

No turning BACK

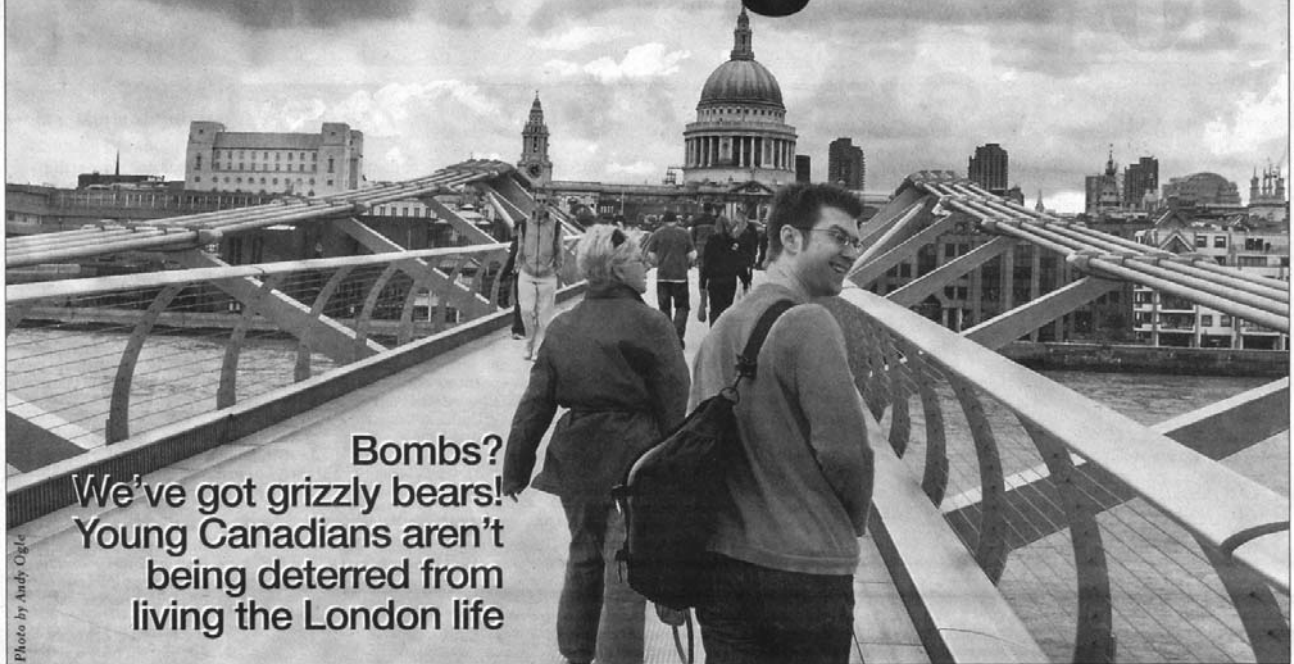


Photo by Andy Ogle

**Bombs?
We've got grizzly bears!
Young Canadians aren't
being deterred from
living the London life**

Swapping the High Level for the Millennium Bridge! Edmontonian Matt Ogle loves the U.K. capital. "Half of London was bombed to bits less than 60 years ago ... It's a strong city."

Jennifer Pabillano reports

Heather Day may be a Canadian. But when bombs exploded on London's public transit system, she was hit close to home.

Day, 25, is a music teacher from Regina who lives one stop away from Kings Cross underground station in London, where one of the trains exploded. She also happens to be on the route of bus number 30, the route on which another bomb blew up the same day.

But Day calmly made her way home from work, reassured her frightened parents in Canada that she was all right, and went out over the weekend to get some Canadian comfort food from a specialty store (Kraft Dinner, Nibs, and Clamato juice, she declares, laughing).

Like the millions of Londoners who have remained stoic throughout the crisis, she went. She got right back on route 30.

It's perhaps a testament to the resolve of the British people that faith in the city's safety has not been much shaken. They continue to go about much as normal. Matt Ogle, a 25-year-old web developer from Edmonton who has been living in London for eight



Jenn Artinger says she feels safe on the "tube."

months, said he found it inspiring.

"I think there's some genuine bravery," said Ogle, who plans to stay in London for at least another year. "If I were a bus driver, I'd turn on the TV, see the news that a bus was blown in two, and think, 'I'm supposed to start work at six today?' And you see all the drivers out there on the streets now."

For her part, Day will be staying put too, whatever the risk of another attack. She has been in London two years — one of 350,000 Canadians currently living in the U.K. Every place you go has some danger, she reasons, so why should you worry much more in London?

Day contemplates this as she sips a pint of Sleeman in the Maple Leaf Arms pub, the only Canadian taphouse in London. "If you

hike in the bush in Canada, bears could attack you," she says. "This is no different."

Day's "whatever will be, will be" outlook is shared by many other young Canadians living and working in London. Two tables over in the pub, Jenn Artinger from Calgary says she won't be leaving the city any time soon. Artinger, 21, is taking a semester-long break from her studies at the University of Calgary to work and sightsee in London. She's fallen in love with the city and even now is planning to stay three months longer than originally intended.

"My dad really wants me to go home," she says. "But everyone else knows I'm not going to listen, and I'm going to stay whether or not someone tells me to go home."

She still feels safe here, even when riding the Underground to her workplace one stop past Aldgate East, also bombed. The thought of another attack flickers through her head once in a while, but she quickly shrugs it off. "If I'm going to die, I'm going to die," she says. "It's maybe a bad way of looking at it, but it's true."

Few other young Canadians are intimidated by the attacks. BUNAC, the British agency that manages Canadian students

working in London through Canada's SWAP work-abroad scheme, had no cancellations to report. In general, Visit Britain, the British tourism agency, says it expects tourism to dip slightly in the short term, then return to normal levels by the end of the year.

Matt Ogle says, "London has such a heritage ... half of London was bombed to bits less than 60 years ago. It's worth sticking around to live here, as it's a strong city. Everyone I talk to says, 'We've done this before.' Stiff upper lip. It's surprisingly calming."

And tourists do seem to keep coming. A Canadian Girl Guide group from Ottawa travelling through Europe refused to be diverted from London by the attacks. The group of 16- to 18-year-old girls was in Edinburgh near the G-8 Conference when the news broke. Leader Nancy Kelly said they were satisfied with reports that proper precautions were being taken.

"We sent an e-mail to the parents, told them that we were safe and we would monitor the situation," she said. "And we plan to continue."

Jennifer Pabillano was born in London, U.K., grew up in Edmonton, and went to the U of A. She is an intern at the CBC's London bureau.