

7-alarm blaze razes store

Oct. 20, 2006. 02:03 PM

JOHN GODDARD AND NICK KYONKA

STAFF REPORTER

A rare seven-alarm call brought up to 170 firefighters to the scene near the corner of Queen and Sherbourne Sts. this morning to fight a fire at a paint store.

Flames were first reported at 2:30 a.m. and narrow laneways and low-hanging wires slowed the progress of firefighters throughout the early morning.

Police blocked roads within a several block radius of the blaze, disrupting early morning traffic, but things should be much better for the afternoon commute home.

A power outage along that portion of Queen St. meant streetcars had to be diverted south to King St.

"We're working hard to get things back to normal by rush hour," said TTC spokesperson Kevin Carrington at midday.

One firefighter fell from a ladder during a burst of flame, was taken to hospital and was soon back on the job, divisional fire chief David Sheen said.

No other injuries were reported and no cause of the fire has been determined, he said.

Residents evacuated from nearby buildings stood on the street to watch.

In an early morning interview as the fire still burned, Sheen watched water pour down through the partially collapsed roof of the three-storey building.

"It's hard to get at the fire under the debris," he said, but the fire was contained.

At one point, 45 fire trucks were on the scene at Ontario Paint and Wallpaper, 271-275 Queen St. E., a family business established in 1913.

TTC buses provided evacuees with a warm shelter for the night, though no one appeared to be sleeping.

"My fiancé woke me up (around 2:30 a.m.) and the fire trucks had already arrived at that point," said Robin Linley, who lives in one of the buildings attached to the paint store. "We left with just the clothes on our backs.

"We tried to go back in to get our wallets and other essentials and there was no way to get back into the building because of the



STEVE RUSSELL/TORONTO STAR

A seven-alarm blaze swept through a paintstore on Queen St.E. on Friday, Oct. 20, 2006.



STEVE RUSSELL/TORONTO STAR

Clouds of thick white smoke filled the air after a Queen St.E. paint store caught on fire Friday, Oct. 20, 2006.

6-alarm GTA fires

Oct 27, 2005: A fire obliterates the Bun King Bakery and Jeff's Dollar Town on Queen St. W. at Jameson Ave., sending huge plumes of acrid smoke above the west end and disrupting streetcar service.

March 30, 2005: At least 30 fire vehicles and 130 firefighters battle a six-alarm blaze at Dextx patio supply firm near Hwy. 427 and Finch Ave.

June 20, 2004: Three firefighters are injured in a fire that destroys the

volume of smoke. It's more than just an inconvenience to us, we're going to lose some valuable property here."

"I have asthma and it smells really bad and I shouldn't be in there," said Chrissy Foreman, who was evacuated from her home shortly after 4:30 a.m. "I can breathe better out here though than I could in the apartment."

Foreman said she was awoken by the commotion coming from behind her apartment, and evacuated shortly after finding her beloved cat, Sady.

"He's the whole world to me, I couldn't leave him behind," she said of the feline, nearby in his portable cage. "The police were knocking on our door telling us to get out."

Island Yacht Club Clubhouse on Toronto Island. A 13-year-old boy is later charged with arson.
March 27, 2001: The A.R. Clarke tannery on Eastern Ave - one of Toronto's oldest factories - is razed by fire right before it was to be turned into a film sound stage.
May 2, 2001: 180 units of a 245-home complex under construction at Dufferin St. and Lawrence Ave. W. are destroyed in a reported on CNN.
Oct 1, 1999: Fire demolishes a 99-year-old abattoir in the Christie Pits area. 27 fire department vehicles jammed the Bloor St.-Clinton Ave. area. 18 sheep died.
- Compiled by Victoria Kent
Source: Star files

Tag and Save

[Tag and save](#) this article to your Del.icio.us favourites.

[What is Del.icio.us?](#)

POWERED BY  del.icio.us

[Get great home delivery subscription deals here!](#)

[FAQs](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Webmaster](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [My Subscription](#) | [RSS Feeds](#) | [Webmaking Blog](#)

[Home](#) | [GTA](#) | [Business](#) | [Waymoresports](#) | [A&E](#) | [Life](#)

Legal Notice: Copyright Toronto Star Newspapers Limited. All rights reserved. Distribution, transmission or republication of any material from www.thestar.com is strictly prohibited without the prior written permission of Toronto Star Newspapers Limited. For information please contact us using our [webmaster form](#). www.thestar.com online since 1996.

