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Goderich August 21 2011 F3 Tornado  
Associated Files

Goderich Ontario August 21 2011 F3 Tornado

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8-23-2011

## Toronto Sun August 2011 Goderich Tornado

Dale Carruthers  
*QMI Agency*

John Miner  
*QMI Agency*

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TORONTO  
**SUN**

■ MONDAY, AUGUST 22, 2011

»» **SUE-ANN LEVY, PAGE 3**

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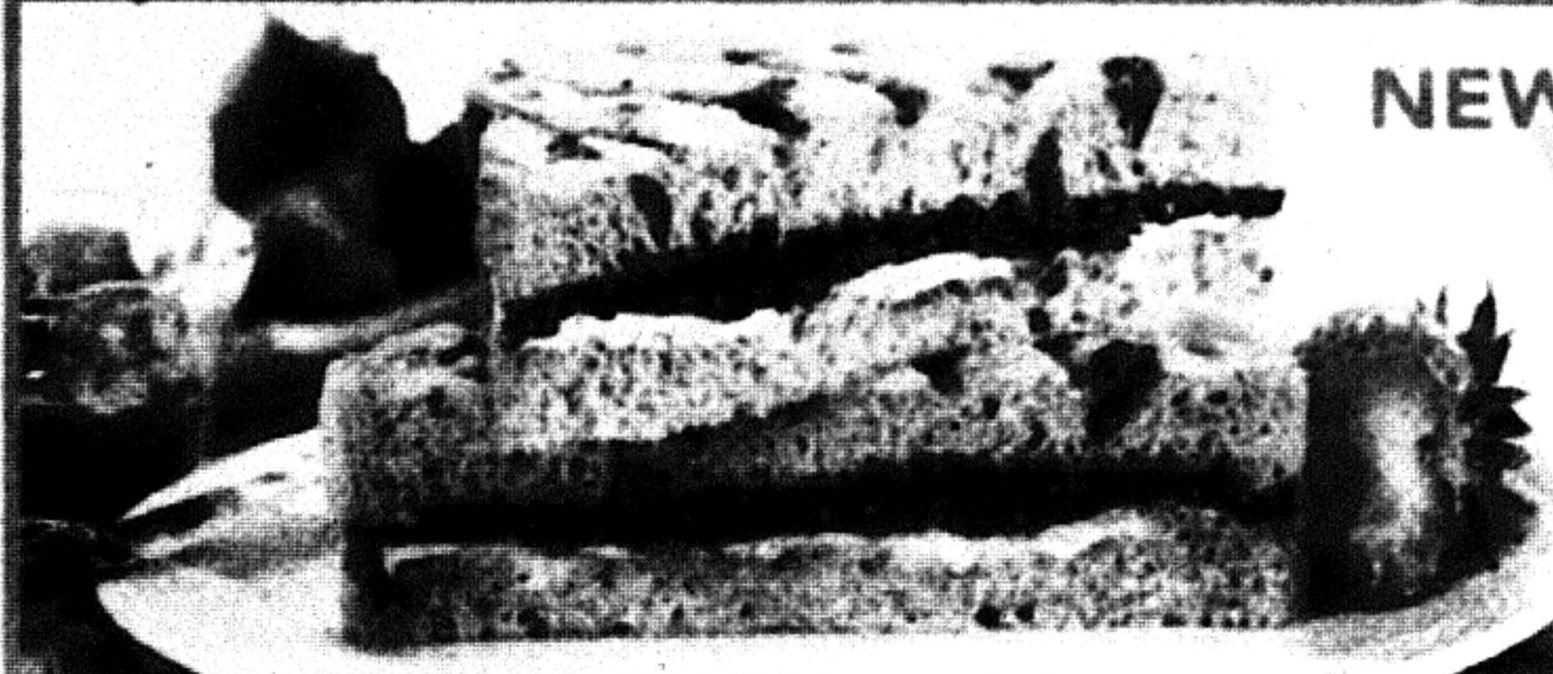
## Construction chaos

JACK BOLAND/TORONTO SUN

**Deadly tornado rips  
through Goderich**  
»» **PAGE 10**

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# 'Like an atomic bomb'

## Goderich declares state of emergency in wake of killer tornado

**DALE CARRUTHERS  
and JOHN MINER**  
QMI Agency

**GODERICH** — A powerful tornado that tore through here Sunday afternoon killed one person and injured 37 others, Ontario Provincial Police say.

The tornado, packing winds of up to 300 km an hour, roared through Goderich around 4 p.m.

As firefighters and police officers searched dozens of

damaged homes, businesses and plants, shocked residents dodged downed trees and power lines as they surveyed the damage in a place that bills itself as Canada's Prettiest Town.

"I've been with Environment Canada for 36 years ... this is the worst storm damage I've ever seen," Randy Mawson, a storm investigator with Environment Canada, said at a news conference Sunday night in Goderich.

OPP identified the person who died in the tornado as Norman Laberge, 61, of Lucan, Ont. He was working at the Sifto salt mine. The coroner is investigating Laberge's death, OPP said.

The Sifto complex was heavily damaged as the twister tore metal siding off the evaporator and scattered debris.

Wind damaged more than 100 buildings and push vehicles on their side.

The tornado is classified as an

F2 to F3. Two additional assessment teams from Environment Canada will be in Goderich on Monday to investigate damage and assess the tornado.

Goderich Mayor Deb Shewfelt declared a state of emergency.

People whose apartments or homes were damaged stayed in a hastily established shelter last night.

The twister caused heavy damage to several buildings near the historic square at the heart of Goderich.

The roofs of several buildings ringing the square were torn off, exposing rooms and walls. The green space around the courthouse at the centre of the square was covered with tree limbs and trees that had been ripped out of the ground.

"It's like an atomic bomb hit it," Greg Rau said.

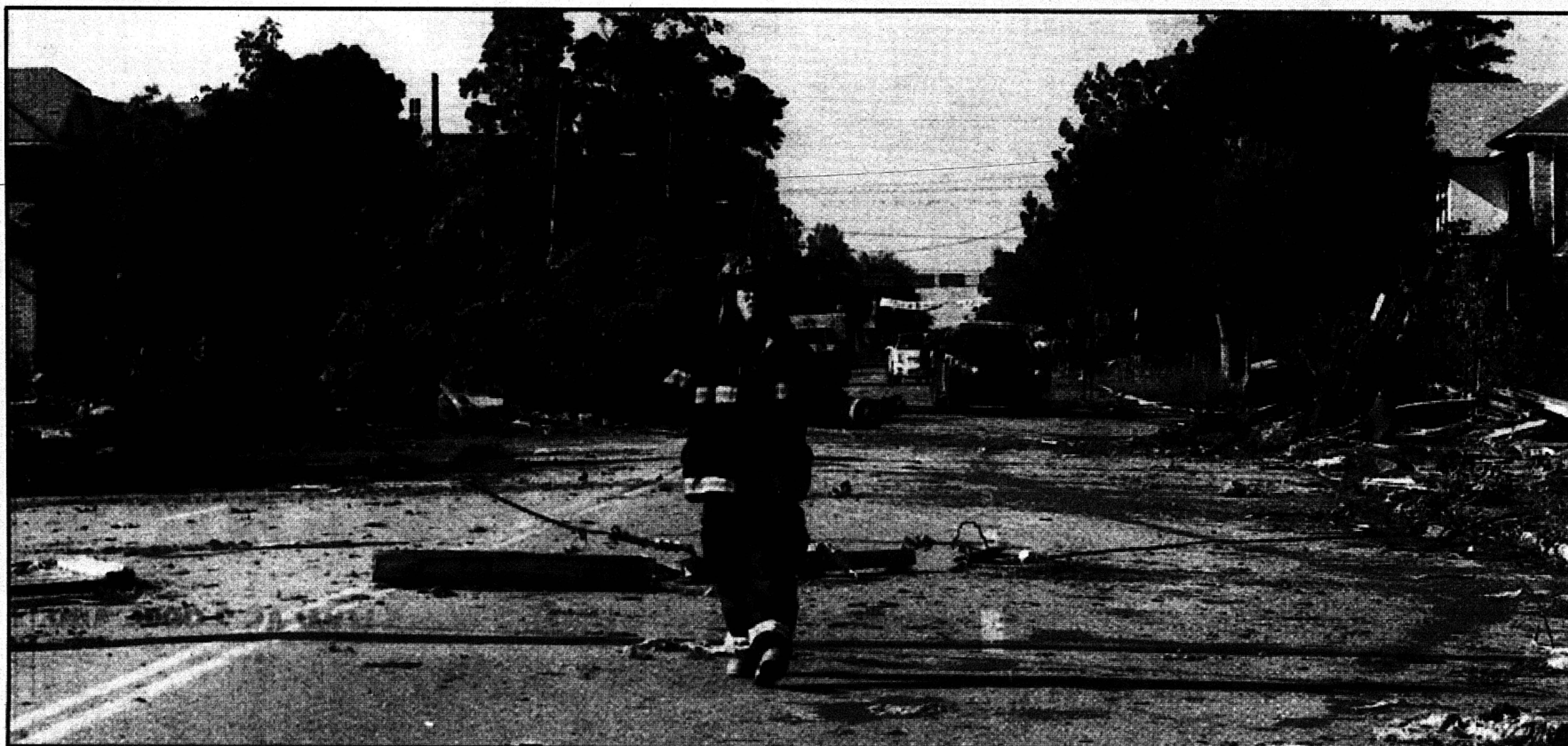
The powerful winds shattered windows in the courthouse so "you can see right through it," he said.

Damage was widespread throughout Goderich, a town of 8,000 on the shores of Lake Huron about 100 km north of London, Ont.

The twister left buildings without roofs, trees and utility poles toppled on houses and debris scattered on the ground and in trees.

Sarah Wong, an Environment Canada meteorologist, said the tornado was spawned by a fast-moving storm that moved in from Lake Huron.

— With files from Mashoka Maimona and Gerard Croces



DEREK HUTTON/QMI AGENCY

A firefighter gestures amid the destruction wrought by a tornado that ripped through Goderich yesterday afternoon. Top, parts of Goderich's historic downtown square were badly damaged by the twister, that hit around 4 p.m., blowing out windows and tearing the roofs off buildings.

## Storm takes a swipe at T.O.

**TERRY DAVIDSON**  
Toronto Sun

City workers determined two weeks ago that it was time to cut down the old, dead tree in Melissa Clarke's front yard on Oakdene Cres.

But Mother Nature beat the city to the punch on Sunday afternoon.

The tall, silver maple came crashing down during a thunderstorm that ripped through

Toronto and southwestern Ontario.

Clarke, who had noticed the force of the wind and the ominous darkness outside, was on her way to slam shut the windows of her home, when she heard a blood-curdling "crack."

She arrived at her front door in time to see the large tree come crashing down. "I was shaking," said Clarke, 40.

"My reaction was, holy

crap. I grabbed the phone and was going to call 911."

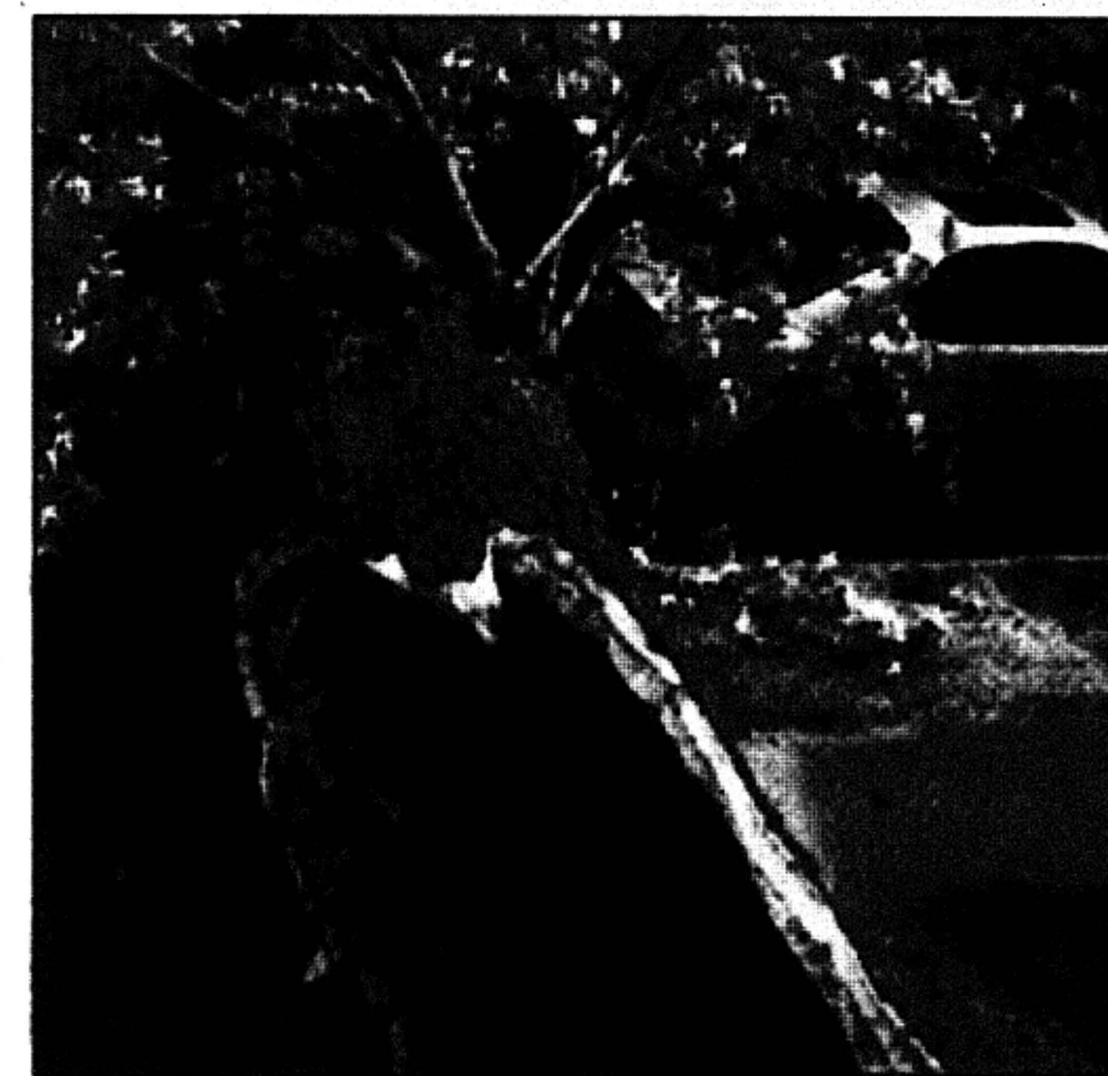
Soon, the flashing red lights of a fire engine and police car cut through the midday darkness the storm left behind, and yellow caution tape surrounded her front yard.

Heavy rain, strong winds, and even a sudden, short barrage of hail lashed the GTA around 2:30 pm, causing power outages, flooding

and knocking over trees.

Toronto Hydro reportedly fielded over 150 calls about lost power, and Environment Canada issued a thunderstorm watch. Despite Sunday's storm, Toronto's weather looks good for today and tomorrow, with the forecast calling temperatures in the low to mid-20s and a mix of sun and cloud.

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A tree lies across Melissa Clarke's driveway yesterday after a severe storm ripped through Toronto.

MELISSA CLARKE PHOTO



# Town mayor: 'We will recover'

## Goderich begins cleanup after killer tornado

CHIP MARTIN  
QMI Agency

GODERICH — Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty pledged \$5 million in disaster funding for tornado-struck Goderich and vowed to help make the Lake Huron town beautiful again.

And the mayor of the devastated town vowed that the town of 8,000 will rise from the disaster.

"We will recover," promised Mayor Deb Shewfelt, who has struggled emotionally with the destruction. "We will recover."

"Words are not enough to describe the destruction. It is unbelievable."

Following a brief tour of the town 24 hours after Sunday's tornado ripped into its core, McGuinty, with Shewfelt and MPP Carol Mitchell at his side, said the entire province is behind the town.

"I have never seen such

devastation," McGuinty said. "This is significant. It can be overwhelming ... but we will find a way forward together."

One man was killed and 37 people injured. Police said no one remains missing.

McGuinty said earlier in the day the Ontario cabinet approved the emergency funding which will allow the town to rebuild but also can be used to "top up" losses to homes and businesses that may not be fully covered by insurance.

"People of Goderich, you are not alone," he said, adding the sympathies and prayers of the 13 million Ontarians are behind the community.

"It's one of my favourite communities in terms of how beautiful it is," he said. "We should set ourselves a vision of fully restoring that beauty."

McGuinty praised the leadership of Shewfelt and emergency responders and work crews who came from across

the region.

"I am inspired," the premier told an army of reporters. "It is strange how a disaster brings the very best out in people."

As chainsaws hacked away at broken trees that littered the core area, city officials said water and sewage services are fine, but natural gas and electricity will take time to restore.

A few hundred residents unable to return to their homes were staying at an emergency shelter.

Shewfelt and town administrator Larry McCabe said many volunteers — from a Muslim group to 100 home builders in Stratford — have stepped forward.

Aside from striking at the town's heart, the tornado also heavily damaged the Sifto Salt mine where the lone fatality occurred.



CRAIG GLOVER/QMI AGENCY

An aerial photograph shows the destruction wrought by a tornado that hit Goderich Sunday.

chip.martin@sunmedia.ca

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## QUEEN'S PARK

# Jack Layton remembered as a mentor

JONATHAN JENKINS  
ANTONELLA ARTUSO  
QMI Agency

Tearful New Democratic Party staff at Queen's Park were shattered by the news of federal Leader Jack Layton's death early Monday.

"Today New Democrats lost a leader, a mentor and a friend," provincial Leader Andrea Horwath said in a statement.

"Jack Layton taught Canadians a new kind of politics. He inspired a generation of voters with his principles of compassion, fairness and equality."

Layton, whose deep Toronto roots made him a very familiar figure to politicians at Queen's Park, also kept close ties with the Ontario wing of the party.

And both Peter Tabuns and Michael Prue, long serving NDP MPPs, served in municipal politics alongside Layton.

"He set an example," Horwath said. "He brought us together. He spoke to all Canadians, in the cities, in the north, in the country and on the coasts. My heart goes out to Olivia, Mike, Sarah and all of Jack's family and friends."

"We'll miss you Jack."

Another politician who worked — and fought — with Layton over the years from both inside and outside the same party is former Ontario New Democrat premier, and now Interim federal Liberal Leader, Bob Rae.

Rae said he and Layton frequently disagreed but the arguments were never personal, nor bitter. "There were some New Democrats who when I ran for the Liberals wouldn't embrace my presence on a daily basis,"

« Jack Layton taught Canadians a new kind of politics. He inspired a generation of voters with his principles of compassion, fairness and equality. He set an example. »

— Ontario NDP Leader  
Andrea Horwath

Rae said. "Jack was not one of those people. Jack never took things personally, never saw things personally."

Rae said Layton's achievement in winning 103 seats in last federal election and breaking through to Quebec voters for the first time in his party's history was a testament to his "sheer persistence" and determination.

"The man came to mean a lot to Canadians — even Canadians who didn't vote for him," Rae said.

Premier Dalton McGuinty said he was saddened by Layton's passing and passed on condolences to his family on behalf of all Ontarians.

"Canada has lost a great Canadian," McGuinty said.

"Throughout his life and career, Jack was a determined servant of the people. He always worked hard to represent his constituents, their interests and their needs."

"He was always a tireless champion for people and our communities. Ontarians and indeed, all Canadians, will miss his passion, hard work and fighting spirit."

— MORE COVERAGE P6



Tornado-battered vehicles sit amongst debris in the town square in Goderich Monday.  
CRAIG GLOVER, QMI AGENCY

## Goderich begins picking up the pieces

CHIP MARTIN  
QMI Agency

Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty pledged \$5 million in disaster funding for tornado-struck Goderich and vowed to help make the Lake Huron town beautiful again.

And the mayor of the devastated town vowed that the town of 8,000 will rise from the disaster.

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Following a brief tour of the town 24 hours after Sunday's tornado ripped into its core, McGuinty, with Shewfelt and MPP Carol Mitchell at his side,

said the entire province is behind the town.

"I have never seen such devastation," McGuinty said, noting his 21 years in public life. One man was killed and 37 people injured. Police said no one remains missing.

McGuinty said earlier in the day the Ontario cabinet approved the emergency funding which will

allow the town to rebuild but also can be used to "top up" losses to homes and businesses that may not be fully covered by insurance.

A few hundred residents unable to return to their homes until officials say they are structural safe were being fed and tended to at an emergency shelter in the Knights of Columbus Hall in the south of town.



### FATAL CAR CRASH ON MAPLE LEAF PLAYER'S ETOBICOKE PROPERTY

**O ROYAL YORK & DUNDAS** An out-of-control airport limo veered off a roadway and crashed into the fence of the home owned by Maple Leaf Colby Armstrong early Monday. The 53-year-old man driving the Lincoln Town Car was killed in the 5:53 a.m. crash on Royal York Rd. north of Dundas St. Toronto Const. Tony Vella said the car was headed north on Royal York when the driver suffered a medical condition. Armstrong said he heard the terrific impact of the crash, but felt uncomfortable talking about the incident because the driver died. ROB LAMBERTI, QMI AGENCY

## Body identified as that of Racquel Junio

ROB LAMBERTI  
QMI Agency

A strong breeze blew scarves around a photo of murder victim Racquel Junio poised outside the store she worked.

A few shoppers stopped on Monday to look at the memorial located at a Talize and to honour the mother of two before entering the Steeles Ave. E. retail outlet.

The photo was part of a Sunday vigil that became a memorial after word was received that a body was recovered from a pond near Palgrave on Saturday.

An autopsy performed Monday confirmed the woman pulled out of the pond is Junio, Peel police said.

Junio, 42, was abducted last Thursday.

Taken from her Deerfield Cr. home, she was allegedly bound with tape and forced into a

pickup truck around 1:38 a.m.

Her estranged husband surrendered to police later that morning, and detectives also charged one of his friends in connection with the crime on Friday.

"Our staff broke down crying (Sunday)," store manager Pete Bellis said.

"Today, obviously everyone is a little sensitive."

Monday was also the day of a major sale at the store, and Bellis said plans are to set aside some of the proceeds for her children.

"Also, a number of the customers have asked me if we had a collection plate for her," he said.

Donation boxes were set up by the cashiers, Bellis said.

Junio's estranged husband Macdermid Ermacora, 43, and Gary Murray, 42, are charged with kidnapping, forcible confinement and assault.

### POLICE SEEKING VICTIMS OF ASSAULTS

**O CRIME** Police are looking for victims and witnesses after an irate man went on a violent rampage in Yorkville on the weekend. Toronto Const. Tony Vella said investigators are looking for a dog owner who's pet was allegedly kicked Saturday. He said a man left a Yorkville-area hotel and allegedly punched a 16-year-old girl who was walking with her dad. Vella said the assailant then attacked her father. After the father and his daughter were attacked, the man kicked a golden retriever in the rib cage. Vella said the dog's owner fled the scene, but detectives would like to speak with him. Jacob Kerzner, 22, is charged with six counts of assault, two of mischief and one of cruelty to an animal. Police urge anyone with information to call 416-808-5300. — QMI AGENCY



## TALES OF SURVIVAL



CRAG GLOVER/QMI AGENCY

Tornado survivor Lorenzo Macchiavello sits on the corner of his destroyed trailer in Maitland Falls Valley Campground near Goderich yesterday.

# Staging a comeback

## Goderich seeks millions to help rebuild after devastating tornado

DALE CARRUTHERS  
QMI Agency

**GODERICH** — As this town's citizens start picking up the pieces to rebuild their shattered lives, town politicians scrambled to secure funds to rebuild the tornado-torn community.

Council held an emergency meeting Tuesday to pass resolutions aimed at getting the provincial government to declare Goderich a disaster area. The move would allow the town to tap into much-needed disaster relief funding.

Although Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty already pledged \$5 million to the tornado-ravaged community, it will take much more to rebuild the town, Goderich

Mayor Deb Shewfelt said.

"Five million is really the carrot to create the fund," Shewfelt said. "I think it's going to take a lot of money to cover those incidentals that are not covered (by insurance)."

A seven-member committee — made up of individuals from the Goderich community — will be created to decide who gets money and who doesn't.

"They'll be mandated to administer the fund," said town administrator Larry McCabe. "They'll have some

tough decisions."

In addition to provincial funding, the town is seeking federal funding and money from private donors.

"The sky's the limit with what will be mandated ... it will certainly be much more than \$5 million," McCabe said.

On the street Tuesday, citizens did their part to begin repairing the battered town.

The sound of chainsaws and wood-chippers filled the air, while an army of people equipped with brooms and rakes took to the streets.

Up on roofs, workers toiled away, replacing the countless shingles stripped away by Sunday's 300 km/h winds.

Police concluded the search and rescue mission, declaring all persons accounted for.

The core remained a "no-go" zone, with police roadblocks set up to keep pedestrians and motorists out.

One person died and 37 were injured in the tornado.

Survivors described harrowing ordeals. Lorenzo Macchiavello, of London, and his family had been staying at a private camping area over-

looking the Maitland River. Macchiavello clung to a tree in a ravine as the vortex, just metres above his head, flung trailers off their moorings and ripped trees from their roots.

Then his sanctuary tree was also yanked from the ground, with Macchiavello and his son-in-law Shawn Larocque pinned beneath it.

"I've been through three earthquakes in Chile and now I've been in a tornado," a bruised and still-shaken Macchiavello said Tuesday.

"This was different — this scene was horror."

The tree fell on his right leg and on Larocque's torso.

Family members frantically pried open a storage shed and used a chainsaw to cut the men loose.

## Woman revived at Kew Beach

TOM GODFREY  
Toronto Sun

A Toronto woman is lucky to be alive after being plucked out of Kew Beach with no vital signs present Tuesday.

The 23-year-old Beaches woman was rescued from the popular Lake Ontario beach by lifeguards around 2:36 p.m., Toronto Police Const. Wendy Drummond said.

Drummond said emergency personnel were able to revive the woman and rush her to hospital.

"She was not breathing and CPR was commenced," Drummond said.

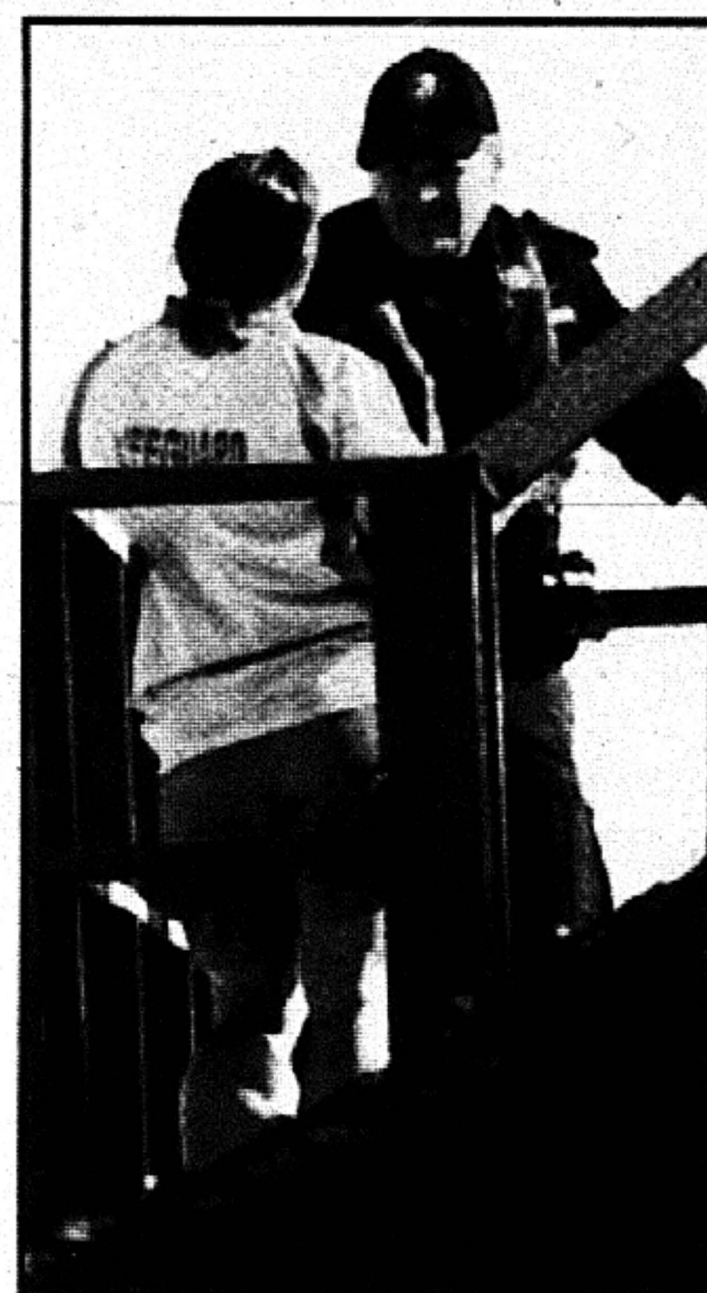
"The call was one of unknown trouble."

Members of a police Marine Unit were at the beach late Tuesday consoling lifeguards who helped to rescue the woman.

Emergency workers said the woman had a pulse and was breathing on her own by the time she arrived at hospital. She is expected to recover.

The beach was packed with sun-seekers at the time of the incident.

tom.godfrey@sunmedia.ca



JACK BOLAND / TORONTO SUN

A Toronto Police Marine Unit officer speaks with a lifeguard at Kew Beach yesterday following the water rescue of a woman.

**"I've been through three earthquakes in Chile and now I've been in a tornado. This was different — this scene was horror"**

Lorenzo Macchiavello





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Toronto Weather The Weather Network

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PICK 4: 1355

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# Twisters touch down

## Fierce storms race across southern Ontario

JONATHAN SHER  
QMI Agency

LONDON, Ont. — Four tornadoes were reported to have touched down in the London region last night as residents of already battered Goderich hid in basements.

Across southwestern Ontario, residents were on edge for much of the night as skies turned midnight dark hours early.

Tornado warnings were also issued for several other communities, including Toronto, Halton, Peel, York and Durham regions.

Residents near Wyoming, Kettle Point, Parkhill and Lucan reported seeing four tor-

nadoes touch ground.

The high winds and dark skies panicked residents in Goderich, where a category F3 tornado tore up that town's historic centre Sunday, killing one person and injuring many others.

One terrified Goderich resident said he fled to his basement around 7 p.m., fearing another twister.

There were additional reports of funnel clouds moving toward St. Marys, Thornedale, Woodstock.

Golf ball-sized hail fell and high wind swept through the region, part of a large storm front that stretch as far south as Missouri and Indiana.

Environment Canada's Geoff Coulson said the Goderich tornado Sunday played a role in the early notification of last night's storm.

Environment Canada brought in extra staff to monitor developments last night, Coulson said.

In Toronto, a line of heavy thunderstorms lashed the city last night, forcing the Canadian National Exhibition to close early, cancelling the Barry Manilow concert at York University's Rexall Centre, and postponing the Toronto FC game at BMO Field.

The Manilow show, part of the Black Creek Music Festival, has been rescheduled for Friday.

— With Toronto Sun files



JACK BOLAND / TORONTO SUN

Barry Manilow fans at Rexall Centre didn't see the legendary singer but were treated to a spectacular lightning show.



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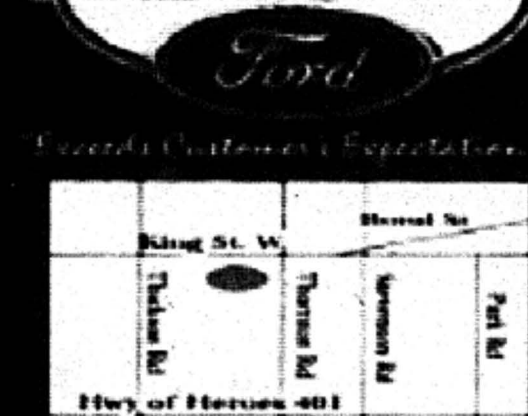
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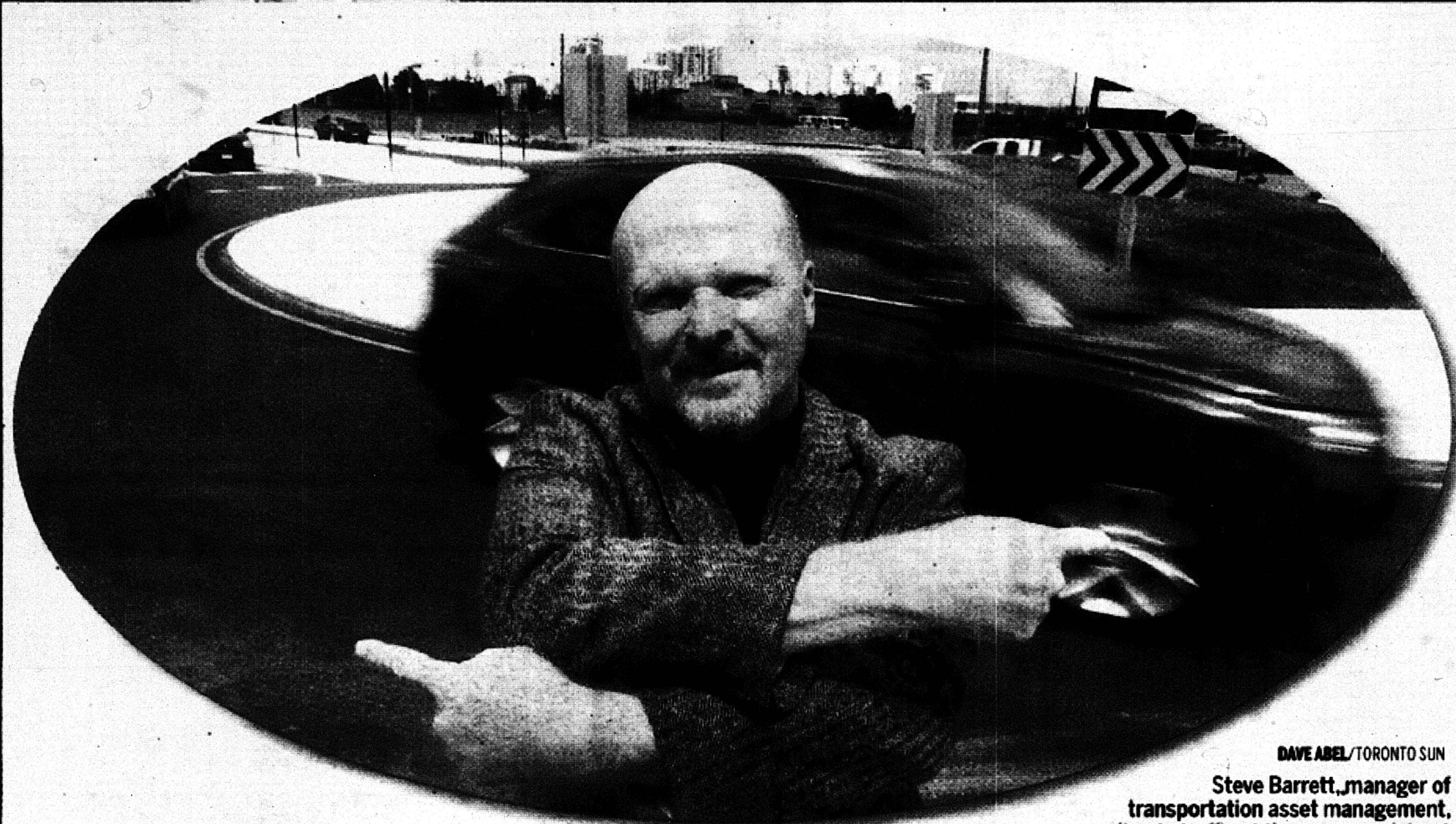
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## IT'S EASY AS PIE



DAVE ABEL/TORONTO SUN

Steve Barrett, manager of transportation asset management, directs traffic at the new roundabout on Duke of York Blvd. in Mississauga.

## Mississauga's new roundabout is a thing of beauty — just try it

If God were a traffic planner, he'd give us roundabouts.

All those pesky, out of sync traffic lights are the devil's work. In cahoots with the anti-car lobby.

Well, God has blessed Mississauga in many ways. Hazel McCallion, practically His contemporary, springs to mind.

Now the Big M has the GTA's first city-centre roundabout. Opened this week.

It's a thing of beauty.

Try it out, next time you're on Duke of York Blvd. north of Burnhamthorpe, at Square One.

If you've driven in Europe or a few places in Canada — especially Waterloo — you'll take to it like a kid on a ferris wheel.

I've spent many happy days driving in circles in England, Germany, Belgium and France. I recall fewer red lights in all of Ireland than you encounter venturing down University Ave. into the

bank district.

But if you've spent the last decade stuck at a red on Jarvis, the roundabout will take practice.

Really, it's easy as pie.

You slow, check for pedestrians, yield to traffic in the circle, enter the circle, take the desired exit and be on your merry way. You use only your right turn signal.

No long stops, no backups, no idling, no fumes, no fuming, no profanity, no flipping the bird, no heart palpitations.

You're a road shark, cruising slowly but surely, rarely stopping or bumping into the other road sharks.

Roundabouts are much more efficient than lights and they're safer — for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers. Speed is curbed. You only have to look one way. And any contact is a glancing blow, not a T-bone.

"Collisions and injuries drop by more than half in some studies," says Steve Bar-

rett, Mississauga's manager of transport asset management.

In the time it takes to say Steve's title, a city bus loops through the roundabout, snug as a bug. Imagine that monster idling at a red light for half a minute.

True, traffic signals are cheaper to install — \$200,000 compared to \$1 million, with less space and landscaping needed.

But there's no endless hydro bill for roundabouts. Not to mention the savings in man-hours, stress and pollution.

Roundabouts are also sexier. They're voluptuous. There's no wires or poles. A sculpture is planned for the centre mound at Mississauga's new gem.

Hazel's city has more on the way. "It's part of our downtown master plan," says Barrett. "The goal is to make the area more pedestrian and bicycle friendly — yet make driving easier."

Waterloo gets it. The region

is the roundabout capital of Canada, with a dozen.

Most of North America's 1,200 (and growing fast) roundabouts are in the States. But they're popping up across Canada, mostly in suburbia.

I had the pleasure of boomeranging around one in Halifax, enroute to Peggy's Cove. There's a couple in residential Ajax.

But they're still scarce, too scarce, in the GTA.

The only ones in Toronto proper that I can think of are small, phoney ones on side streets in North Toronto and High Park. They're more like speed bumps than real roundabouts.

Roundabouts ought to be automatic with any new subdivision, and eventually dot such major commuter routes as University Ave. and Kingston Rd.

Any artery with roomy intersections can be retrofitted — Lake Shore Blvd. is ideal.

Roundabouts may be a

learning curve for us, but they are, I hope, the future. Sure beats seeing red all day, as we do after years of city hall deliberating creating a hell on wheels.

Heaven help us. To file this column, I spent 35 minutes fighting Toronto's archaic traffic system — from Dundas Square to the Sun on King St. E.

What, 10 blocks?

Construction snarls, out-of-sync lights, under-used bike lanes. Blech.

I'd trade 'em all for one good roundabout.

Mike Strobel's column runs Wednesday to Friday, and Sunday.



See more on Strobel's love for roundabouts

[torontosun.com/roundabout](http://torontosun.com/roundabout)

## F1 tornado touched down near Burlington

The wild weather Wednesday night wasn't just thunder and lightning.

Environment Canada confirmed Thursday a tornado touched down between Cambridge and Burlington, with a damage track about 15-km long and as much as 300-metres wide.

The twister, which came on the heels of the devastating tornado that pulverized Goderich on Sunday, was categorized as an F1, which packs winds of between 120 and 170 km/h.

There were dozens of significant storm cells across Southern Ontario on Wednesday — as far west as Windsor, through London and up to Lake Ontario, Environment Canada's Geoff Coulson said.

The agency is following up on reports of damage through the northwestern part of Middlesex County.

## Roof torn off house

"It was definitely a tornado. Nothing else can do that," Chris Archambault said, pointing to the torn roof of his house near Ailsa Craig, the roots of a 15-metre-high tree with the trunk nowhere to be found, and his untouched, spotless car.

Jack Murray, 68, who works at Shady Pines Campgrounds just on the outskirts of Nairn, north of London, said, "There was an awful swirling in the skies, then a sound like an old freight train. It lasted all of about 20 seconds."

"One second all the trees are upright, the next second they've fallen to the ground."

"I've never been so scared in my life," said Marilyn McLeod, a London resident who frequents the park. "For a couple minutes there, I was definitely thinking — it's Goderich."

While the Goderich twister hit directly on the heels of an official warning on Sunday, Environment Canada was much quicker to issue alerts Wednesday, posting a tornado watch at 11 a.m. and upgrading that to a warning just after 6:30 p.m.

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