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The home of Mark and Sherry Cruise was engulfed in flames over the noon hour yesterday (Tuesday).

Fire sends two to burn units as nearby home evacuated

By R. Bruce McIntyre

Nov. 7, 2018

Renfrew—A noon hour fire that totally engulfed a Renfrew home yesterday (Tuesday) sent two residents to Ottawa and Toronto burn units and forced the evacuation of several nearby homes as emergency personnel attempted to deal with a gas leak.

At approximately 11:45 neighbours of Mark and Sherry Cruise, who reside at 403 Mary Street in Renfrew, called 911 after both occupants of the home emerged with visible burns. In Mr. Cruise's case, part of his clothing was on fire. They were able to make their way across the street and collapsed on the lawn adjacent to Mary Street resident Doug Miller.

Mr. Miller told the *Leader* both Mr. and Mrs. Cruise were in bad shape but conscious as members of the Renfrew Paramedic Service attended to their injuries. A few moments after they escaped the house, members of the Renfrew Fire Department arrived and immediately began to battle the blaze, which at this time had totally engulfed the home.

Acting Fire Chief Tim Hill said about 10 firefighters were on scene within minutes and he enacted a Mutual Aid Agreement with neighbouring Horton Township. Eight Horton firefighters responded with five on scene and three remaining at the Renfrew Fire Hall as backup in case any other calls came in. At this time, there were about 20 bystanders in the vicinity. Three Renfrew OPP officers quickly put up yellow tape and moved the bystanders away from the home.

“With such a strong smell of natural gas, there is no way we were entering the structure”

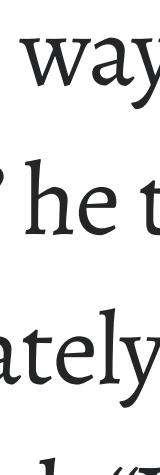
Just prior to the arrival of the fire department, Dave Visneskie, a retired firefighter with the Renfrew Department, happened to be driving by and went to the back of the home and was able to retrieve the Cruise's family dog. *Bear*, a Golden Retriever, was then taken to the home of a nearby neighbour where it remained for the afternoon.

Although the fire was brought under control within an hour and all flames appeared to be extinguished, there was a very strong natural gas odour and A/Chief Hill ordered his crew not to enter the home. He also ordered the continued watering of the home.

“With such a strong smell of natural gas, there is no way we were entering the structure,” he told the *Leader* at approximately 1:30, about 90 minutes after they arrived. “We are not sure where the gas leak is, or how it started, but we are waiting for Enbridge to arrive and give us the okay to enter the home. We will continue to apply water until the gas situation is under control.”

Around 2:30 p.m., members of the Enbridge crew notified the OPP the leak was not contained and an immediate evacuation order was issued. Police officers fanned out along Mary Street and adjoining Dufferin, Blake and June Streets and notified residents of the situation and ordered them to vacate the area.

Bruce McIntyre & Jane Doe contributed to reporting.
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The Eganville Leader



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By R. Bruce McIntyre

Nov. 14th, 2018

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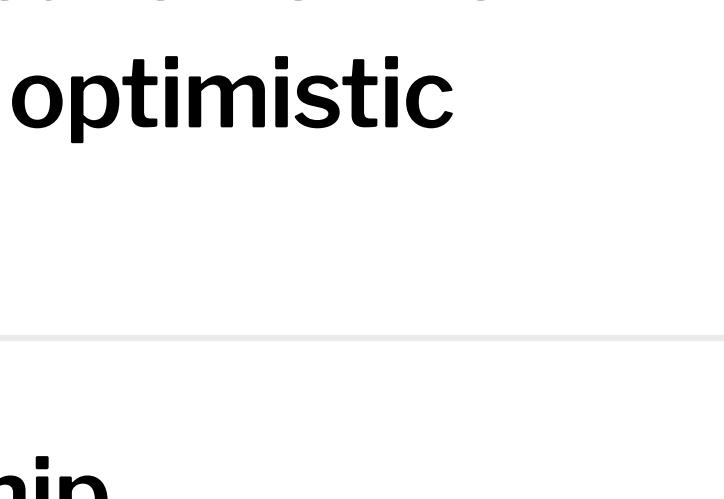
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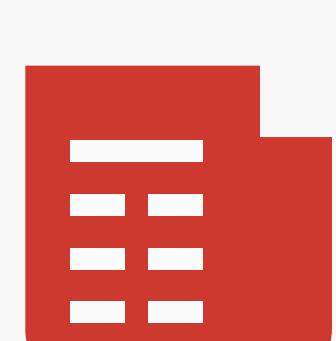
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