

Pubs reopen quickly after blasts

By PATRICIA YOUNG
MERCURY STAFF

LONDON

Panic followed by disciplined calm prevailed yesterday after a series of explosions rocked London, according to a Toronto man who was at the centre of the chaos.

Gary Stinson of Toronto was on the London underground yesterday morning heading to King's Cross station when he felt the shock waves from the explosion hit his subway car. Ironically he had just arrived in London from Edinburgh, Scotland, to

avoid the disruptions caused by the G-8 protests.

"The train stopped in the Caledonian station just before King's Cross, and as people are getting on and off we all feel this little cushion of air hit our heads," Stinson, 44, told the Mercury.

"I was a little behind schedule, and would have been in King's Cross when the blast happened if I hadn't been so tardy."

The London underground workers kept the passengers on the train, initially believing it was a power surge.

"But when we got up top, absolute

chaos. Lots of police and fire and helicopters. All the streets were being taped off and the police were very serious," Stinson, who was winding up a holiday in the United Kingdom, said.

"We didn't know what happened, so I walked to King's Cross. When I got there people were standing around not knowing what was happening. Most of them were getting their information by calling friends and family on their mobile phones."

Smoke began coming from ground vents that purge air from the underground and the crowds cleared. Some panicked — Stinson said he saw

French tourists dropping personal possessions as they fled.

But overall he was struck by how people in London reacted.

"Everyone knew it was a bombing but stayed remarkably calm," he said. "The (emergency) forces are so well prepared. London knows how to handle these type of events."

"It was back to normal in about an hour or 90 minutes. There was still a huge police presence, but there was a sense of order and what to do (in the crowd)," Stinson said.

"The pubs were about the first thing to open. God love the British."



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City	Weather	Temp	Time
Bancroft	tstorms	23/13	
Banff	p.cloudy	23/7	
Barrie	tstorms	22/15	
Calgary	p.cloudy	29/12	
Charlottetown	m.sunny	25/13	
Collingwood	tshowers	21/15	
Edmonton	p.cloudy	25/11	
Fredericton	p.cloudy	28/13	
Goderich	tshowers	21/16	
Halifax	p.cloudy	25/13	
Iqaluit	p.cloudy	11/3	
Jasper	p.sunny	19/8	
Kelowna	showers	23/11	
London	tstorms	25/16	
Montreal	p.sunny	27/17	
Muskoka	tstorms	24/14	
Ottawa	p.sunny	26/16	
Parry Sound	p.cloudy	24/15	
Peterburgh	tstorms	25/13	
Quebec C.	m.sunny	30/14	
Regina	p.cloudy	31/20	
Saskatoon	m.sunny	29/18	
St John's	m.sunny	20/11	
Sudbury	m.sunny	27/15	
Toronto	tstorms	25/18	
Vancouver	showers	18/13	
Victoria	p.sunny	18/12	
Whitehorse	p.cloudy	18/7	
Windsor	tshowers	25/17	
Winnipeg	tshowers	29/19	
Yellowknife	p.sunny	20/14	

WORLD Commercial Services 2005

City	Weather	Temp	Time
Amsterdam	rain	21	
Athens	sunny	39	
Bangkok	showers	32	
Beijing	p.cloudy	34	
Berlin	tstorms	22	
Bogota	rain	18	
Brussels	p.cloudy	22	
Budapest	sunny	26	
Cairo	p.sunny	35	
Caracas	p.sunny	30	
Dublin	cloudy	20	
Helsinki	p.cloudy	23	
Hong Kong	tstorms	33	
Istanbul	sunny	25	
Jerusalem	sunny	29	
Kiev	p.cloudy	26	
Lisbon	sunny	32	
London	p.cloudy	21	
Madrid	sunny	32	
Manila	p.cloudy	31	
Moscow	p.cloudy	22	
New Delhi	p.cloudy	39	
Oslo	p.cloudy	29	
Paris	showers	23	
Perth	sunny	17	
Rio	cloudy	20	
Rome	p.cloudy	26	
Santiago	sunny	19	
Seoul	showers	22	
Singapore	tshowers	33	
Stockholm	p.cloudy	27	
Sydney	rain	19	
Taipei	p.cloudy	34	
Tel Aviv	sunny	31	
Tokyo	rain	22	
Venna	rain	20	
Warsaw	p.sunny	26	

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New Moon	Aug 5

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Payday: 11, 29, 31, 44.



Worrying about his three sisters living in England, Patrick Case of Guelph watches news reports on television about bomb attacks in London yesterday.

Terror: Canadian spreads news with weblog

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

The blasts occurred between Aldgate East and Liverpool Street tube stations; between Russell Square and King's Cross tube stations; at Edgware Road tube station; and on a bus at Tavistock Square.

At home, Kevin was letting friends and family know what was happening through his Internet blog.

He was also tuning into the BBC news to watch the chaotic streets of London.

"I was affected by the face of it," he said. "The bomb on the bus was disturbing with the ripped off roof on the ground. These are double-decker buses we take all the time, so it hits home."

A group calling itself The Secret Organization of al-Qaida in Europe posted a claim of responsibility, saying the blasts were in retaliation for Britain's involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The statement also threatened attacks in Italy and Denmark.

It was published on a website popular with Islamic militants, according to Elaph, a secular Arabic-language news website, and Der Spiegel magazine in Berlin.

The authenticity of the statement could not be immediately confirmed, but terrorism experts said the co-ordinated explosions had the trademarks of the al-Qaida network.

In Guelph, 55-year-old Patrick Case

spent the day in knots worrying about his three sisters living in England. Two are nurses who commute to work in central London.

"It's so incomprehensible that my family over there are working people and it's working people that are suffering," said the University of Guelph's human rights and equity director. "Who else takes the train? I find it so terrifying."

The Yorkshire native, who came to Canada in 1968, was optimistic that his sisters weren't among the many casualties.

But as he monitored the news over the Internet, his concern grew.

"Oh my goodness," he said, noting

the death toll mounting.

Yesterday, British native and Guelph biomedical sciences professor Jeff Thomason, 51, was taken back to his 20s when London was under turmoil from Irish Republican Army bombings. He described several of those as random acts of terror.

"All it does is strengthen the resolve of people on the receiving end..."

"Wherever you were in the country, you were nervous," he remembered. "If somebody left a backpack behind, you alerted somebody right away."

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• with files from Canadian Press

Negotiations avoid TO garbage strike, deadline extended

TORONTO

A last-minute deadline extension means Torontonians won't find themselves up to their noses in garbage before Saturday as negotiations continue between the city and its outside workers.

"We would either have a deal on Saturday or we'll walk out," Canadian Union of Public Employees spokesman Robert Lamoureux said last night.

The union announced late yesterday it is willing to give the city more

time to consider its latest offer, extending the strike deadline from 12:01 a.m. Friday to noon Saturday.

"It seems to us it would be irresponsible to take our members out on the street without even seeing what the city has," CUPE Local 416 President Brian Cochrane told a news conference.

Cochrane said although he was frustrated with the progress of talks, the extended deadline should provide a cooling down period for both sides.

"Tempers are flaring, but we think that we owe it to ourselves, to our members and to the residents of Toronto to let that temperature cool," he said.

A strike would send 6,000 of the city's trash collectors, paramedics, pool maintenance workers, heavy equipment operators and other outside workers to the picket lines. The union promised workers would remain on the job as the new deadline approaches.

"All of our employees have been in-

formed that they will be heading to work on Friday — for at least one more day," said Lamoureux.

Cochrane said the two sides still faced several hurdles, including the issues of employment security and contracting out. Earlier yesterday, Toronto Mayor David Miller expressed optimism in the direction of the negotiations and added that many issues had been resolved.

• Canadian Press

LOCAL BRIEFS

GUELPH

City to take over arena

The Guelph Sports and Entertainment Centre is to be owned, operated and managed by City Hall, the city says.

Interim city administrator Gus Stahlmann says in a release the city and the complex's owners are "diligently working toward an orderly transition."

The Mercury reported June 21 that Nustadia Developments Inc. is pulling out of the centre.

GUELPH

Police call for witnesses

Police are looking for witnesses to a two-vehicle crash yesterday that slightly injured both drivers.

The accident occurred at 3:05 p.m. at the corner of Eramosa and Victoria roads. Police say a white van southbound on Victoria and a white compact car eastbound on Eramosa collided.

No further details were available at press time. Police are asking witnesses to contact traffic Const. Chris McCormick, at 824-1212, ext. 7212.

• Mercury staff

Gas leak: Some enjoyed break from the workday

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He had been forced to keep his brown and black cat, Razelle, in a green Tupperware container with air holes since he didn't have a carrier for her.

Keeley said he was just happy his animals were safe and none of them had made any fuss. "The hamster pretty much slept through it," he said, grinning.

People were allowed back into their homes and businesses around 10 a.m. while Union Gas workers continued to monitor the area and work on the broken gas line.

By 5:30 p.m., the line was fixed and Union Gas officials were trying to get into nearby houses to turn the gas back on.

Most of the people forced to leave weren't as inconvenienced as Keeley.

Many of the employees working in the plazas near the intersection of Paisley and Norfolk streets took their evacuations as a chance to enjoy the sunshine.

Jayson Shute, 34, who works at the Stone Store, a natural food outlet, said there were about six employees working when the fire department arrived.

"They told us immediately it was a gas leak," Shute said with a smile. "So we all went downtown and to have a coffee. It was a lovely break."



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