



Mayor Hazel McCallion congratulated St. Joseph Separate School student Bill Moffat on his heroic rescue of three children from a burning garage last year. The Grade 6 student noticed smoke seeping out of a garage last April and rushed in to save three boys, aged 4 and 5, before putting out the fire himself. Mississauga Fire Chief Gord Bentley also offered his congratulations.
(Staff photo by Tim Chevrier)

Fire rescue NOT FOR CIRCULATION teenager is honored

By JUDY HUGHES
Staff Writer

When Bill Moffat set out to collect from the customers on his paper route last April 21, his mind was occupied with thoughts of birthday presents and the cake that awaited him at home.

A few minutes later, those cheery thoughts were wiped away by the sight of thick smoke seeping through the cracks around the garage door belonging to a customer's neighbor.

"I had a few things in my hand, and I just dropped them and ran to the garage," Bill, a Grade 6 student at St. Joseph Separate School, remembers.

With no regard for his own safety — "I didn't stop to think about it" — Bill threw open the garage door, to be met by thick clouds of grey smoke.

Huddled on the floor in an attempt to escape the smoke and flames were three little boys, aged 5 and 6.

"I picked them up and carried them out of the garage," said the 13-year-old. Once clear of the garage, the boys "ran away. I guess they didn't want to get into any trouble," he said.

Bill was rewarded with gifts, money and heartfelt thanks from the boys' parents and other neighbors on the block, but earlier this week, 14 months after the episode, his courage was recognized on a different level.

Mayor Hazel McCallion, Ward 9 councillor Ted Southorn and Mississauga Fire Chief Gord Bentley joined forces in applauding Bill's act of bravery by presenting him with a citation at City Hall.

Bill's actions were "highly commendable," said the mayor.