

was renting. Normally, this trash was picked up every week, but it hadn't been left out for the garbage men for a few weeks.

On the night of October 31, 1971, teenagers dragged the shed into the middle of the road on the main street. Although the fast food business was open, the proprietor did nothing to stop them, nor did he contact the police. Several Molotov cocktails were tossed into the shed. Constructed of old, dry wood, it exploded into flames. Some cocktails missed their target and smashed against the curb. A strong wind came up and several buildings on the main street were in danger of catching fire. To the young people, it was all a game.

Hooligans waylaid small children and stole their treats. Some local businesses had their windows smashed and garbage was strewn everywhere.

The following week, juvenile court was packed with the culprits and their parents.

In 1977, RCMP Corporal Robert (Bob) Swift and Constable Al Zizac decided that things would have to change. The Canmore RCMP detachment dug deep into their slush fund. They had an idea. They contacted some of the local businessmen who suffered. Things began to snowball.

A party, refreshments, and dance with live music was organized in the school auditorium. Two bicycles as well as numerous door prizes were offered. The youngsters, however, were not to take anything for granted; they paid one dollar to enter. Parents got in free. All school children from Grades 1 through 12 were invited. And parents, some dressed in costumes, waited on the sidelines while their children enjoyed themselves for a few hours.

All members of the Canmore Volunteer Fire Department were deputized to help police the town, but things were so quiet

they found themselves sampling refreshments and observing the young people partaking in good, clean fun.

Hallowe'en in Canmore hasn't been the same since.

The following year, live entertainment and refreshments were offered to the parents in the home economics room, while their youngsters partied in the gym. The young people discovered they could enjoy Hallowe'en without doing damage. It was fun going to a party where the RCMP and their wives, dressed in costumes, served refreshments and enjoyed the evening.

In 1986, some teenagers no longer attending school, were caught in the act of vandalism. Justice was swift. The RCMP turned them over to the firefighters and the youngsters learned the hard way. The firefighting vehicles were all spic and span and up to the fire department's high standards before punishment was completed.

In 1987, the RCMP hosted the dance for the tenth year, and it is as popular as ever.

Al Zizac, who resigned from the Force a few years ago, still resides in Canmore and has his own business. He continues his involvement with the RCMP dance and retains his popularity with the young people. Every year, he dresses appropriately, in costume, and emcees the party. Last year he dressed as a moose.

Scuff Shoes, a local band from Banff, donated their time. They could make a great deal of money on Hallowe'en, but prefer to contribute their talents to help make this annual party a success.

Cst. Colin Glabus of the Canmore RCMP town detail was in charge of organizing things. Glabus, 31, is an 11-year member of the Force, and that was his fourth year of involvement in the Canmore Hallowe'en party. He enjoyed serving hot dogs and pop while his wife Ruby, Cst. Margaret Stacey and the RCMP steno, helped out in the kitchen.