



MIKE CARROCCETTO POSTMEDIA NEWS

Firefighters battled for more than an hour to put out the fire in Alexandria, where a young mom and her two small children died. Her husband and a son both suffered extensive burns and are in the hospital.

House fires kill five yesterday

MOM, TWO KIDS TRAPPED IN ALEXANDRIA

Father saves infant by leaping from window; one man dies in Beauce, another in Toronto

POSTMEDIA NEWS

OTTAWA – Five people, including two children, died early Friday morning in house fires in Ontario and Quebec.

A young mother and her two children perished early Friday in a house fire in Alexandria, Ont., about 100 kilometres west of Montreal.

Her spouse and their third child, whom he saved by jumping out of a window, were rushed to hospital with serious injuries.

In Quebec's Beauce region, a man died in a house fire in St. Georges. And in Toronto, a man died after a one-alarm fire, which also left a woman seriously injured, broke out in an east-end Toronto home.

Ronald Desjardins said by phone from his Alexandria home Friday his son, 26-year-old Martin Desjardins, appears to have pushed an air conditioner out a window in his two-storey home after the fire broke out sometime around 2:30 a.m.

After jumping with his 19-month-old son, Maxime, Ronald Desjardins said Martin Desjardins was struck in the chest by the air conditioner.

Sarah Cholette, in her early 20s, died along with her 3-year-old daughter, Chloée, and 8-month-old son, Jacob, Ronald Desjardins said.

"She was a good person. A very strong, good mother," he said. "You couldn't even talk loud to her kids. 'I'm the mom, I take care of business here. I'm sure she must have fought like hell to get her kids out.'"

Martin Desjardins was transferred to a Toronto burn centre after first being rushed to Glengarry Memorial Hospital, then to Cornwall Community Hospital, said Ontario Provincial Police spokesperson Constable Pete Robertson.

The Alexandria Fire Department took between one and two hours to extinguish the fire, Robertson said.

Martin Desjardins suffered burns to about 20 per cent of his body, his father said. Young Maxime suffered burns to about half of his body and

was rushed to the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario.

In St. Georges, firefighters found the victim inside the residence. He was taken to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead shortly after.

The man has yet to be identified but could be the owner of the home, said Sgt. Richard Gagné, a spokesperson for the Sûreté du Québec.

The SQ is investigating.

In Toronto, fire officials received a call at 3:22 a.m. and arrived at a semi-detached home at 143 Bastedo Ave. in the Danforth and Coxwell area three minutes later.

"We found a man and a woman on the main floor, both with vital signs absent," said Capt. Mike Strapko, who spoke from the scene.

The 40-year-old man was pronounced dead at the scene and the woman, 39, was rushed to Toronto East General Hospital.

Witnesses were awakened by the sounds of sirens and told Postmedia News the residents of the houses beside the fire were forced to leave and wait outside on the sidewalk.

"There was a surge of flames that looked like it was coming from the back of the house," one neighbour said. "I saw them carry one person out and put him or her on a stretcher, and then they did CPR."

OTTAWA CITIZEN/NATIONAL POST

'Miracle baby' falls onto freeway

POSTMEDIA NEWS

A Surrey, B.C., baby who was ejected from a vehicle during an accident in Washington State Thursday has made a "remarkable recovery."

A nurse at the hospital and the child's mother both reported that the baby had improved steadily overnight following the accident.

Hira Khalid, 27, lost control of her vehicle, which flipped. The baby was thrown from the SUV without his car seat. Leary said the boy was flown to a hospital in Seattle with "significant head injuries."



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Reconnaissance, restitution et réconciliation

Lors des premières activités nationales d'internement au Canada en 1914-1920, des milliers d'hommes, de femmes et d'enfants ont été stigmatisés comme étant des « ennemis étrangers ». Plusieurs furent emprisonnés. Dépouillés du peu de richesses qu'ils possédaient, forcés d'effectuer des travaux difficiles dans l'arrière-pays du Canada, ils ont également été privés de leurs droits et soumis à d'autres censures sanctionnées par l'état – non pas à cause de quoique ce soit qu'ils avaient fait, mais uniquement à cause de l'endroit d'où ils venaient et de qui ils étaient.

En mai 2008, des représentants de la communauté ukrainienne du Canada ont conclu un accord avec le gouvernement du Canada qui a mené à la création d'un fonds de dotation pour financer des projets commémoratifs, éducatifs, académiques et culturels ayant pour but de rappeler à tous les Canadiens cet épisode dans l'histoire de notre pays.

Recognition, Restitution & Reconciliation

During Canada's first national internment operations of 1914-1920 thousands of men, women and children were branded as "enemy aliens." Many were imprisoned. Stripped of what little wealth they had, forced to do heavy labour in Canada's hinterlands, they were also disenfranchised and subjected to other state sanctioned censures – not because of anything they had done but only because of where they had come from, who they were.

In May 2008 representatives of the Ukrainian Canadian community reached an agreement with the Government of Canada providing for the creation of an endowment fund to support commemorative, educational, scholarly and cultural projects intended to remind all Canadians of this episode in our nation's history.

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