

Firemen thanked for job well done

SOUTH MOUNTAIN — Residents of Mountain Township said "thanks" Saturday night for more than 30 years of fire service in a special "Appreciation Night" at the South Mountain Community Hall Saturday night.

With many of the township's past fire chiefs and firemen in attendance, including relatives of deceased firemen, the township paid tribute to the history of a department many of the night's speakers called "one of the best in SD&G".

"Any fire department, any organization, needs to have a good foundation," said Ed Hiscoll, Eastern Ontario advisor with the Fire Marshal's office. "You people must have built one hell of a foundation because you've got one hell of a department here."

"This is an occasion that's overdue," said Mountain Township Reeve Keith Fawcett. "It's a pleasure to live in a community with this type of firemen."

With the latest members of the township's department looking on, the department's past firemen, including six of the original members of the first 1947 station, were presented with special plaques commemorating their service.

It was also announced that the Mountain Township Lions had donated \$150 for a commemorative plaque in the station. The plaque will carry the names of all those who have served with the station.

"The fact that you people have turned out to show your appreciation says it all," Lou Carrier, past co-ordinator of SD&G's Mutual Aid, said to the audience. "They have done their job."

The audience was told how the township department started in 1947 with a \$1,000 fire hall and \$2,000 worth of hose and steadily built it up over the next three decades.

"We didn't have any money, we just had to make do with what we had," said Ted Van Bridger, a

former chief, recalling the early days of the department. "When we started out South Mountain was just a police village."

As for the Appreciation Night, Van Bridger said he felt "quite honored". "I appreciate this quite a bit."

Plaques of recognition were presented posthumously to Gordon Boyd, John Brown, Fred

Barrigar, Albert Hoeksema, William Robinson, Robert Robinson, Thomas Shaver, John Thompson, Ogle Workman and Henry Wilson.

Past township firemen still living include Lucien Benoit, Victor Barton, David Black, Robert Boyd, Tan Cameron, Car-

men Crowder, Cecil Downham, William Gates, Arnold Graham, Yves Guitard, Garnet Halpenny, Arthur Kenney, Clarence Marriner and Glen Marriner.

Also presented with plaques were Keith Robinson, Earl Roach, Donald Scott, Leen Seiling, John Sheldon, Lyle Sullivan, Rev. Douglas Tatton, Edward

Van Bridger, Fred Weagant, Garth Workman and Robert Wright.

"In any community," said Ed Hiscoll, "the most important thing that can be given to the community is that sense of security that if there is a fire in the middle of the night they can call for help."

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Mountain Township volunteers

Sporting their newly acquired dress uniforms the Mountain Township Volunteer Fire Department posed for a photo prior to Monday night's Mutual Aid meeting hosted at their South Mountain facility. Front, left to right, Dwayne Berry, Barton Simpson, Claude Brisebois, Paul

Simms, Gerald Boyce, Dwayne Wyatt, Clair Bartholomew. Back, left to right, Donat Tremblay, Brian Halpenny, Doug Boyd, deputy chief Terry Foley, fire chief Jim Scott, Bob Weagant, Wally Ace

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Volunteers help Mountain Township to grow

Community involvement is the key to life in active Mountain Township, a municipality proud of its many busy volunteers.

The township traces its history back to the 1700s, when the nine-square-mile tract of land was first surveyed. The township owes its name to Rev. Dr. Jacob Mountain, who was consecrated the first Lord Bishop of Quebec in 1793. It is not known if Mountain ever visited the area that bears his name today.

By 1815 the township boasted 28 permanent settlers, mostly United Empire Loyalists. The first settlers concentrated mainly around Boyd's Bridge, now known as South Mountain. The village of Mountain began to flourish in the late 1800s with the coming of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Mountain Township today remains a primarily agricultural community, with four hamlet areas: Hallville, Mountain, South Mountain and Inkerman.

The population of the township is 3,004 and its land and buildings are assessed at a total value of \$5,220,000, says township councillor Ewart Simms.

There are currently three approved subdivisions in the township. The St. John's subdivision at Hallville now has about 10 or 12 homes, while a 29-lot subdivision in South Mountain is just beginning to grow. The subdivision at Harmony offers 1.5 to two-acre estate lots.

The township takes pride in 115 miles of roads, and has a well-equipped volunteer fire department which serves part of Matilda and South Gower Townships as well as Mountain.

A number of volunteer organizations have been a big help to the township over the years, says councillor Simms.

The Mountain Township Agricultural Society operates an annual fair in South Mountain, and the hamlet also offers a free Canada Day celebration for families

every July 1, also a volunteer effort.

The township has a recreation association which oversees the activities of subcommittees of local volunteers in each of the four hamlet areas.

Recreation facilities in the township include two lighted ball diamonds, one at Mountain and another at South Mountain; a lighted double tennis court in South Mountain, and an outdoor rink in each hamlet. The Mountain community centre holds up to 100 people, while the Mountain Township Agricultural Society Hall in South Mountain will hold 275.

There are nine churches of various denominations within the township.

There is a public library in South



Mountain, which is part of the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry county library system.

Three United Counties wardens have been drawn from Mountain Township over the years. The first, William G. Timmins of Inkerman, served as warden in 1915. Robert Bryan had the job in 1939, and Ewart Simms served in 1978.

An active Lions Club and Independent Order of Oddfellows sponsor a yearly Santa Claus parade and a variety of other activities.

To regulate future growth in the township, council has an official plan and zoning bylaw, which it hopes to update this year. Another council project will involve signs for township roads and possibly property numbering.

According to Simms, the township can offer a little bit of everything to the newcomer. "We welcome people who are interested in rural living and are willing to accept what goes with rural living," he said. "It's a good place to live, and work, and play."

Regular council meetings are held on the first Monday of each month and are open to the public. Members of township council include Reeve Keith Fawcett, Deputy Reeve Jim Alexander, councillors Donald Levere, Keith Smith and Ewart Simms, and clerk Joan Maxwell. Township road superintendent is Ron Timmins, and John Palmer serves as drainage superintendent. The township municipal office may be contacted by calling 989-2915.