



TORONTO STAR

SUNNY PERIODS. HIGH 31C ★ WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2005 ★ thestar.com

AIR FRANCE INFERNO How all 309 passengers and crew survived. **SECTION B**

MIRACLE ON RUNWAY 24L



LEE THOMAS/PHOTO

All 309 people aboard an Air France jet that crashed at Pearson airport yesterday escaped from the plane, apparently with seconds to spare before it burst into flames.



Inside

- Anatomy of a crash. What happened to Air France Flight 358. **B1**
- Rapid response by the cabin crew on board the jet and rescue workers on the ground helped ensure passengers survived crash. **B4**
- Yesterday's accident was first for the Airbus A340 in its 14-year history. **B4**
- Paramedics were amazed that only 43 were hurt in the crash. **B5**

Jet skids off the runway at Pearson

LINDA DIEBEL, JIM RANKIN AND MICHELLE SHEPHARD
STAFF REPORTERS

Motorist Yvonne Boland spotted a man on the side of Highway 401 near the airport yesterday, standing alone in the rain. She pulled over and the next thing she knew was helping passengers from the ill-fated Air France Flight 358 which, moments earlier, had plunged into a ravine at the end of a runway at Pearson International Airport.

The pedestrian was a truck driver who calmly walked up to her window and said: "The plane crashed. Can you please take some of these passengers back to the airport?"

She looked up and saw more pedestrians coming up onto the highway between the lanes of the 401. "I thought, 'Oh my God, what's going on?'" Boland said later. "Four people, eight people, 12 people streaming up (on to the road)."

It was a strange sight on the highway on an even stranger day. She would learn that these pedestrians were from a flight in which — against all odds — all

297 passengers and 12 crew survived when the plane crashed at Pearson in a thunderstorm. All made it out of the plane, apparently with seconds to spare before it burst into flames.

"It felt like a miracle, there's no doubt about it," said Joe Pantalone, Toronto's deputy mayor, who was filling in for a vacationing Mayor David Miller, last night. "You saw the plane, you saw the smoke, you heard the reports and yet, everyone was safe."

"Miracles, yes, they do happen."

The crash left passengers and one co-pilot on the shoulder of Canada's busiest highway. Traffic on the 401 moved at a snail's pace for hours after the crash, while the ensuing closure of the airport saw flights cancelled, delayed and diverted across the country. Both Montreal and Winnipeg took in diverted flights.

Today, Real Levasseur and a team of about 35 officials from the Transportation Safety

► Please see **Crash, A8**



LUCAS OLENIUK/TORONTO STAR

With his passport in his hand, a passenger from Air France Flight 358 from Paris lies in the back of an ambulance in front of Terminal 3 last night at Pearson airport.

TODAY

BUSINESS

Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce is paying \$2.4 billion (U.S.) to settle an Enron class-action suit. **F1**



SPORTS

The glitter of Russian gold may be blinding some Leafs. Nik Antropov is thinking very hard about two Russian offers that would double or triple his Toronto offer. **C1**



NEWS

Steve Robison has some grouting to do today. But it's a tricky and dangerous manoeuvre outside the space shuttle Discovery that will make history. **A3**

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