

The Storm of 2006

Curtis R. Anderson

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Abstract

Starting on Friday, 13 October 2006, a heavy storm started to hit around the Buffalo area. The document is intended to show pictures of the damage around north Buffalo.

Many pictures were taken with the crude camera in a cell phone, but most were taken with a better digital camera.

This *work in progress* is largely complete at this time. I still may add to this as I find time. In the meantime, things may seem disjointed as I get the components organized. The date above will indicate when this was last updated.

Contents

1	Thursday, October 12, 2006	4
1.1	University Station	4
1.2	Amherst Street Station	4
2	Friday, October 13, 2006	4
2.1	From the House	11
2.2	The Neighbors	11
2.3	Taunton Place, the Street	19
	2.3.1 Tire Tracks	19
	2.3.2 Vehicles Moving	24
2.4	Clouds And the Weather	24
2.5	Trees Down	27
2.6	Why I Had No Power as of Thursday Night	27

3	A Little Later In the Afternoon	33
3.1	More Neighbors' Damage	40
3.2	Now Re-Venturing Into the Street	44
3.3	Creative Cooling Solutions	44
4	On Generator Power	47
5	Venturing Out On Saturday Night	50
5.1	Along Cunard Road	50
5.2	Further Along Cunard Road	50
5.3	Branches Down On North Park Academy	59
5.4	After North Park Academy	67
A	Six Months Later	67
A.1	Utility Lines Finally Restored	70

List of Figures

1	One University Station View	5
2	Another University Station View	6
3	Amherst Street and Parker Avenue View	7
4	Amherst Street view	8
5	Another Amherst Street and Parker Avenue View	9
6	Parker Avenue view with approaching bus	10
7	Car In Landlord's Driveway	11
8	The Landlord's Driveway	12
9	The Landlord's Driveway To the Street	13
10	The Landlord's Driveway At the Street, Close Up	14
11	The Landlord's Driveway From the Sidewalk	15
12	View From the Sidewalk Facing West	16
13	The Neighbor's Yard	17
14	The Neighbor's Yard	18
15	Tire Tracks In the Street	19
16	More Tire Tracks In the Street	20
17	Still More Tire Tracks In the Street	21
18	Standing In the Street	22
19	People In the Street	23

20	Vehicles Venturing Forth	24
21	A Hummer H-2 On the Street	25
22	Dark Clouds To the West	26
23	Trees Down On Arundel Road	27
24	Tree Down on SW Corner of Taunton Place and Arundel Road . .	28
25	Tree Down on SE Corner of Taunton Place and Arundel Road . .	29
26	Utility Pole Tipped Over	30
27	Loose Telephone and Cable Lines	31
28	More Loose Telephone and Cable Lines	32
29	Detail of Loose Power Line	33
30	Another Detail of Loose Power Line	34
31	Melting Snow On Street	35
32	More Melting Snow On Street	36
33	Still More Melting Snow On Street, Looking SE	37
34	Still More Melting Snow On Street, Looking SW	38
35	View of North Park Academy	39
36	Damage To Shrubs	40
37	Damage To Large Tree	41
38	Damage To Yard	42
39	More Damage To Yard	43
40	Looking Westbound On Taunton	44
41	Still Looking Westbound On Taunton	45
42	Looking Eastbound On Taunton	46
43	Creative Cooling Solutions For Soda	47
44	Creative Cooling Solutions for Food	48
45	More Creative Cooling Solutions for Bacon	49
46	Running the Refrigerator On Generator Power	51
47	Running the DSL Router On Generator Power	52
48	Running the Laptops On Generator Power	53
49	My Laptop In Use	54
50	Power Cables Coming From the Generator	55
51	Along Cunard Road	56
52	More Branches Along Cunard Road	57
53	Still More Branches Along Cunard Road	58
54	Across Cunard From North Park Academy	59
55	More Across Cunard Road From North Park Academy	60
56	Still More Across Cunard Road From North Park Academy	61
57	The Parking Lot North of North Park Academy	62

58	The Parking Lot of North Park Academy	63
59	Branches Down Southwest of North Park Academy	64
60	More Branches Down Southwest of North Park Academy	65
61	Detail of Branches Down SW of North Park Academy	66
62	More Across Cunard Road From North Park Academy	67
63	More Across Cunard Road From North Park Academy	68
64	First Buds Begin To Form	69
65	Utility Pole Lines Fully Restored	71

1 Thursday, October 12, 2006

There were signs that something was happening before the heavier snowfall. I managed to see things I wouldn't have because buses were running late that day on account of weather.

1.1 University Station

The pictures I have here were taken on my way home from work that night. Figures 1 on the following page shows what I saw after I walked behind the bus I took to University Station of Metro Rail. Figure 2 on page 6 shows another view as I turned after the bus pulled forward.

1.2 Amherst Street Station

I took the subway to the Amherst Street Station of Metro Rail as I had missed my regular bus home. I was able to see things such as in figure 3 on page 7 at Amherst Street and Parker Avenue. Figure 4 on page 8 is another view looking at the north side of the Amherst Street station toward Amherst Street. Figure 5 on page 9 is another view of Amherst and Parker. Some snow is visible in the picture. Figure 6 on page 10 is a view of Parker Avenue, Main Street and Fillmore Avenue. My bus is approaching.

2 Friday, October 13, 2006

In time, folks dared to step out into melting snow conditions after some two feet of snow fell.



Figure 1: One University Station View



Figure 2: Another University Station View



Figure 3: Amherst Street and Parker Avenue View



Figure 4: Amherst Street view



Figure 5: Another Amherst Street and Parker Avenue View



Figure 6: Parker Avenue view with approaching bus



Figure 7: Car In Landlord's Driveway

2.1 From the House

I would first go outside to look around, starting from the driveway. Figure 7 shows how the landlord attempted to clear snow from his driveway, leaving the car partly surrounded with snow. Figures 8 on the next page, 9 on page 13 and 10 on page 14 show how the driveway was cleared, giving a rough indication of how much snow fell. Figure 11 on page 15 shows about all of the driveway with the landlord's car and the houses between the driveway.

2.2 The Neighbors

Once out to the sidewalk, I could see the trees and other blockage in figure 12 on page 16. More tree limbs in a neighbor's yard are seen in figures 13 on page 17 and 14 on page 18.



Figure 8: The Landlord's Driveway



Figure 9: The Landlord's Driveway To the Street



Figure 10: The Landlord's Driveway At the Street, Close Up



Figure 11: The Landlord's Driveway From the Sidewalk

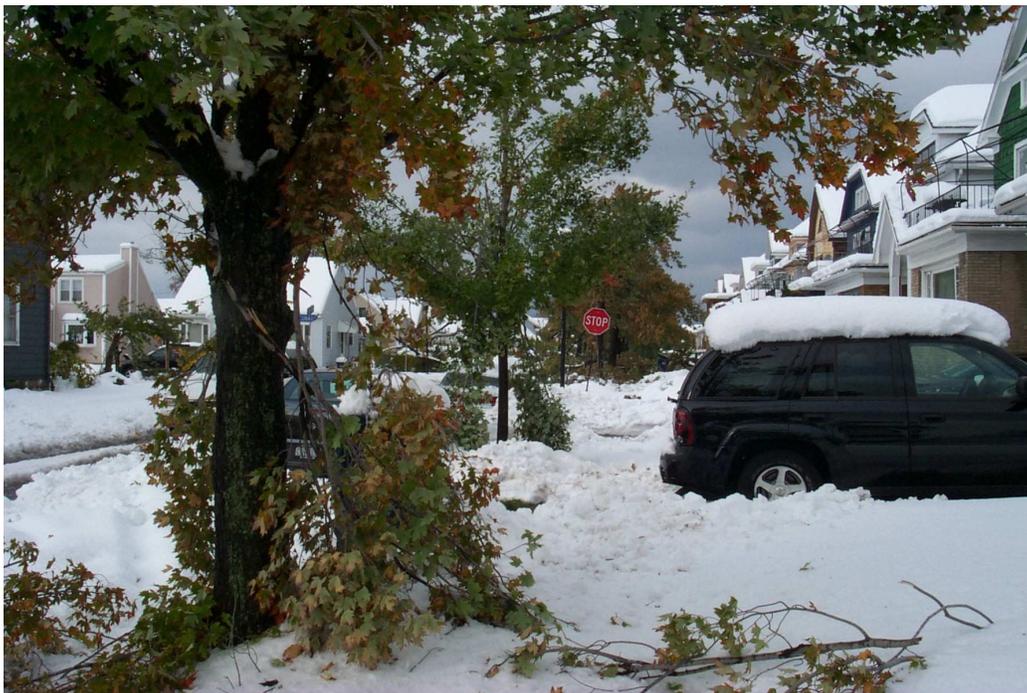


Figure 12: View From the Sidewalk Facing West



Figure 13: The Neighbor's Yard



Figure 14: The Neighbor's Yard



Figure 15: Tire Tracks In the Street

2.3 Taunton Place, the Street

I looked out onto the street to see what is there.

2.3.1 Tire Tracks

Figures 15 and 16 on the next page show what the view from the sidewalk into the street showing the few tire tracks of those who ventured out despite the travel ban.

Figure 17 on page 21 shows a different view of the tire tracks. I ventured out onto Taunton Place to get the pictures in figures 18 on page 22 and 19 on page 23. Figure 19 also shows folks with snow shovels doing what folks in Buffalo do best when the snow falls, by going to the neighbors to offer assistance in clearing the snow from driveways and sidewalks.



Figure 16: More Tire Tracks In the Street



Figure 17: Still More Tire Tracks In the Street



Figure 18: Standing In the Street

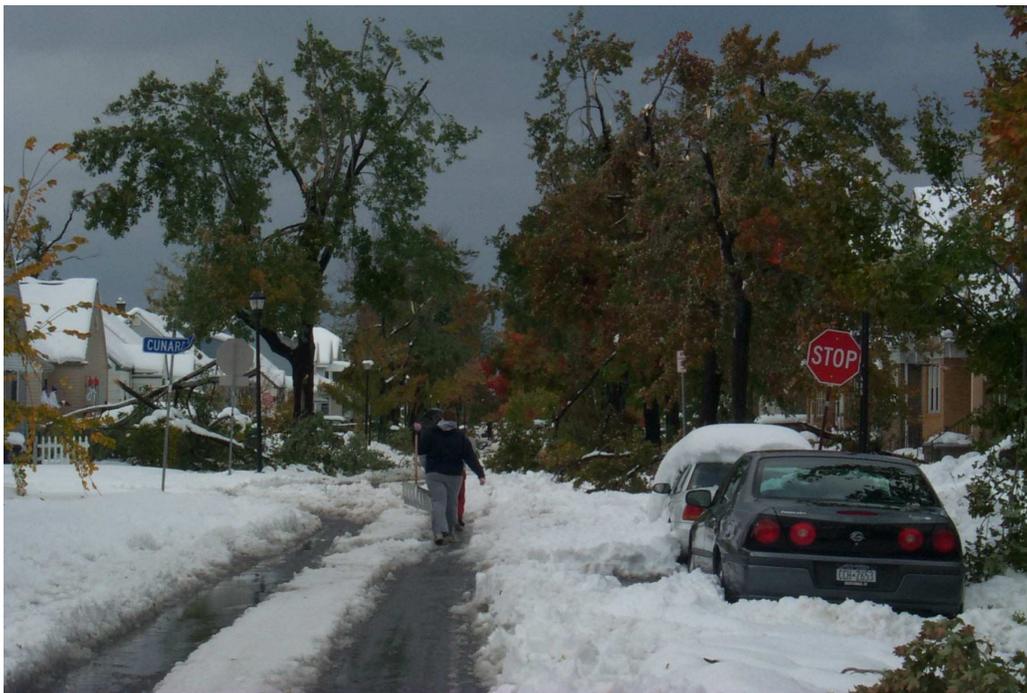


Figure 19: People In the Street



Figure 20: Vehicles Venturing Forth

2.3.2 Vehicles Moving

Figure 20 actually shows a few of those vehicles out on the street, while the foreground shows a car covered with unmelted snow. Some vehicles which were on the street can actually be driven at times like these, such as the Hummer H-2 seen in figure 21 on the following page.

2.4 Clouds And the Weather

Friday in general was a day with high winds and alternating periods of sunshine and some rain. The darker clouds from the west coming in can be seen in figure 22 on page 26.



Figure 21: A Hummer H-2 On the Street



Figure 22: Dark Clouds To the West



Figure 23: Trees Down On Arundel Road

2.5 Trees Down

The snow, with the leaves on the trees, caused a lot of branches to bend and break, as seen in figure 23. Figures 24 on the next page and 25 on page 29 show the trees blocking Arundel Road and Taunton Place.

2.6 Why I Had No Power as of Thursday Night

My electric power went out as of about 8:00 p.m. Thursday night.¹ The pictures in this subsection show why there is no power.

Figure 26 on page 30 shows the utility pole behind the house has tipped over. The tipped utility pole relaxed the tension on the telephone and CATV cables, as seen in figures 27 on page 31 and 28 on page 32. Had the power line shown in figure 29 on page 33 been energized, there might have been some electrocution

¹As of this writing, Sunday, October 15th, 6:20 p.m., power has not been restored.



Figure 24: Tree Down On Southwest Corner of Taunton Place Near Arundel Road



Figure 25: Tree Down On Southeast Corner of Taunton Place Near Arundel Road



Figure 26: Utility Pole Tipped Over



Figure 27: Loose Telephone and Cable Lines



Figure 28: More Loose Telephone and Cable Lines



Figure 29: Detail of Loose Power Line

problems in case someone touched it. Look to the top center of the picture in figure 29 to see it, as well as to the center of figure 30 on the next page.

3 A Little Later In the Afternoon

I wasn't quite as adventurous in the afternoon and decided to stay on the porch for more pictures. Call me a porch warrior in these. But one knows it is later, as figure 31 on page 35 shows more of the snow melted from the street. The view in figure 31 is toward Cunard Road, and there is a large pile of branches stacked on the curb along Taunton. A better view of the melting snow can be seen in figures 32 on page 36. Oblique views can be seen in figures 33 on page 37 and 34 on page 38. A view of North Park Academy is seen in figure 35 on page 39.



Figure 30: Another Detail of Loose Power Line

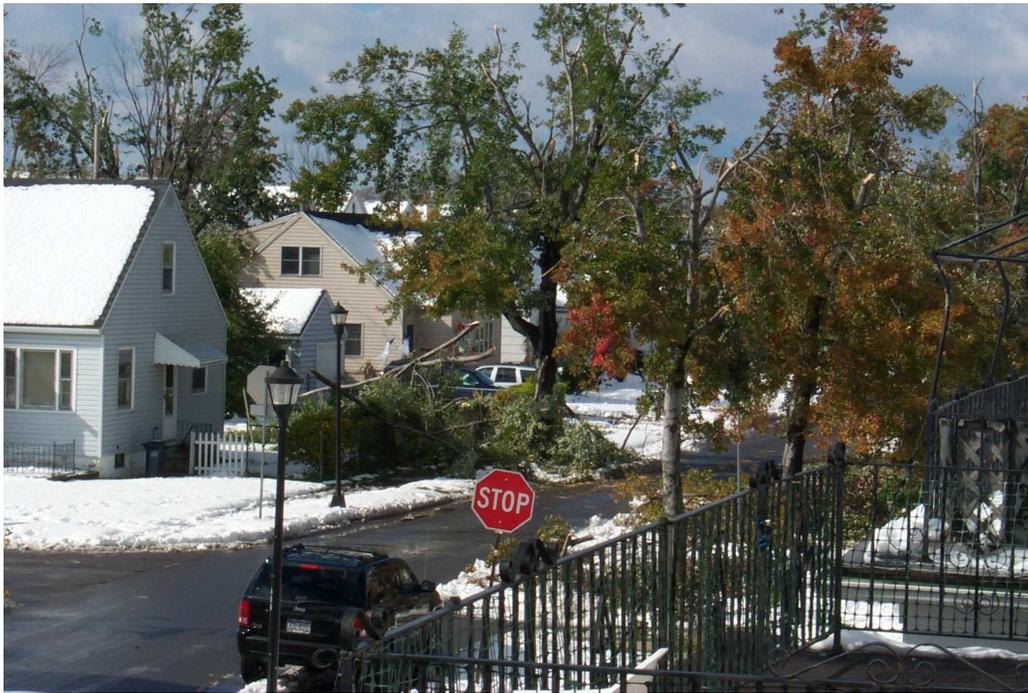


Figure 31: Melting Snow On Street



Figure 32: More Melting Snow On Street

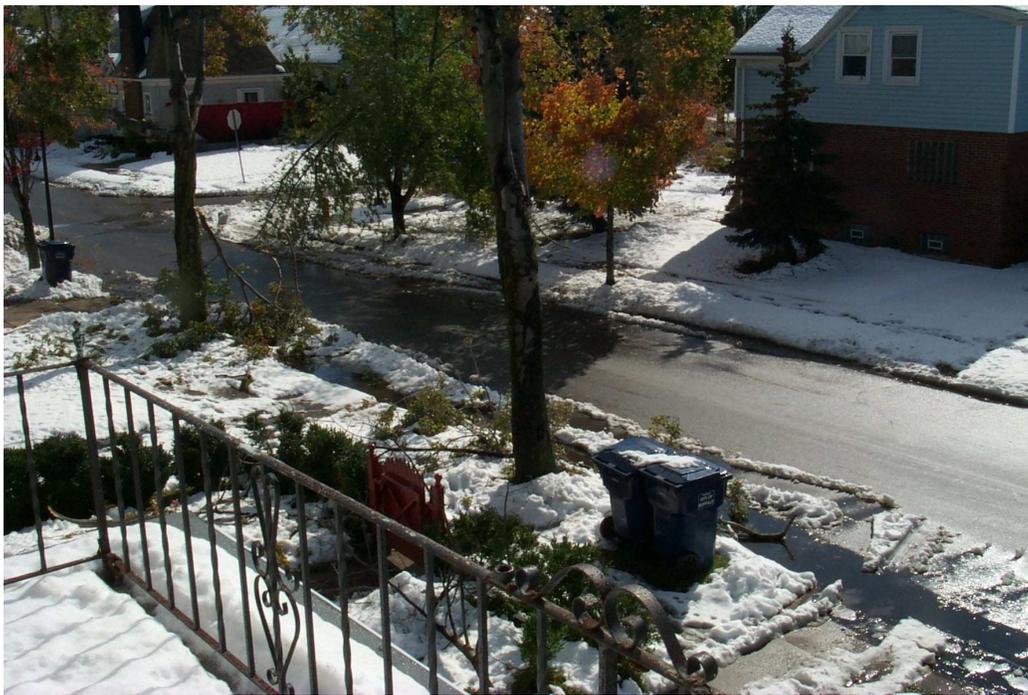


Figure 33: Still More Melting Snow On Street, Looking Southeast

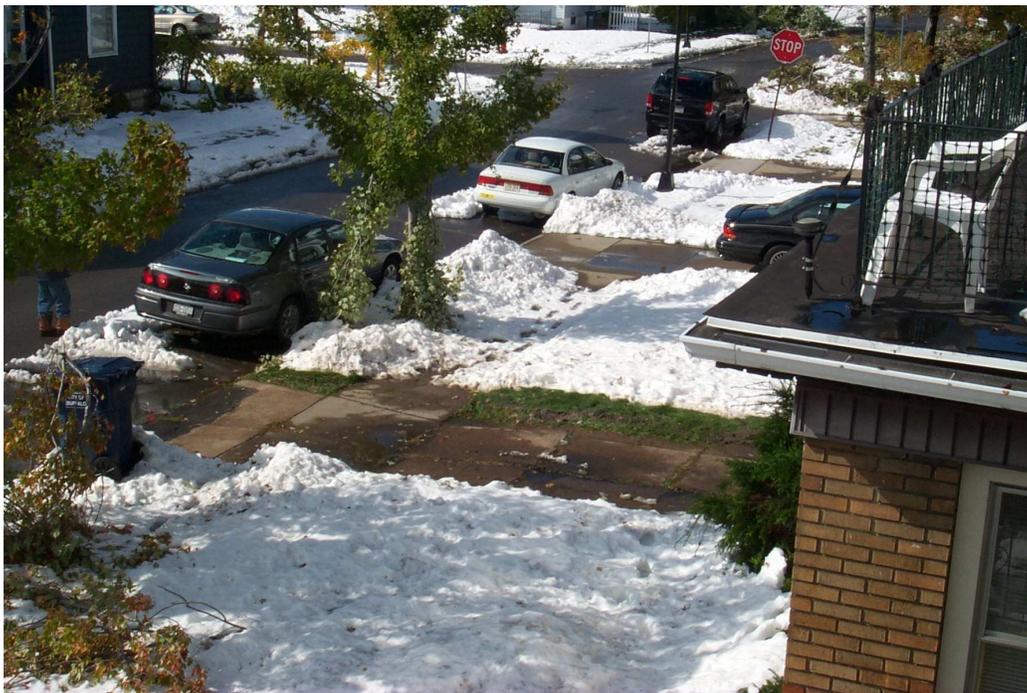


Figure 34: Still More Melting Snow On Street, Looking Southwest



Figure 35: View of North Park Academy



Figure 36: Damage To Shrubs

3.1 More Neighbors' Damage

Some of the damage our neighbors took is visible in the photographs in this section. Damage to shrubs from one of my neighbors is seen in figure 36. Looking a bit more to the east, a tree whose branches have clearly fallen² are visible in figure 37 on the following page. The neighbor had a larger tree compared to my landlord, so the damage is just that much greater. Branches from that tree are now seen in the yard as shown in figures 38 on page 42 and 39 on page 43. Branches fell toward the same shrubs shown in figure 36 in the picture shown in in figure 39 on page 43.

²Including one branch which missed clipping this author by abot two seconds!



Figure 37: Damage To Large Tree



Figure 38: Damage To Yard



Figure 39: More Damage To Yard



Figure 40: Looking Westbound On Taunton

3.2 Now Re-Venturing Into the Street

It was time for me to go back into the street. I looked west along Taunton and had the view in figures 40 and 41 on the following page. Both pictures show a damaged street sign toward the left, but it's not certain if that was caused by the storm or was there before.

I had the opportunity to talk to some people who lived east of me on Taunton. They too were taking pictures of the damage, and I had the opportunity to have them take a picture of the broken utility pole shown in figure 26 on page 30 as mentioned back in § 2.6 on page 27. Thses folks seen in figure 42 on page 46.

3.3 Creative Cooling Solutions

At this point, we were about 16 hours into the power failure, and we were looking for ways to keep food from spoilage. At noon, we ate a lot of bacon from a two

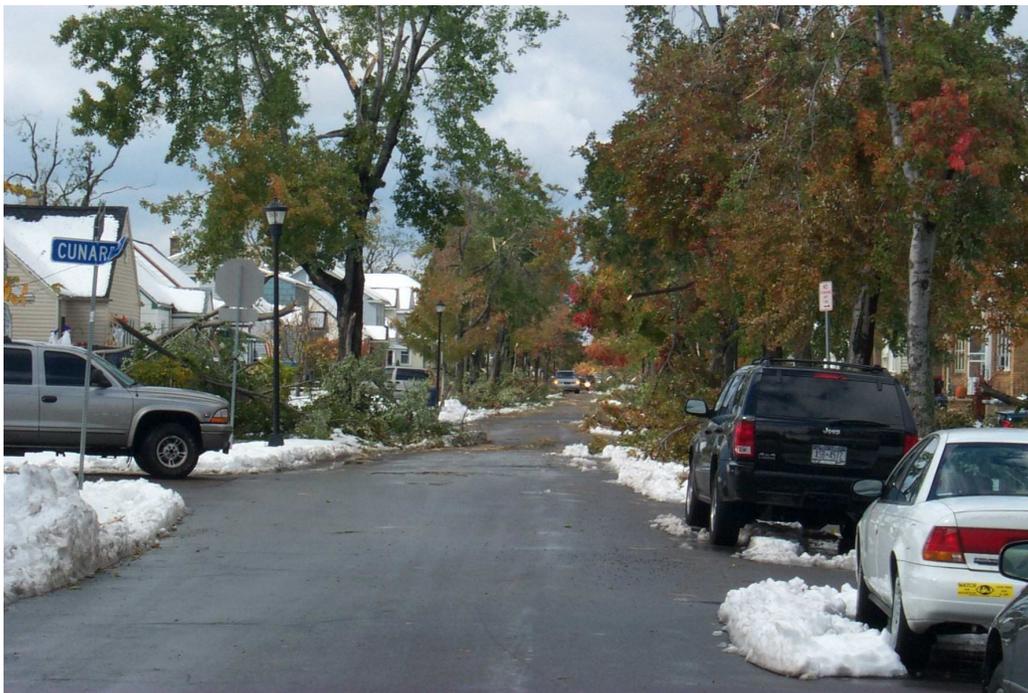


Figure 41: Still Looking Westbound On Taunton



Figure 42: Looking Eastbound On Taunton



Figure 43: Creative Cooling Solutions For Soda

pound package³ by frying it up. We found soup in the freezer as well as materials for a pot pie. It didn't matter to either of us that I mixed beef and chicken in the soup,

Some soda was acquired and put into the snow as shown in figure 43. The food which I couldn't eat up quickly was set in the snow as seen in figure 44 on the next page, as well as the bacon packed in snow in figure 45 on page 49.

4 On Generator Power

The landlord decided to fire up a generator he had sitting in his shed for some time. It would have been started sooner but there were problems with travel to those places which had gasoline which could be pumped.

Once the generator was set up, an extension cable was strung to our refrigera-

³Well, actually, the whole package.



Figure 44: Creative Cooling Solutions for Food



Figure 45: More Creative Cooling Solutions for Bacon

tors and his freezer. Our refrigerator was plugged in as shown in figure 46 on the next page.

For me, having Internet access is vital as it is a way to get information not otherwise available on the phone, radio or television (if we had one!), so figure 47 on page 52 shows how I set up the router. And no, I will not advertise for those businesses on the phone book, so I smudged them with a Gaussian blur. The laptops we have use the same power adaptor, so with one of those selectively connected to the power cable as seen in figure 48 on page 53, we were able to keep a laptop charged and talking to the Internet with a wireless LAN card.⁴ My laptop gets run with a setup like what is seen in figure 49 on page 54. There is a short black cable coming from the laptop's USB port. That setup charges the cell phone. The power cables for everything were sent outside through windows to the generator behind the house. Figure 50 on page 55 shows just the power cables going along the driveway to the back of the house where the generator was kept.

5 Venturing Out On Saturday Night

I was getting a bit stir-crazy sitting around the apartment on Saturday night, so I decided to head out... somewhere. I called a few of my favorite watering holes along the Hertel Avenue strip, but there was no answer. I called one on Main St, to find they didn't answer either. Time for me to go hunting for another tavern which had power. I found Gecko's but I found other pictures of interest on the way.

5.1 Along Cunard Road

Much of the damage I found was elsewhere, but along Cunard Road I found interesting items, such as a few branches down shown in front of a house in figure 51 on page 56. In each of the cases, there are not a lot of branches down, such as in both figures 52 on page 57 and 53 on page 58.

5.2 Further Along Cunard Road

Across the street from the North Park Academy, School 66, I spent some time poking around looking over the trees down. Looking across the street from the

⁴Seeing the window fan to the left of the picture made me think we were a little too slow in making the great summer to winter transition. The old saying in Buffalo is to wait a few minutes if one doesn't like the weather.



Figure 46: Running the Refrigerator On Generator Power

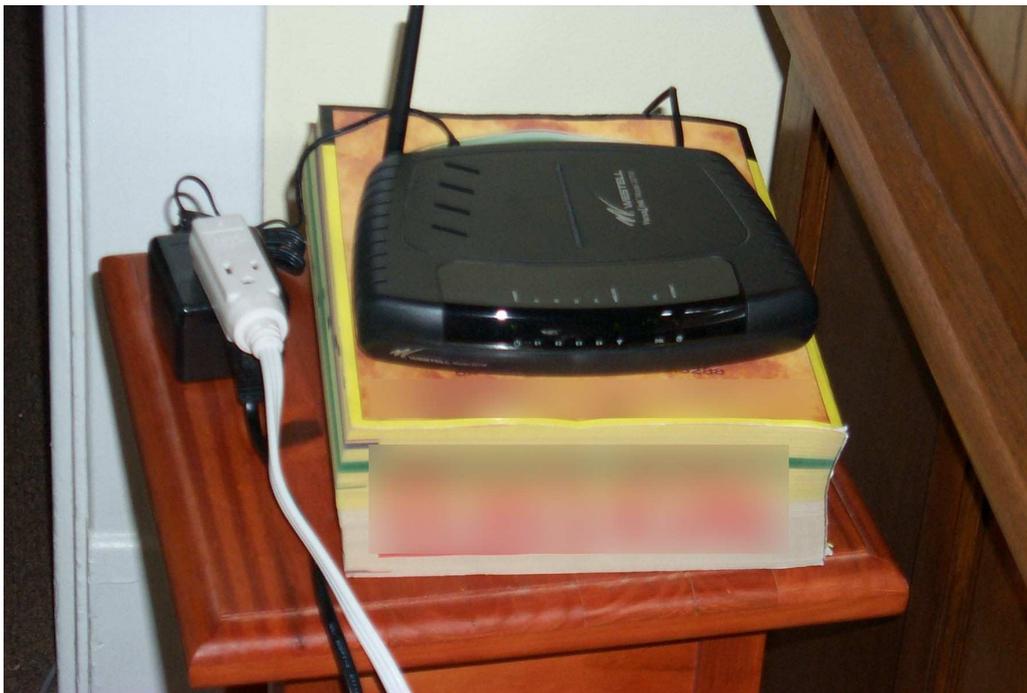


Figure 47: Running the DSL Router On Generator Power

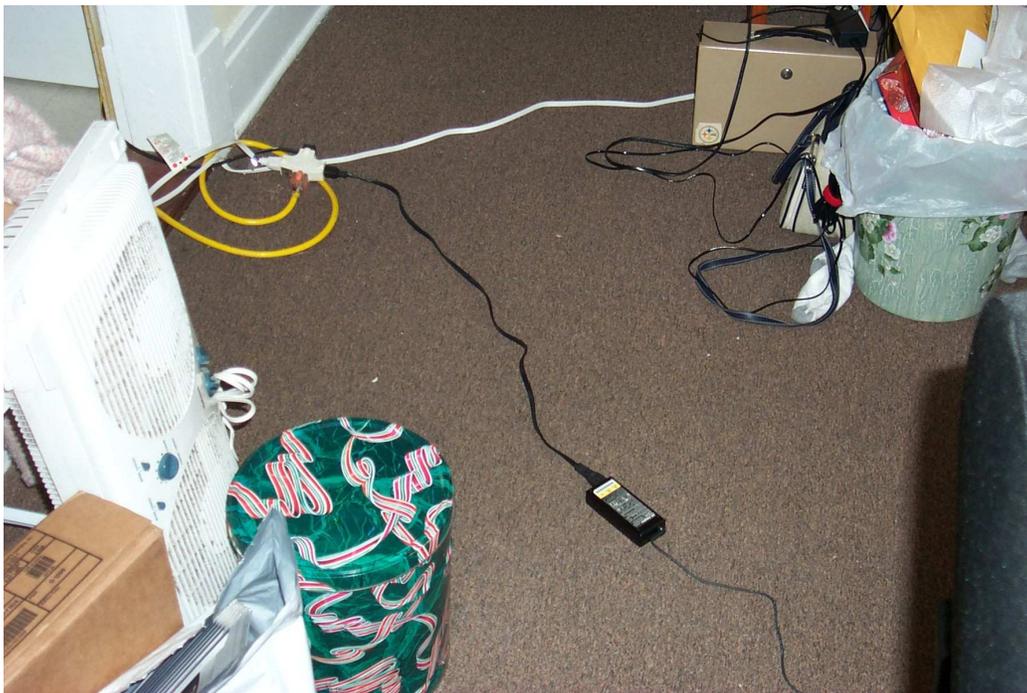


Figure 48: Running the Laptops On Generator Power

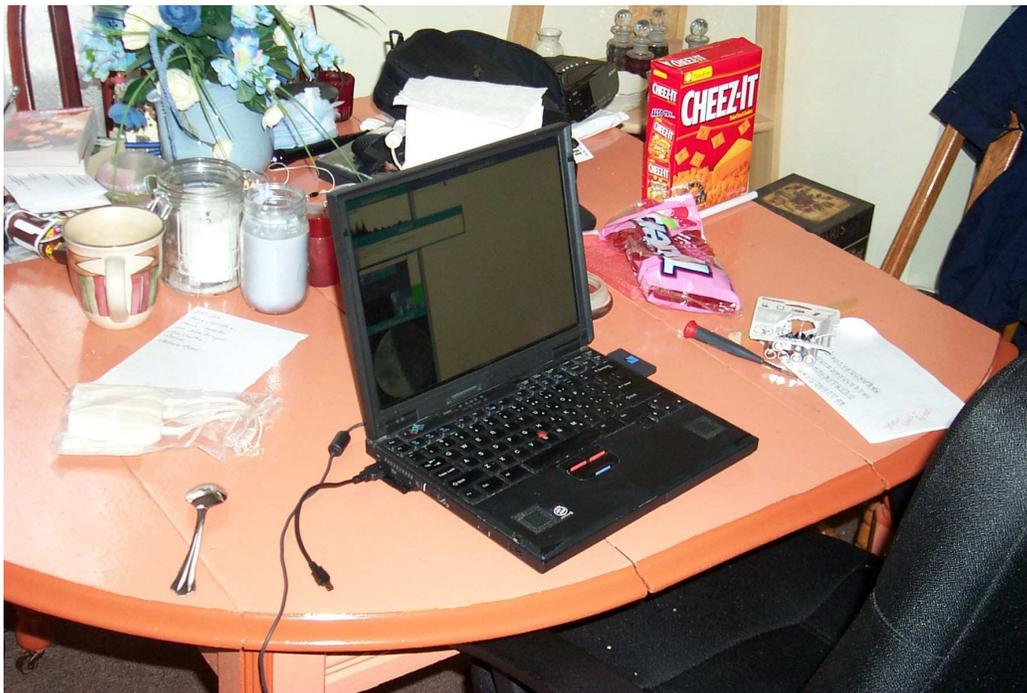


Figure 49: My Laptop In Use

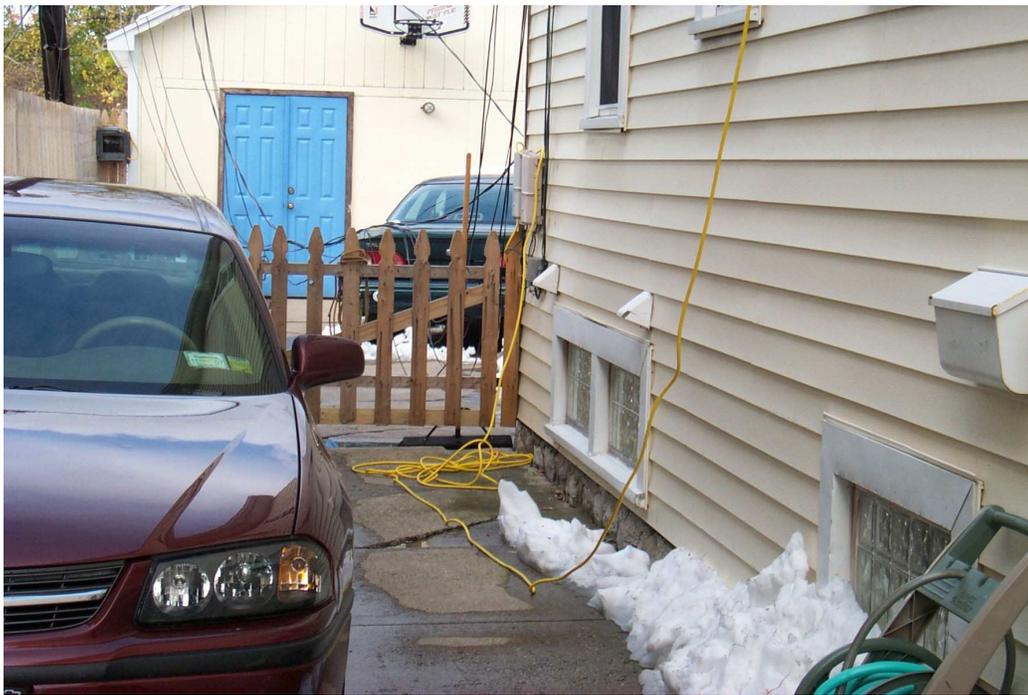


Figure 50: Power Cables Coming From the Generator



Figure 51: Along Cunard Road

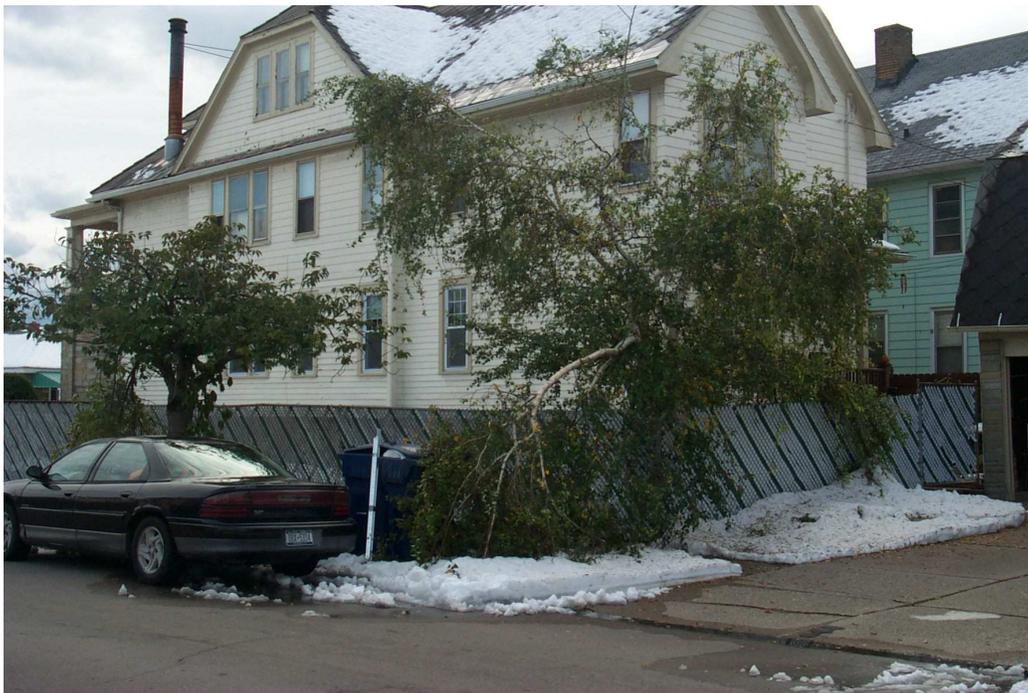


Figure 52: More Branches Along Cunard Road



Figure 53: Still More Branches Along Cunard Road



Figure 54: Across Cunard From North Park Academy

school in figures 54 and 55 on the following page, some branches are down in piles. Further south along Cunard shows fewer branches along the street as is shown in figure 56 on page 61. But looking into the parking lot of the school, some water in figure 57 on page 62 is running off the melting snow and wrking its way into the street.

5.3 Branches Down On North Park Academy

In § 5.2 on page 50, I looked at the area around the North Park Academy. In this section, I look at branches downed on the Academy grounds itself.

To the southwest of the school building, figures 59 on page 64 and 60 on page 65 shows branches down in front of the building.



Figure 55: More Across Cunard Road From North Park Academy



Figure 56: Still More Across Cunard Road From North Park Academy



Figure 57: The Parking Lot North of North Park Academy



Figure 58: The Parking Lot of North Park Academy Looking Toward North Drive



Figure 59: Branches Down Southwest of North Park Academy



Figure 60: More Branches Down Southwest of North Park Academy



Figure 61: Detail of Branches Down Southwest of North Park Academy



Figure 62: More Across Cunard Road From North Park Academy

5.4 After North Park Academy

After checking out the branches around North Park Academy, I continued along Cunard and found a few more branches along CUnard as seen in figures 62 and 63 on the next page.

A Six Months Later

Six months later, life is starting to show on the trees again. Some damage is evident, but buds are forming.

From the balcony of the apartment, I obtained these early springtime pictures of buds forming on trees in figures 64 on page 69.

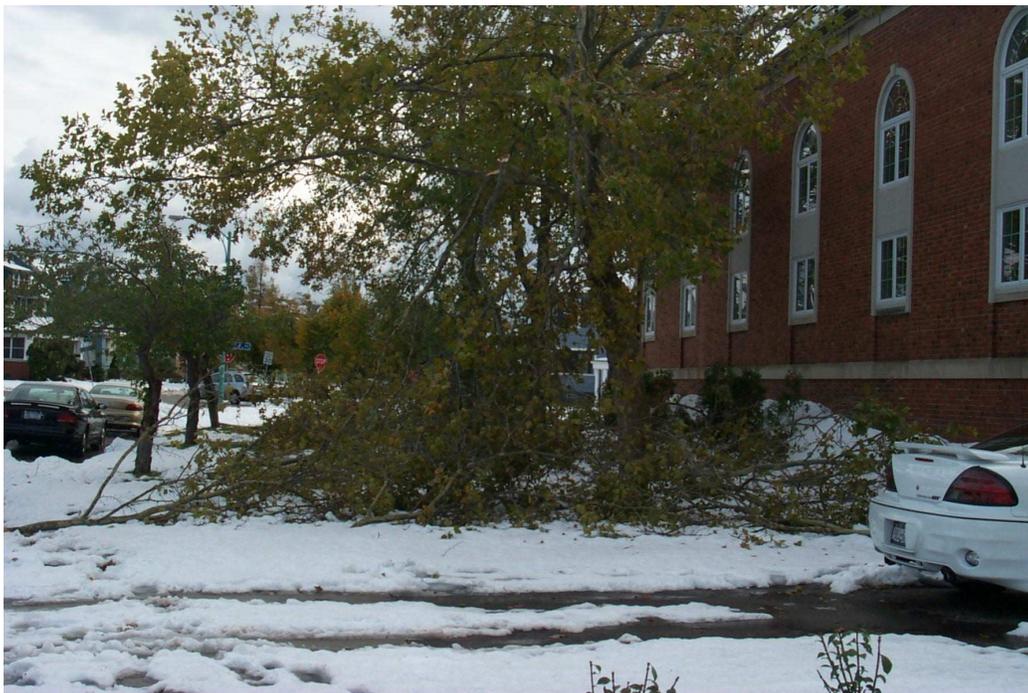


Figure 63: More Across Cunard Road From North Park Academy

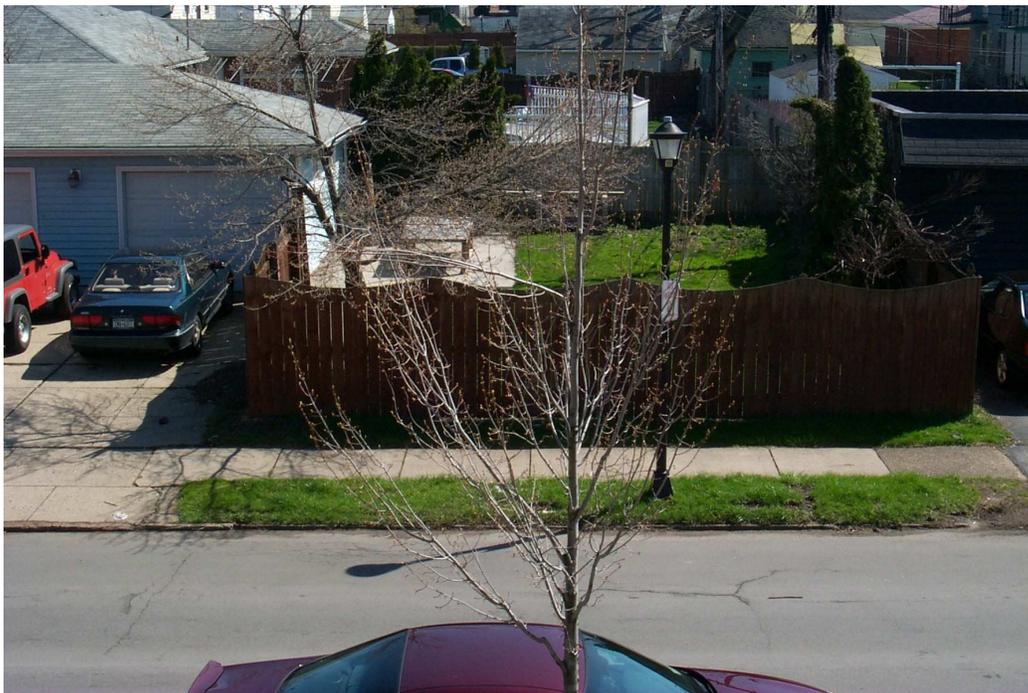


Figure 64: First Buds Begin To Form

A.1 Utility Lines Finally Restored

It took until about late July 2007 to early August 2007 after the power line was replaced for the other tenants of the old pole, Verizon and Time Warner, to move their cabling to the new pole, whose results are shown in figure 65 on the next page.



Figure 65: Utility Pole Lines Fully Restored