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The Record.com

Wynne's Liberals battered in races

Ruling party loses two seats to NDP, one to Conservatives out of five hotly contested byelections

The Canadian Press

TORONTO — Ontario's Progressive Conservatives scored their first win in a Toronto riding in more than a decade, while the

New Democrats took two other seats in Windsor and London from the governing Liberals.

But the minority government will hang on to two of the five seats it had on the line

Thursday in the five provincial byelections: Scarborough-Guildwood and former premier Dalton McGuinty's old riding of Ottawa South. McGuinty's former assistant, John Fraser, held on to the seat despite a

tough race with Tory Matt Young.

It was a close three-way race in Scarborough.

► Seats continued on page A3

Neighbours raise new barn for family devastated by deadly fire



PETER LEE, RECORD STAFF

Lester Bearinger (left), 13, and Norman Weber, 16, install the railings for cattle stalls in the new barn being built for Laverne and Marlene Martin. The couple lost their eldest son and much of their livelihood, including their barn and some cattle, in a fire near St. Jacobs on July 12.

Community reaches out to couple who have lost their son, barn and cattle

Linda Givetash, Record staff

ST. JACOBS — Only three weeks since a tragic fire at a family farm left nothing but ash and rubble, a new barn has taken shape on the property, thanks to many helping hands.

The fire that started in a dairy barn at 1636 Lobsinger Line on the evening of July 12 consumed the barn, some cattle and killed two-year-old Steven Martin. The cause of the blaze was unclear and the boy's body was never found.

Community support for parents Laverne and Marlene Martin — who lost their eldest

son and much of their livelihood in the blaze — has been overwhelming.

Members of the Old Order Mennonite community, of which the family is a part, and area residents offered help, from searching for the toddler the night of the fire to the ongoing barn raising.

George Martin, a neighbour of the family, said he was among the many people who arrived at the fire, helping herd cattle and search the property. He is also one of five members of a committee selected by Laverne Martin to lead in organizing the barn reconstruction.

"We'll get phone calls (asking), 'What's happening?' or 'What do we bring?'" George Martin said of the outpouring of community support for the couple.

"It's not cut and dry to church members; all the neighbours are helping."

The cleanup of the site began on July 18, a day after the boy's funeral.

Because his remains were believed to be lost in the blaze, volunteers took a different approach in clearing the rubble, George Martin said.

► Barn continued on page A2

Over seven years, 246 police crashes

An average of 35 police collisions per year: records

Jeff Outhit, Record staff

WATERLOO REGION — Waterloo Regional Police officers spend a lot of time on the road and a cruiser crashes about every 10 days on our busiest local roads, on average.

Most police collisions are minor and no one is hurt. But traffic records for regional roads show an average of nine people injured per year in collisions involving police.

Police drivers account for half the injured. Other injured are presumably civilians, although traffic records don't state this.

Officers make driving mistakes in one-third of police crashes. The most common police driving mistakes are losing control and following too closely.

"Frankly in a perfect world, we'd prefer to have zero collisions," Insp. Doug Sheppard said. "But it's a fact of life that things happen."

"We have over 100 cruisers and those are on the road every day of the week, seven days, 24/7. Frankly, it's a very low frequency of accidents."

Sheppard is the commander who oversees the training branch for regional police. This includes driver training. "We do look extremely closely at every police vehicle collision that takes place," he said.

An officer who commits a driving mistake may get more training. The force has one officer dedicated to driver training and can also call on a second training officer.

The Record examined local police crashes after Guelph Police Service Const. Jennifer Kovach was killed in March when she lost control of her cruiser and crashed into a Guelph Transit bus. She was not wearing a seatbelt.

An investigation made public Wednesday blamed speed and ice.

No one else was injured.

► Crashes continued on A5

INSIDE

Cold comfort

Swimmer says he's ready for icy challenge of Lake Ontario
| Local, B1

Right fit for Rangers

Former NHL defenceman brings pro experience to Rangers staff
| Sports, C1

Setting sail

Tall ships sail into Owen Sound for a War of 1812 tour | Arts & Life, E1



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Proposed school near planned roundabout worries Kitchener officials

Jeff Outhit, Record staff

KITCHENER — Is it safe to build an elementary school near a busy roundabout that schoolchildren must cross?

A regional traffic engineer says yes. But city hall planners worry

about a school proposed near Fairway Road and Lackner Boulevard, where a roundabout is planned for 2017.

"We have an interest in safe walking environments for anyone, including children walking to school," said Brandon Sloan,

manager of long-range planning with the City of Kitchener.

The Waterloo Region District School Board has \$12 million to build its Chicopee Hills Public School on seven vacant hectares it purchased in southeast Kitchener for \$7.5 million.

Opinion

Roundabouts, small children don't mix, Luisa D'Amato says
| Local, B1

The 650-student school is proposed to open in 2015. A nearby public school is full, some children are being bused outside the area, and parents are pressing for a school their children can walk to.

► School continued on A2

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On the web



Mourning Sammy

An 18-year-old man who died after being shot by Toronto police over the weekend has been laid to rest. Family and friends of Sammy Yatim attended his funeral Thursday. Go to Videos.

Quote of the day

"If you think you can do a thing or think you can't do a thing, you're right."
Henry Ford

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By Dave Green

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Difficulty Level ★★☆☆

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Previous solution

4	7	1	2	5	9	8	6	3
2	6	9	3	8	1	7	5	4
8	3	5	4	7	6	1	9	2
1	8	3	6	4	5	2	7	9
9	4	2	8	3	7	6	1	5
6	5	7	9	1	2	4	3	8
3	9	6	7	2	4	5	8	1
5	2	8	1	6	3	9	4	7
7	1	4	5	9	8	3	2	6

Difficulty Level ★★☆☆

How to play

The object is to place the numbers 1 through 9 in empty squares so that each column, row and 3x3 box contains each number only once. The difficulty level of Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Remains of barn buried on property

► **Barn** continued from A1

Rather than sifting through the materials for composting or recycling, a hole was dug in a slope adjacent to where the barn stood and much of the rubble was bulldozed into the spot and buried.

Only some concrete rubble was saved. Between 50 and 100 volunteers, along with six to 10 hired contractors, work at the farm daily to help build the new barn. George Martin said there could easily be 1,000 volunteers at the site daily if there was enough work to go around.

The contractors were initially hired for another area project, but the farmer employing them offered to hold off on the project and have them help the family instead.

Local residents not participating in the heavy labour have found other ways to help, too. People from Woolwich Township and neighbouring communities have donated bales of hay, building supplies and food for the family and volunteers.

"It just amazes you. Yesterday, a fellow offered a lot of hay and we couldn't even use all that hay so he said, 'Sell it, take the proceeds,'" George Martin said.

"The freezers are full and the basement (of their house) is full of food."

Even local businesses have offered support. Bast Tire and Auto Service, located across the road from the family farm, offered free tire servicing for any damage volunteers and workers incurred to their vehicles while clearing and constructing the barn, George Martin said.

The barn is expected to be ready to hold cattle by next Thursday and the finishing touches will be completed soon after.

Having spent his entire life in the region, George Martin, 65, has seen several instances of the community rising up to support victims of a fire. But in all the fires he could recall, there was never an instance of human loss of life.

Standing only steps away from two trees



PETER LEE, RECORD STAFF

Many hands were involved in the rebuilding of the barn at 1636 Lobsinger Line in St. Jacobs after a fire destroyed much of Laverne and Marlene Martin's livelihood and is believed to have killed their oldest son Steven.

under which Steven was last seen playing, George Martin said he believes the boy's curiosity is the only explanation as to why he would have run into the barn just as the fire started.

"I think it was because the child was fascinated or something," George Martin said. The fire spread quickly, likely trapping him inside, George Martin said. The smoke was so thick it would have disoriented even an adult, he said.

Since that day, George Martin said Laverne and Marlene Martin are at least outwardly coping well with their grief. Once the commotion of the construction ends, he added, they will be able to focus more on their grief.

"I've experienced that myself, losing a child, and it will take time," he said.

Throughout the ordeal, the young parents have been surrounded by members of their church and an extensive network of

friends and family.

The busy scene of work underway at the barn Thursday morning exhibited the immense community support the couple has. Dozens of men hammered and sawed at the base of the new barn as women helped prepare donated food for lunch.

"They were never alone after it happened," George Martin said.

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Council must approve rezoning for school

► **School** continued from A1

However, city planners now question the location, concerned about children crossing at a roundabout, and say the school site is better suited for residences and businesses.

The school board counters that it has no where else to put a school, and that it can meet city goals by partnering with a developer to put residences and jobs beside the school, on surplus land it intends to sell off.

Steve van De Keere, regional head of transportation expansion, argues schoolchildren can cross a roundabout safely at Fairway Road. He expects there will be a crossing guard to help them.

"Traffic's going slower," he said. "There will be no high-speed collisions."

Dennis Cuomo, manager of planning for the public school board, anticipates "that we should be able to establish some safe crossing points."

He has seen elementary schools coexist safely with roundabouts, but says those circles were not as

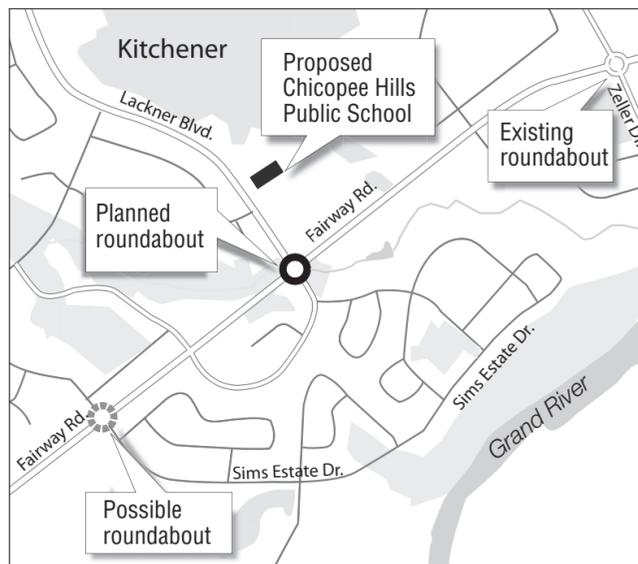
busy as the planned roundabout.

Kitchener council must approve the planned school because it's not permitted where proposed. The school board is preparing a rezoning application that's expected to be made public this fall.

There are temporary traffic signals at Fairway Road and Lackner Boulevard. The intersection saw almost 13,000 vehicles a day in 2011, a middling traffic volume for a regional road. Traffic is increasing after Fairway was extended over the Grand River into Cambridge last year.

Regional government plans to spend \$1.7 million to convert the intersection to a roundabout, but is considering delaying conversion past 2017. Traffic engineers will review student volumes and discuss safety with school planners and the public before council is asked to approve a roundabout, van De Keere said.

Fairway Road North could become a roundabout corridor. There are roundabouts on Fairway Road today at Zeller Drive and Kossuth Road in Cambridge. Planners are considering a roundabout



DIANE SHANTZ, RECORD STAFF

at Fairway Road and Sims Estate Drive.

While residents generally support roundabouts, they tend to favour them less near schools, according to a scientific opinion

poll conducted for The Record.

There are roundabouts near three high schools in Kitchener and Waterloo.

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CORRECTION

Re: Speed and ice key factors in officer's fatal crash

A Guelph Police Service investigation found Const. Jennifer's Kovach's cruiser was travelling at 115 kilometres per hour at a curved portion of Imperial Road where the "critical curve speed" was 116 km/h. Incorrect information was published in a story in Thursday's edition of The Record.

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