

## Alarm systems ringing the bell in Owen Sound

A modern alarm system can do more than "sound off" when triggered by smoke, fire or a break-in. It will immediately pinpoint the trouble spot using computer controlled systems and alert the fire department. Then, if so equipped, it will signal a central station to double-check that action is being taken and as instructed caution company officials at home.

The Edwards Company of Owen Sound, Ontario, a unit of General Signal Ltd., started manufacturing protection systems there in 1952 and now makes a wide range of such products, including fire alarm devices, thermal and smoke detectors, signalling items (bells, buzzers, chimes, horns and sirens), annunciators (audio-visual indication of alarm trouble zones), nurse call, security and card access systems.

Probably the best-known device is the familiar red fire pull-alarm, seen in so many corridors.

"More complex systems are based on electronics and cover a wide variety of end uses, including early-warning fire detection, emergency paging — especially for high-rises — and emergency communication facilities to help direct people from fire-threatened areas," said Llyall Lawrence, assistant to the vice-president.

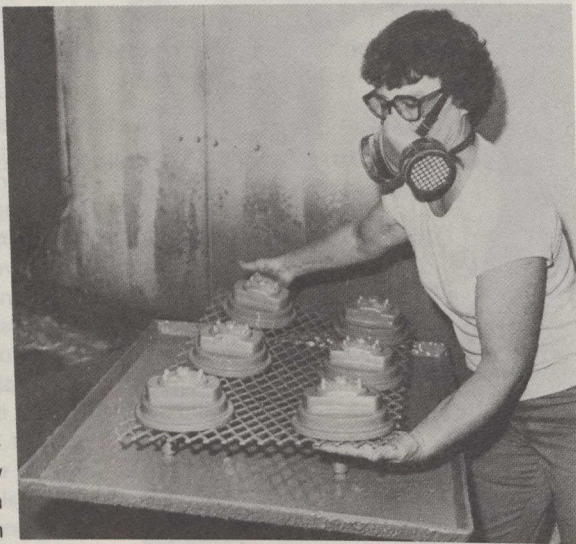
The latest integrated life safety system, the Edwards 8500, has not been on the market long but will be exported in the near future and is expected to increase export sales.

It uses multiple microcomputer technology to provide concise displays of all pertinent data to enable quick action to be taken.

"The ultimate in early warning is offered by the 8500," said Mr. Lawrence, "providing emergency paging and evacuation control for medium, large or multi-building applications."

The comprehensive display on its large panel helps firefighters see instantly the danger zones, while it is also "user friendly", meaning easily operated by untrained staff, eliminating need for a full-time experienced operator.

Both hardware and software are modular, providing a cost-efficient design, and it has a non-volatile memory, so a power failure does not cause loss of



*Edwards' freshly spray-painted fire alarms.*

primary system functions or require re-programming.

The company is currently involved with two major projects in Trinidad: the Halls of Justice and the Financial Complex, both in Port of Spain, according to Clive Milo, general manager of Edwards International, Mississauga, Ontario, a division of Edwards.

"This is a big, complicated, technical multi-system package and includes the 8500," he added.

About 39 per cent of production is sold in Ontario and 48 per cent in the rest of Canada. The balance goes to foreign markets including the US, Saudi Arabia and Britain.

*(Article from Ontario Business News.)*

## Coal to Japan

This month, coal begins moving from British Columbia mines to Japanese steel mills as Canada's largest single resource development goes into production. A \$2.5-billion investment has been made in the mountainous coal-bearing region of northeastern British Columbia by the government, two railways, several mining companies and the Japanese.

The Quintette coal mine has already begun to produce what will become annual shipments of 6.3 million tonnes of high grade metallurgical and thermal coal from Canada's biggest open pit coal mine. The coal is brought down from the mountainside mine to a processing plant and rail facilities below on a continuous con-

veyor line which, at 13.7 kilometres, is the longest on the continent.

Nearby, the Bullmoose coal mine will ship 1.7 million tonnes of coal to Japan every year.

B.C. Rail has blasted through four mountains to construct a new 130-kilometre electric rail line to carry coal out of this remote region. The 98-car trains deliver coal to the Canadian National Railways line in Prince George, where it is trans-shipped from the centre of the province.

Nearly 750 kilometres to the west, at Prince Rupert, a new \$220-million coal-shipping port has been built on Ridley Island, where coal cars will be tipped upside down and dumped automatically at the rate of 60 an hour. Up to 12 million tonnes a year will be shipped through Prince Rupert to Japan, starting in January.

## Canada-US co-operation in communications for rural areas

Canadian and US authorities have announced they will design a space program aimed at launching two or three satellites by 1988 to provide mobile radio, telephone and information transmission services for vehicles in rural areas of the two countries.

If successful, the \$500-million mobile satellite program — known as MSAT — would provide communications services in Canada for such users as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and other law enforcement agencies, and for ambulance, fire and trucking services.

The satellites, stationed 35 000 kilometres above the equator, will transmit messages to and from such users as householders, seamen, rural travellers and police anywhere on the continent.

The service will be used mainly in outlying areas, where point-to-point communications now are limited in range to about 80 kilometres from a base station.

Advancements in reception technology are likely to occur now that agreement has been reached between the Communications Department and the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration to work on the MSAT program.

Eventually, that may make it possible for personal use of pocket-sized mobile telephones in far-flung areas of Canada and the US matching impending developments in urban services under a system known as cellular mobile radio.