

# Trenton native left homeless by tornado

The view from Kayla Ferlatte's home on 2 Rue Radisson in Gatineau, Que. shows the aftermath of a tornado. The storm hit on Sept. 21 wrecking roofs and bullying buildings. The storm caused mass power outages and one death. KAYLA FERLATTE PHOTO

FERLATTE PHOTO

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Kayla Ferlatte and her boyfriend, Andrei Mihalescu, returned home at 5:45 p.m. on Sept. 21 to see their community in shambles. A tornado with winds up to 265 km/h hit Gatineau, Que. Although the storm shattered their windows and blew an air conditioner through their wall, they say the damage around them was worse. KAYLA FERLATTE PHOTO

On Sept 1. Kayla Ferlatte had a new home. On Sept. 21, she had no home. Now, she's staying with

her friend in The Glebe area of Ottawa trying to piece her life back together after a tornado.

“You know that feeling when you just get all tingly because you can’t really understand your own thoughts and emotions?” said the 25-year-old from Trenton. “I’m baffled, it’s absolutely heartbreaking.”

She moved to Gatineau, Que., with her boyfriend and their cat to start their life together.

The EF-3 cyclone struck their area, Mont Bleu, between 4:40 p.m. and 5:20 p.m. with winds up to 265 km/h.

Ferlatte returned at 5:45 p.m. from Ottawa, rushing into her apartment on the seventh floor of Les Jardins Radisson to snatch her frightened cat before any first responders could stop her.

She says there were “trees everywhere, poles all over the place,” and in her apartment, “the windows were all busted... an air conditioner went right through the wall.”

Between Ottawa and Quebec, the tornado killed one, left more than 165,000 without power and injured 25 people – six of whom went to hospital with two in critical condition.



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As of Sept. 28, the Ottawa Hospital confirmed one patient is in serious condition. Hydro Ottawa restored all power to customers while Sophie Lamoreux, a public advisor at Hydro Quebec confirmed they rebuilt their main electrical network and are making sure the power connections are safe, which could take days or weeks depending on damage.

“I’m just glad myself, my boyfriend and my animals are fine,” Ferlatte said.

Although management was “nowhere to be found” whenever she tried to get in touch, staff allowed residents to return and collect their belongings between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. every day on the week of Sept. 23, provided residents bring a photo ID, the unit key and a list of what they want to retrieve.

“We currently have over 75 people on site working towards the common goal of getting our tenants home,” said Matthew Organ, President of Skyline Apartment REIT, in a press release from Les Jardins Radisson on Sept. 24.

If the process takes longer than expected, Ferlatte says insurance will cover her stay in a hotel.

But since the storm, Ferlatte, who works as a home care nurse in Ottawa, has had more business than normal, taking on clients other co-workers can't tend to because of the storm. She is currently away spending time with her family.

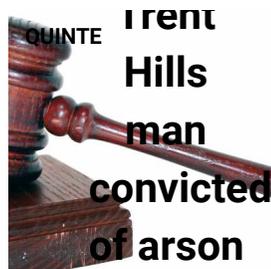


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“Things are moving along a lot quicker than expected,” she said. “We’re just going to keep working, that’s all we can do right now.”

Google Map of Tornadoes: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Y4D7iefjcn0pMHYXflpcqw5YpA-IB53R&usp=sharing>

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