

# East Kildonan's New Fire Hall Officially Opened Saturday

East Kildonan's new Fire Hall on Kimberley avenue was officially opened Saturday morning.

Mayor Ruta, who is an honorary Fire Chief, cut the ribbon assisted by Ald. Wm. Irvine, and Ald. A. J. Reid, honorary Fire Captains.

The building contains over 10,000 square feet of floor space with ample car parking facilities at the rear.

The apparatus floor area is 60' by 60' for the present two pumps and emergency vehicle.

Provision has also been made for two other necessary pieces of equipment for future purchase, such as a 1050 pumper and aerial ladder.

Two electrically controlled overhead doors service the apparatus areas for fast emergencies for all calls.

This building is completely equipped with the latest communication services covering radio relay for fire and emergencies and 999 calls direct at all hours of the day.

There is no record of when the first fire protection was available in East Kildonan, but it certainly goes back to the days of horse drawn apparatus. Prior to 1955 there was a small, full-time fire department in East Kildonan.

In 1955 the City Council of that day decided to amalgamate the Police and Fire responsibilities under one department which was named the Public Safety Department. This arrangement worked well until January, 1963, when City Council concluded that the expansion of the city and its increasing fire problems plus the increased burden upon the police, merited a full-time fire department.

It was formed from members of the Public Safety Department who chose to become Firefighters and from new men employed for the task fully trained.

The strength of the Department is 27 all ranks and they work a four platoon system.