

Carleton Place – Almonte Canadian Gazette  
PC52 – ONLINE Breaking News Coverage  
Letter from editor

To whom it may concern:

One of the most powerful spring storms in years ripped through the Ottawa Valley in May 2022. Termed a derecho by meteorologists, the high winds caused widespread damage through our coverage area.

Digital editor Hollie Pratt-Campbell was on duty over this weekend and monitored the situation on social media, beginning with an initial piece about a severe thunderstorm watch.

When hydro outages began to be reported, she quickly relayed the information to readers, along with warnings from the OPP and insight from meteorologists on the storm.

We were able to localize the issue with several follow-up stories, including editor Ashley Kulp's article on a Beckwith councillor's experience. The roof was ripped off her home and mature trees were torn from their roots. She was able to provide us with some photos of the damage, which helped convey the message.

Pratt-Campbell's piece on the loss of a historic farm due to the storm highlighted the devastation felt by local residents. She spoke with the farm's owner Brianna LaRose, who said it's unlikely the buildings destroyed will ever be replaced and the impact it will have on her family. That human interest

Pratt-Campbell's quick thinking in keeping readers updated, along with follow-up articles on the destruction, provided us with strong web traffic numbers. She kept that momentum going the following day in the aftermath of the storm, speaking with an Environment and Climate Change Canada meteorologist, Gerald Cheng, on the extreme weather event and broke down for readers why it was being called a derecho and not a tornado.

With Pratt-Campbell taking the lead and reporters on the ground gathering photos and information, our team was able to keep our readership well informed with all the information they needed to know to get them through the devastating storm.

Sincerely,  
Ashley Kulp  
Editor

Carleton Place – Almonte Canadian Gazette