

# Where There is Smoke — There's Fire...

by Cpl. D. Hobson, Nanaimo, B.C.

But this is not always the case... On the evening of June 2, 1987, Cst. Boyd Hunter rushed to the scene of a house fire on Selby Street in Nanaimo, British Columbia. Smoke was coming out of the upstairs loft window and the entire block was engulfed in smoke. Cst. D.W. Comrie had joined in and, flashlight in hand, was diligently looking for the fire. Having forced the door open, Cst. Hunter evacuated the residents, believing that they could be overcome by the dense smoke, but they were reluctant to leave. When the fire department arrived, the firefighters donned their Scott Air packs because of the heavy smoke spilling out of the upstairs windows. Then the fire was found...

In the middle of the back yard was a brick fireplace, where occupants of the building burned their garbage. Spruce boughs, thrown on the fireplace for burning at a later date, had ignited, causing the smoke. With both the front and the rear upstairs hall windows open, along with the prevailing winds, the smoke was syphoned out of the upstairs front loft window, just like in a chimney.

The fire was extinguished and the damaged door repaired. Later on, one of the residents explained that being security conscious, they never opened the door to strangers after 9:00 p.m. ■

