

The RCMP had a working budget of \$400, not including donations. Two 12-speed bikes were donated by a Canmore business. All the refreshments were donated. There were compact discs, Walkmans, and tapes among the prizes. The donations came from the local businesses and residents in the area. Between 300-400 youngsters attended, enjoying themselves, if one judged by the noise they made.

Glabus said every member of the Force was on duty, either at the dance or on the streets. He was concerned about vandalism, because it was so warm. When it is cold and there is snow on the ground, there is less damage to contend with. He hoped the dance, which lasted from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m., would prove more popular than any outside activity. Members of the Canmore Volunteer Fire Department and the Bow Valley Ambulance were deputized.

This writer toured the town, observed a few strange-looking creatures going door-to-door, but found no evidence of hooliganism, so common in years past.

There was no one on the streets once the party got underway. Buses travelled to the nearby communities of Exshaw and Seebe to pick up youngsters and bring them to Canmore.

Insurance claims following October 31 were nil. Youngsters were not seen on the streets. The volunteer firefighters went to the dance, where the action was, because the town was otherwise quiet. The prizes were bigger and better and more people than ever contributed to the party.

On November 1, Sgt. Gary Kirwan said a few windows were soaped, but there was absolutely no damage done within the town.

"It's not like the old days," he said with a hint of pride. "We had no trouble at all."

Cpl. Bob Swift has just recently been transferred to Edmonton from Hinton. He had been posted to Fort Saskatchewan,

Alberta, in 1979, after serving six years in Canmore. He was then stationed in Edmonton and Hinton, Alta.

Swift, a popular member of the Force, stated there was never any need to develop the same system in either Fort Saskatchewan or Hinton, because those communities have many activities for the young people. He is pleased members of the Canmore Detachment have continued to put on an annual dance.

"The kids in Canmore didn't have any reason to take their minds off making mischief. This is why we decided to hold the party and dance for them," he says.

While stationed in Canmore, Swift gained recognition and respect as being the only man not a coal miner, who was one of two instructors for the two Canmore mine rescue teams. Canmore teams had gone on to win provincial mine rescue competitions.

Last year, the Fort Saskatchewan Kinsmen Club presented him with a plaque as most outstanding president. Swift also coaches youngsters in sports.

Aside from coverage in the local weeklies, members of Canmore's RCMP, firefighters and the Bow Valley Ambulance have never received any media coverage. It seems that it just isn't news if it isn't bad news. People aren't interested in reading about how great a time everyone has in Canmore on Hallowe'en. They'd much rather read about the vandalism done elsewhere.

Swift and Zizac are firm believers that there is a right way and a wrong way to handle young people. The police officer can be your friend. You can have fun on Hallowe'en without getting into trouble. Considering their continued popularity among the younger generation, this positive credo has proved true over the past 10 years. Both believe if more police and fire departments in small communities become involved, Hallowe'en would cease to be a breeding ground for juvenile delinquency. ■