

**QUICK TIPS** Cabbies, a group of drivers very vulnerable to a gas shortage, are "networking on their cellphones" to alert one another about stations to avoid.

Torstar News Service



**A CANADIAN TAXICAB** Association official said drivers are noticing that gas station closings occur "in clusters" around the city.

Torstar News Service



# TORONTO

## Gangs being run out of town

### Windsor police say gangs driven into surrounding cities

Windsor police Chief Glenn Stannard says the arrest of an alleged gang member in his border city last month is an example of Toronto driving its bad guys out of town and into other cities across the province.

"Toronto and (police) Chief (Bill) Blair have done a great job in turning up the pressure on issues of guns, gangs and violence. But when they pushed the bubble ... it pushed some of the people out," Stannard said yesterday, echoing comments made a day earlier by Peterborough police Chief Terry McLaren.

Last month, Windsor po-

lice charged Kevin Bingham, 34, alleged to be a member of The Gatorz, a street gang that deals in guns and drugs, the Windsor Star reported. A two-foot small alligator, which police said was a symbol of the gang, was seized along with crack cocaine from a house with the inside painted green — another sign of gang affiliation.

Windsor police contacted

Toronto counterparts and established the link and have identified four street gangs "with connections to Toronto." While Stannard said that a jump in firearm-related crimes in the community of 220,000 might relate to the Toronto influx, it would be unfair to blame the Ontario capital for "all of Windsor's problems."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

## Toughen laws to save the greenbelt, watchdogs warn

The greenbelt that's intended to curb sprawl and preserve natural areas in the Golden Horseshoe won't survive unless the province gets much tougher about protecting it, says a report to be released today.

Development is already slated for at least one part of the 720,000-hectare band of farmland, forests and meadows that stretches from Nia-

gara Falls to Peterborough. And much of the rest is threatened by expansion of highways, water and sewer pipes, gravel pits, as well as residential projects, says the report by the Ontario Greenbelt Alliance, a coalition of 80 watchdog groups.

The public loves this jewel of southern Ontario — it got 89 per cent support in a recent poll.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

## Parents go public with sick son

A Toronto couple is taking their quest for medical treatment that could help their preschool-age son who can't speak, eat or sit up on his own to an American television show.

Jacob Trossman has a rare degenerative neurological disease that has no cure — let alone any proven treatment. But thanks to his parents' diligence, U.S. researchers are examining a new drug that's shown promise in treating Pelizaeus-Merzbacher disease in lab mice.

By combing through medical journals and scouring the Internet, Jacob's parents came upon the drug, which they presented to researchers. Jacob's parents have gone public with their plight to generate awareness of the disease and Canadian support so they could eventually gain access to the drug on compassionate grounds. Jacob's story is scheduled to air on ABC Niteline tonight.

CANADIAN PRESS



RIK ELLIOTT/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Yesterday, 17 new police cars patrolled Toronto streets — including one in each division — with a modernized, more visible look that includes numerous reflective markings and the word "POLICE" in large letters.

## First of new cruisers prowl the streets

They don't have the retro look of the black-and-white OPP patrol cars expected to soon hit the streets, but Toronto cruisers have a new look of their own.

One leading safety expert says Toronto's design is much safer than the black-

and-white cars.

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"This is a very positive

move," said Stephen Solomon, an Oswego, N.Y., optometrist who has studied visibility and emergency vehicle safety for 40 years.

"Comparing this to a black-and-white, this is, in my mind, a safer vehicle," said Solomon.

The service will continue to use the same make of vehicle, the Ford Crown Victoria. It is expected to take three years before all 300 marked cruisers sport the new design, said Toronto police spokesperson Mark Pugash said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

## Woman's condition critical after crash

**COLLISION** A 25-year-old woman was taken to hospital in critical condition after being pulled from her vehicle following a collision near Milton. Members of the Burlington Fire Department had to extricate the woman from the wreckage. Because the weather prevented an air ambulance from landing, she was taken to hospital by ground ambulance.

## Police search for lone bank bandit

**CRIME** York Region police are investigating a Richmond Hill bank robbery pulled off by a lone bandit in a baseball cap over the lunch hour Monday.

Police were called to the CIBC branch at 650 Major Mackenzie Drive near Bayview Avenue shortly after noon Monday for reports of the robbery.

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**TOMORROW**  
in Metro

The FOOD section checks out eating healthy on the run, including smoothies

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