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THE TORONTO STAR

Snow up to 25 cm. High -8C.

Friday, January 15, 1999

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Storm Edition

Storm wallop No. 3 leaves a ghost town

**Soldiers help
city dig out
on morning after
another snowfall**

BY NICOLAAS VAN RIJN
AND JIM RANKIN
STAFF REPORTERS

Toronto is a virtual ghost town today, all but shut down by the third major winter storm to wallop southern Ontario in a 14-day period.

For the first time in recent memory, the Canadian military has been called in to help the economic heart of the country dig out from a business-busting dump of snow.

Mayor Mel Lastman vowed to keep Toronto open for business, even though the storm prompted hundreds of businesses to scale back operations today — or close up

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completely — and forced education officials to keep all of Toronto's public and Catholic schools closed.

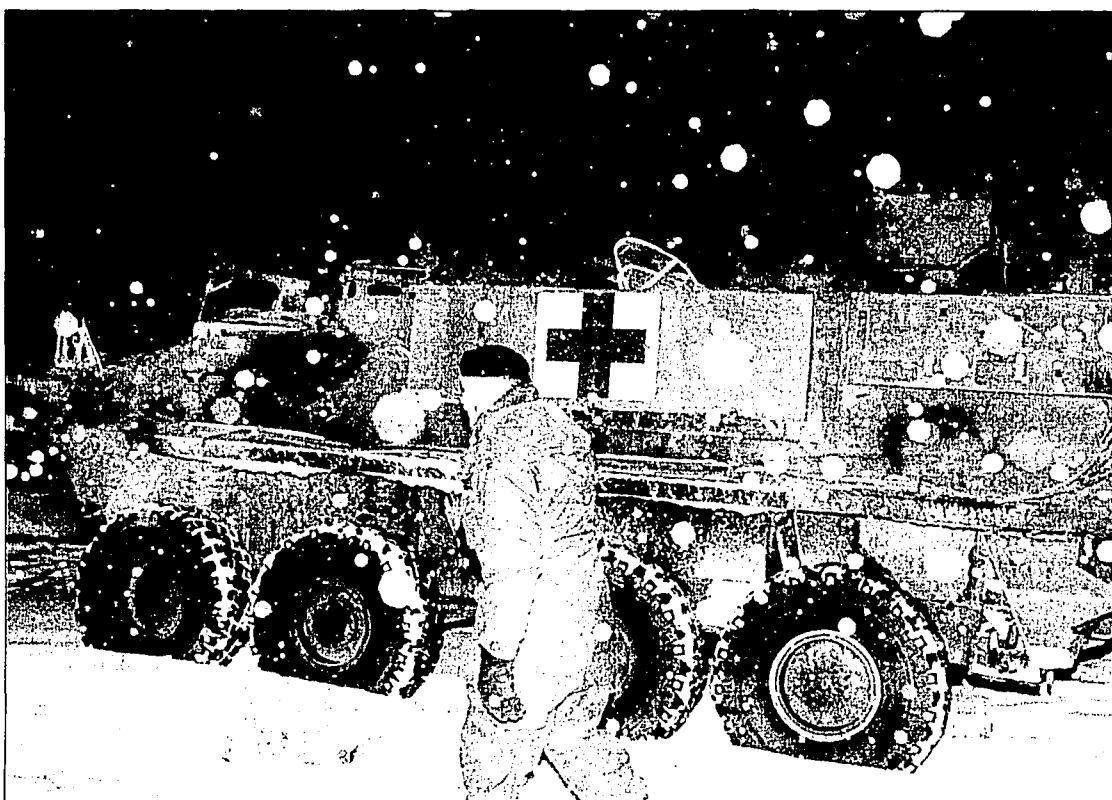
With no alternate provision for day care, that left thousands of parents with no alternative but to stay home to look after their children. They are expected to be joined by hundreds of thousands of others who decided not to leave home today to work, shop or meet a friend for lunch.

That left the city's downtown core strangely deserted, but far from silent.

From east to west, north to south, the air this morning is alive with the scraping sounds of snowplows, the roar of snowblowers and the clang of snow shovels as residents, aided by some 550 soldiers, struggle to come out from under past accumulations and some 25 centimetres — nearly 10 inches — of snow that was expected from the latest storm to sweep up from the United States.

And we can look forward to more snow tomorrow, Monday and Tuesday, forecasters

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COLIN MCCONNELL/TORONTO STAR

HELPING HAND: Sgt. Tom Smith of the Royal Canadian Dragoons guides an all-terrain Bison to the fire station at Sherbourne and Bloor Sts. yesterday. The military will help Toronto dig out.

Homeless huddle for warmth as new report seeks answers

BY D'ARCY DORAN
STAFF REPORTER

As Toronto's homeless scrambled yesterday to survive winter's most dangerous storm, city hall released a report on how to improve their lives.

With the storm raging outside, activists tried to brief the homeless huddled inside All Saints Anglican Church, at Dundas and Sherbourne Sts., on the results of the Homelessness Action Task Force report, chaired by Anne Golden.

But for most, the immediate priority was finding a warm place to spend last night. The Toronto Board of Health extended its extreme

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cold weather alert to this morning, warning people not to stay outdoors for longer than five minutes.

Sue Collis, an organizer for the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty, spoke briefly about the report and passed out flyers for a demonstration in Ottawa Feb. 9 and 10 to pressure the federal government to take action on Toronto's housing problem.

The money and energy that went into the report's 291 pages could have been put to better use on the front lines

helping the city's homeless, Collis said.

"People are tired of being studied," she said.

"The recommendation for 5,000 units of housing is way too little, way too late."

Mayor Mel Lastman vowed yesterday to "fast track" the report, which included 105 recommendations, through various city departments within 60 days.

The report calls for the province to establish a shelter allowance for low income tenants and to build 5,000 new supportive housing units within the next five years in Toronto.

Almost all the people at the afternoon drop-in were obli-

vious to the report, but had suggestions of their own.

Wayne, a 27-year-old homeless man, who came to Toronto from New Brunswick last September, agreed with the report's emphasis on the need to create affordable housing.

"It's my dream to have a home in the big city," he said, sitting on one of the church pews. "But right now you can barely get a room in the city for \$500, unless you want to live in a damn rat's nest."

Every day, on his walk to his favourite panhandling corner at Carlton and Yonge Sts., Wayne said he passes

■ Please see Homeless, A9



PAUL MARTIN: Minister taking a gradual approach to tax cuts.

Federal surtax on high earners to stay

**Martin to retain
deficit-fighting
5 per cent charge**

BY WILLIAM WALKER
OTTAWA BUREAU CHIEF

OTTAWA — Finance Minister Paul Martin has ruled out removing a 5 per cent income tax surtax for about 1 million Canadians who earn more than \$65,000 a year.

The decision will be announced in Martin's federal budget, due next month.

The surtax was created to help fight the deficit and it will remain in place despite an estimated \$10 billion surplus this year.

Those earning more than \$65,000 will continue to pay the surtax, in part, to allow the Liberal government more room to make a major reinvestment in health-care funding, officials say.

"Yes we feel the surtax should be removed now that the deficit has been eliminated, but this amounts to a tax cut for the wealthiest Canadians and it would further restrict our ability to move in other areas, such as restoring health-care funding," a senior Liberal said.

There will be tax cuts offered in the budget, however, continuing Martin's gradual approach aimed at lower- and middle-income Canadians.

For example, Martin is considering increasing the basic personal amount of income that can be collected tax-free by low-income Canadians by \$500.

A similar increase last year in the basic exemption removed

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Clinton stands accused of 'serial perjury'

**Historic trial both
solemn and tedious
on opening day**

BY KATHLEEN KENNA
WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton should be removed from office for "serial perjury" and a premeditated campaign of obstructing justice that was meant to save his job, not to hide an illicit affair, Republican prosecutors say.

One week after the ceremonial opening of Clinton's impeachment trial, the United States Senate began the proceeding in earnest yesterday.

Prosecutors began the first of a three-day assault on Clinton that ranged from the solemnity of a historic event to the tedium of a law-class lecture.

It opened with 100 senators being urged to remain silent "on pain of im-

- Senate debates opening trial, A14

prisonment" and closed after almost six hours of prosecutors' speeches charging that Clinton consistently and continuously broke the law.

Four lawyers, all Republican members of the House of Representatives that impeached Clinton Dec. 19, told the Senate that Clinton is guilty of perjury and obstruction of justice. They said he also broke public trust, violated his sworn oath to uphold the laws of the nation and tried to thwart justice.

After all the jokes and frustration about what many perceive to be a "private" sexual affair between Clinton and former White House intern Monica Lewinsky, prosecutors tried to correct the public record.

It's not about sex, they said. It's about the most powerful man in the country

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MARK WILSON/REUTERS

SHOW OF CONFIDENCE: Bill Clinton addresses police officers in Virginia, just hours before his impeachment trial began in the U.S. Senate.