

Phone 856-2267

## Female Junior Rangers Assist Regular Wawa Fire Crews in Prescribed Burn

By D. E. Pugh

July 23, 1975

Four crews of Junior Rangers from the Ministry of Natural Resources, Hobon and Mijin Lake camps assisted in fighting a thirty acre prescribed burn in Acton Twp. from July 15 to July 17. The Junior Ranger program conducted by the Ministry consists of sixty-five camps across Ontario, containing 1,800 seventeen year old youth who follow a regular work program of park maintenance, timber, fish and wildlife, and lands work. Through such familiarization with the Ministry's organization, many youth later choose a forestry career.

The two, twenty four member Junior Ranger camps in the Wawa District contain female Junior Rangers, actively involved in a park maintenance and timber program. To familiarize these girls with forest protection, the J.R.'s were invited to participate in a 'controlled burn'.

This burn, undertaken in a totally cut over area, eliminated slash and duff detrimental to a reforestation program. By removing dead timber and exposing mineral soil, young trees are more easily planted, and face better chances of survival. In a thirty acre zone, the burn was touched off by flame throwers. With three regular Wawa fire crews utilizing power pumps, suppression was assisted by the Junior Rangers, armed with colourful yellow hard hats, protective gloves, and work boots, and carrying shovels and back pumps. Dry conditions led to a hot fire, forcing unit crew fore-

men Dave Carroll, Henry Parisee and Orville Smith, headed by suppression boss Dave Page, and fire boss John Schreiber to fight under tough smoky conditions.

The roar of Wajax pumps, and assisting water bomber, static from radios, cries and coughing of fire fighters, and crackling thunder of the fire resounded as the J.R.'s struggled through deep mosses, swamp and dense underbush hauling heavy water packs, and shovels. For girls from southern Ontario, who have seldom been in the bush, their enthusiasm was contagious. "Is this ever exciting!" "Am I ever hot, everything's burning!" "Hey, Wow, Am I ever dirty!" "This is fun, let's do it again tomorrow."

In dirty work boots, muddy denim jeans, with sweating fire blackened arms and faces, and tangled hair, the girls assisted fire mop up. Handling two inch hoses, axes, shovels and back pumps, the girls fought jump and smudge fires, chopped smouldering stumps, and rooted at blazing mosses. Later they coiled dirty hoses, operated radios, undertook cooking duties and transported supplies.

For the timber branch, the burn opened a planting area. For the fire crew it was practice. For the J.R.'s, the burn was a highlight. On their return to southern cities, these girls will have a good tan, hefty muscles and a summer well spent and enjoyed in Ontario's northland.

May  
questio  
Canadi  
licatio  
graphic  
Americ  
then t'  
to mak  
I liv  
Lansin  
come  
Wawa  
tion or  
we we  
our fis  
A ya.  
Shell  
Wawa  
hose t  
as I he  
and tl  
get 5  
would  
to M.  
chase  
We  
we lo  
my lit  
her mo  
is Car  
place  
neighb  
13-14  
the no  
childre  
asking  
cation  
to com  
ed: - b  
friendly

To all  
Come  
meeting  
Show y  
Special  
ren of  
blems  
help.

If we  
terest  
show in  
Every  
ferent  
Canada.  
CAN - N  
their gr  
These  
Help in