

# Prevent Loss of Life and Property



## Huge Fires Losses In Province During '46

"The year 1946 was the worst from a fire loss standpoint of any on record for this Province," Provincial Fire Marshall C. A. Beer stated in an interview concerning Fire Prevention Week which is now underway.

"Property loss was in excess of \$1,200,000 with a per capita loss of \$13.49," Mr. Beer added, "while four men lost their lives in the outbreaks."

Leading causes of fires were made up of sparks on roofs, careless smoking and heating or cooking devices while four of the fires exceeded losses over \$50,000, the Davis & Fraser Island Cold Storage blaze amounting to \$411,100, Bruce Stewart & Co., and Island Fertilizer \$258,000; Sterns Laundry \$81,500 and St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church at Summerside \$89,000.

There were very few cases of suspected arson although several official inquiries were held with no prosecutions undertaken. In 1947, however, the picture has not

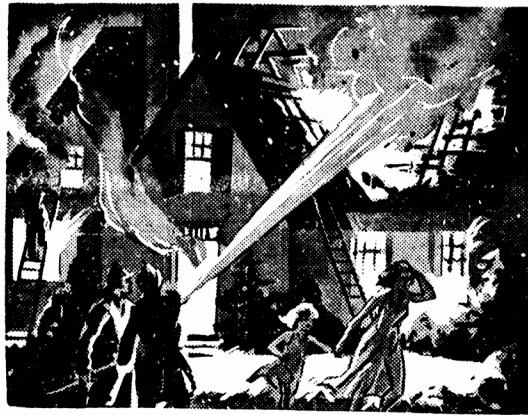
been so bright with one investigation resulting in the apprehension and conviction of six juveniles who were responsible for six fires. At the present time one case of arson is pending with three additional investigations being undertaken.

Concluding his statement Mr. Beer warned that in times such as we are going through it is quite possible that the burning rate may increase through incendiarism but he stated the Fire Marshall's department is determined to investigate with extreme thoroughness any cases of suspected arson or fires of unknown origin.

### REEVE IS THWARTED

BURNABY, B.C. — (CP) — A fire alarm during the opening of the new firehall here sent two engines roaring out the back door of the building — as Reeve G.A. Morrison stood poised with a pair of scissors, ready to snip the red ribbon across the front entrances.

## FIRE PREVENTION WEEK OCTOBER 5th --- 11th



The MAYOR and COUNCILLORS of CHARLOTTETOWN are co-operating with a nation-wide movement to observe NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK—

OCTOBER 5th - 11th

Its purpose is to spread information on fire prevention and fire control. The annual loss due to preventable fires has reached alarming proportions. To teach the nation to curb carelessness the Government of Canada has inaugurated

PIRE PREVENTION WEEK.

There are lessons in Fire Prevention we all can learn. Let us seek to know more about them.

**J. Gordon MacDonald,**  
Chairman Fire Committee

**B. Earle MacDonald,**  
Mayor

## Causes Of Fires

The following tables, taken from the Statistical Report of Fire Losses in Canada, 1946, classifies the causes of the 55,400 reported fires which occurred in Canada last year.

Causes Report	Number of Fires	Property Loss
Smokers' Carelessness	13,994	3,474,371
Stoves, furnaces, boilers, and smoke pipes	6,697	3,491,588
Electrical wiring and appliances	4,832	4,203,019
Defective and overheated chimneys and flues	3,494	1,782,492
Matches	2,819	672,881
Hot ashes, coals, open fires	2,478	870,878
Sparks on roofs	1,479	681,776
Petroleum and its products	1,021	1,755,760
Lights, other than electric	1,206	853,272
Lightning	932	353,778
Exposure fires	630	1,102,594
Spontaneous ignition	454	1,417,782
Indecision	306	638,632
Miscellaneous causes (explosions, fireworks, friction, hot grease or metal, steam and hot water pipes, etc.)	3,899	8,072,111
Unknown	6,569	20,112,597
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>55,400</b>	<b>49,413,262</b>

## Aids To Fire-Safety

It is an easy matter to prevent fires and save lives in our homes by simply being careful and using common sense. The following suggestions are offered as a guide to every Canadian citizen:

- Never leave young children alone.
- Keep chimneys and smokepipes clean and in good repair.
- Keep storage in attic or basement at a minimum and store neatly.
- Make sure there is an alternative means of escape.
- Keep electrical wiring and appliances in good repair.
- Do not overuse circuits. Fuses of 15 ampere capacity are sufficient on house lighting circuits.
- Unless protection is given, smokepipes should be at least 18 inches distant from joists and woodwork.
- Install fire-detector units in cellar and at head of cellar steps, attached to gong in upstairs hall.
- Keep doors closed at night.
- Have an approved extinguisher handy.
- The door at the top of the cellar stairs should be one which will resist fire for at least an hour.
- Keep matches in metal container and out of reach of children.
- Do not leave irons or other electrical appliances turned on except when they are in actual use. Let them cool off before putting away.
- Keep oily dusting cloths in a covered metal container.
- Never use inflammable liquids for dry-cleaning in the home. There are safe types of cleaning fluids on the market.
- Don't hang electrical cords on radiators or over nails.
- Don't use matches or candles to hunt in closets. Use a flashlight.
- Don't empty ash trays in wastebaskets. There may be a live cigarette among the ashes.
- Don't use kerosene to start or quicken fire.
- Don't smoke in bed.
- Don't hunt for gas leaks with a match. Put soap lather on suspected joints and watch for bubbles.
- Never leave a fire burning in an unsecured fireplace.
- Don't use inflammable insect sprays indoors and under no circumstances should gasoline be sprayed in closets, etc., or insect spray.
- Don't heat paraffin wax over a direct fire. Use a double boiler to melt the wax.
- Always use care, common sense and forethought and you will live longer.

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## Will Their Sacrifice Be In Vain ?

Every year fire takes a terrific toll of life and property in Canada. Deploable as is the loss to property, life loss by fire is nothing short of a crime on our civilization for the reason that in the majority of cases it is so needless.

In 1946, 409 men, women and children paid the supreme sacrifice demanded by the fire demon and in the past ten years 3067 persons have suffered the same fate. Of this latter number, 1206 were children. The number of children who died by fire in 1946 was 164, the highest annual toll in the ten year period 1937-46.

Have these unfortunate victims made their sacrifice in vain? They will have if we do not learn the lessons which these tragedies should teach. For instance, from a study of the causes of fire fatalities we find that 16 children died from fire last year when left alone in their homes. Parents should not, under any circumstances, leave helpless little children

or even children of tender age exposed to the possibility of fire for even a few minutes. We see too that six children were burned to death playing with matches. The responsibility for such happenings is definitely that of the parents and more particularly that of the mothers.

We note further in our study that 21 persons died from fires started by stoves, furnaces and heaters; 12 from electrical appliances; 15 from carelessness in smoking; 11 because gasoline was used to kindle the fire; and 18 from the use of kerosene for the same purpose. We could enumerate a dozen or so other reasons or people dying by fire. They all add up to pretty much the same conclusion:—needless death.

Will we, who hope never to suffer the same fate, learn to be careful with fire in all its phases and thereby help to reduce the terrible toll taken of Canadian lives every year by that dreaded

scourge? We can greatly improve our way of life and incidentally live longer: we observe the simple principles of fire prevention that of Always Being Careful.

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