenwood, it was learned.

Efforts to adequately handle the big fire fighting force in Prince County have frequently been hampered because of the time consumed in getting from one threatened sector to another by car.

It was felt that a helicopter would permit Mr. Bell quicker access to places sometimes difficult to reach by road. At the same time it would permit faster disposition of the forces at his command.

Yesterday afternoon he flew in a RCAF plane over the eastern Kings fire area near Dundee in order to assess the situation there and possibly offer technical advice to hard-pressed fire fighters also in that section.

Also in the Dundee area were Hon. J. Philip Matheson, minister of public works and highways, and R. Gordon White, deputy minister. Mr. Matheson said the situation was undoubtedly bad but apparently there was no shortage of either men or equipment to fight the blaze.



ALWAYS ON ALERT.

One of the head men in the RCMP communications effort was Corporal Marshall MacKinnon, who was in charge of the RCMP officers at the scene. Corporal MacKinnon, stationed with the Charlottetown Detachment of the RCMP, made regular patrols of all the fire areas keeping in contact with headquarters at all times. Corporal MacKinnon had high praise for the assistance and co-operation of people living in the disaster areas as well as all other fire fighters taking part in battling the blaze.

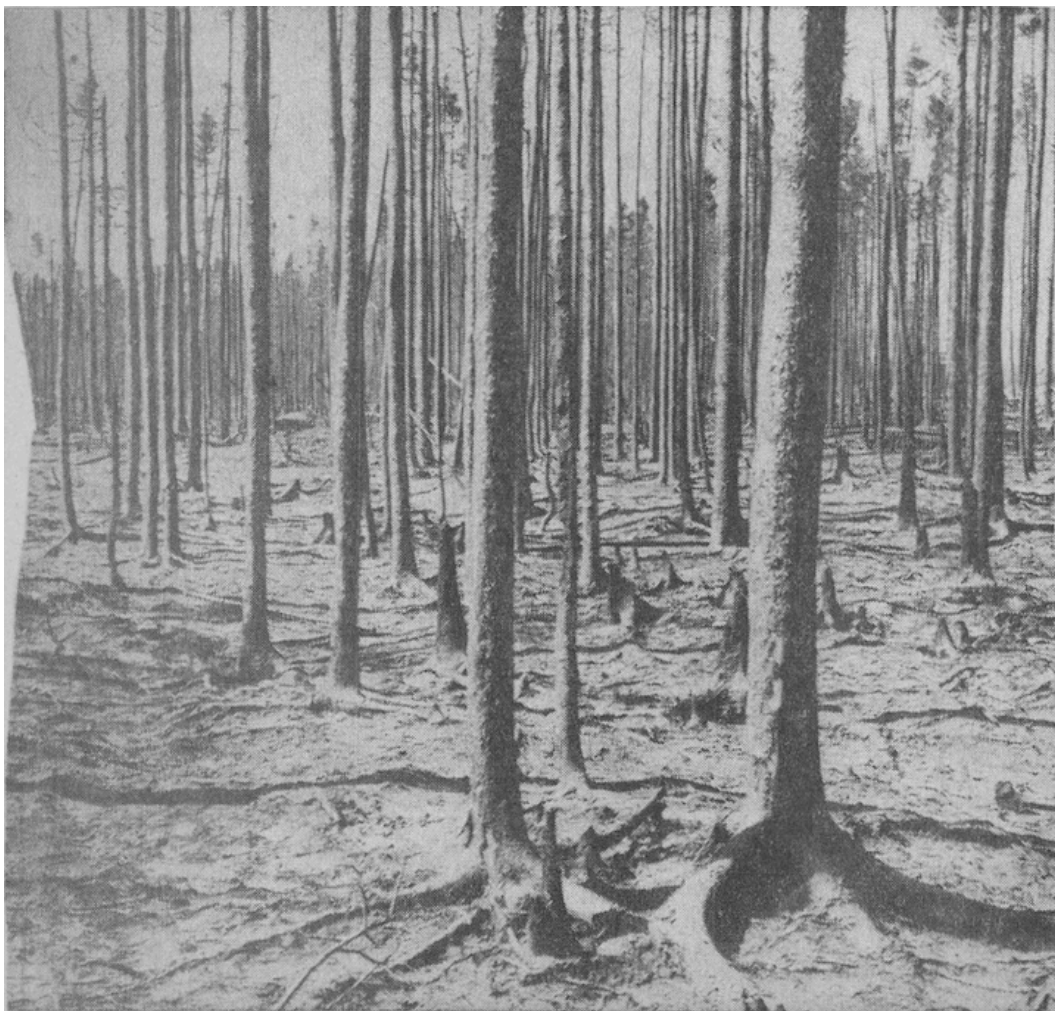


BIDEFORD CHURCH IN DANGER

Photo shows Bideford United Church which was at several times yesterday afternoon in danger of being burned down as it was in the direct path of the roaring forest fire. Last evening, after the immediate danger had subsided a bit, a tanker truck was

standing by just in case any new outbreak might occur, after fire fighters had battled earlier in the day to save the structure. Choking white smoke filled the area at dusk last evening.

— Journal-Pioneer Staff Photo.



LAND LAID WASTE BY FIRE

The stark outline of fire-bared spruces against a background of scorched earth tells

the grim story of a raging forest fire that swept across the area shown above. Many

scenes like this have been duplicated during the past week in the fire-ravaged sections of Prince County.