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Former councillor, wife rescued from burning rural home

By Julie Slack
 CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

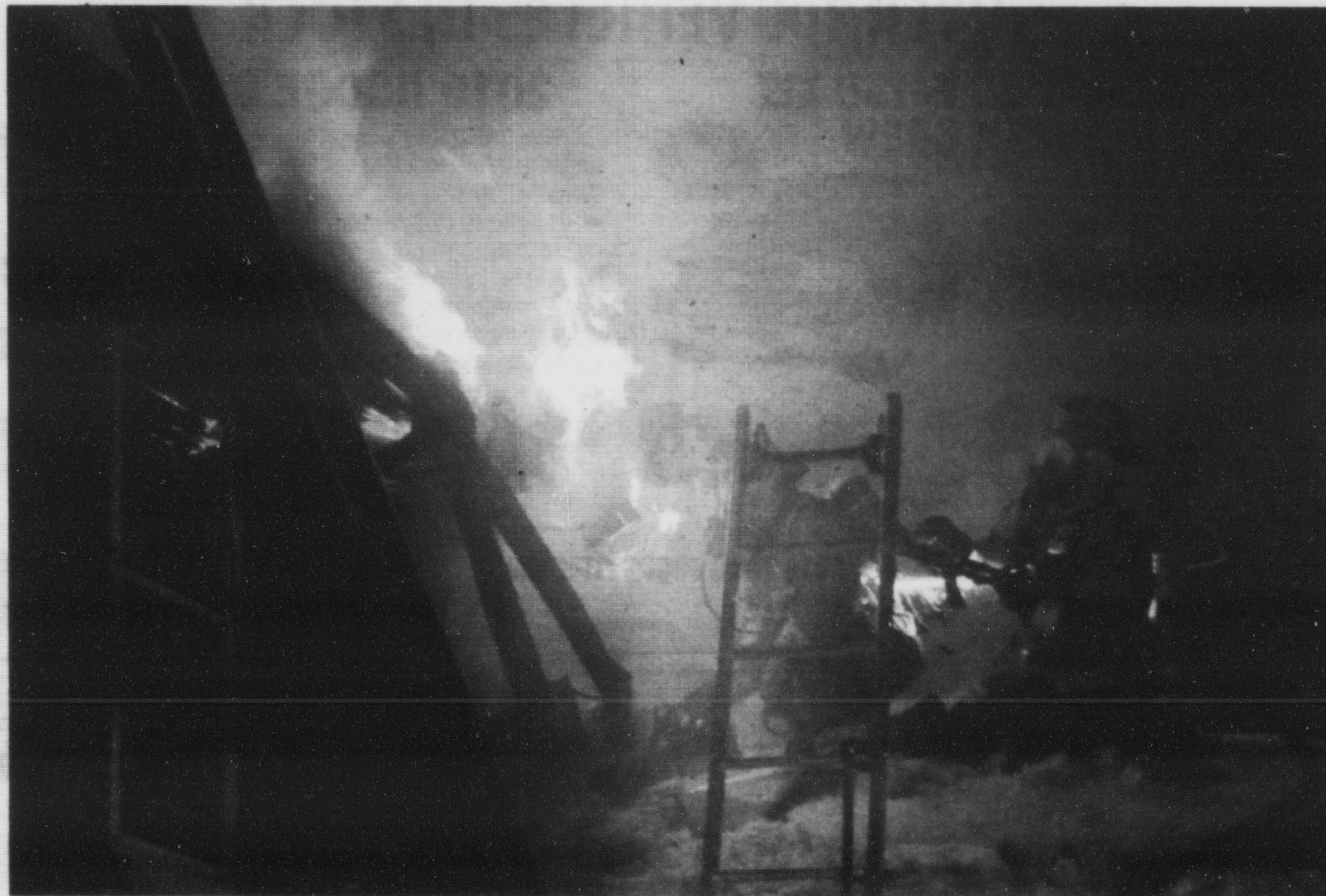
Mere days after being rescued from a house fire with his wife, Rick Day says he's doing "excellent."

"It's bricks and mortar that was destroyed — not flesh and blood," he said. "Nobody died and there were no injuries — that's the important thing."

The former long-time Milton councillor, who retired from politics in 2010, and his wife Karen were rescued by the Milton Fire Department (MFD) from a second-storey balcony as fire ripped through their historic home in rural Omagh shortly after 4 a.m. Saturday.

As fire raged on the first floor of the home built in the 1830s, they were forced outside to their bedroom balcony, barefoot and in py-jamas. Day said he tied a bed sheet to the railing of the balcony after calling 9-1-1 on a cell phone that was "luckily inside my wife's purse in the bedroom." The home phone was dead. Day said the entire outcome could have been deadly had he not awoken to the smell of smoke. And he knows better than anyone the consequences of a house fire.

Rick's father Bert Day, a prominent Milton businessman, died in a house fire in 2007.



The Milton Fire Department battles the blaze at former councillor Rick Day's Fourth Line home early Saturday morning.
 Graham Paine / Metroland West Media Group (Follow on Twitter @halton_photog)

The 88-year-old was found dead inside the hallway of his home on Steeles Avenue near Tremaine Road.

At that time, Rick speculated that his father hadn't escaped the fire because he was looking for his wife, who had died just two weeks before the fire.

Day said waking to the smell of smoke in his family home, where they raised four children, seven years later, was a shock. He and his

wife had watched coverage of the Olympics before heading to bed around midnight that night.

"The strange thing was that smoke woke me, not the smoke detectors going off — and they were going off like great guns in the hallway outside the bedroom door (which was closed)," he said. "My wife is a light sleeper, but the smoke woke me up...she slept right through it."

"I opened the door to see what was going on and heavier smoke was coming up the stairs," he said. "I knew we'd have to escape off the balcony, there was no way we could go down the stairs."

As they huddled together on the balcony, they could see the fire on the other side of the house reflected in the spruce trees.

The bed sheet he tied to the balcony — if they were forced to make an escape —



"Rupert" Hawkins

Dear Rupert, I am urinating outside my litter tray, which is very unusual for me. My humans think that I am being naughty, but I can not help it. It's a bit sore and painful when I do a peepoo. Signed, Lulu, Siamese. Milton.




Dear Lulu, Get your folks to take you to your Veterinarian, where they will check to see if you have a bladder infection. My Mom (Dr Debbie) says that there could be many reasons for what she calls "inappropriate urination" but often it is a simple bladder infection. Could mean medicine though and a change of diet. So Lulu, Just tell your folks. Signed: Rupert

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