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# Author takes back his lost years

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Special *Peel Bio.*

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Author Claude Limberger lost almost 10 years of his life after he fell ill with a rare form of food poisoning.

Today the Mississauga native is snatching back those lost years with his fantasy novel, *Timestopper*.

In *Timestopper*, the main character is a 14-year-old boy who has a unique ability to stop time. When invaders burn the boy's village to the ground, he leaves with a plan to rid the world of magic.

The story is an ironic twist for author Limberger, whose real life illness actually sent him in search of magic. It all began with a simple case of food poisoning.

"I got sick from a bacteria from eating chicken. Ten years later, I finally got over it," said Limberger.

Limberger was 27 when he fell ill. After years of suffering for seemingly no apparent reason, he eventually learned that the problematic bacteria had settled inside his organs.

"It got to a point where I couldn't eat

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anything, because I'd get so sick," said Limberger, 37.

A diagnosis after six long years didn't mean a cure. Limberger finally knew what was wrong, but he didn't feel better. Meanwhile, his wife and two children were beginning to tire of his constantly being under the weather and his family electronics business was feeling the strain of his perpetual sickness.

Limberger turned to naturopaths and herbalists, and when that didn't do the trick, he consulted a shaman.

"I met a shaman who said I had to clean out the environment where the parasite was growing in my body," said Limberger. "That made sense to me."

His prescription for recovery included drinking a half cup of straight olive oil.

"Suddenly, I had no more bacteria," said Limberger.

He felt better and he continued seeing the shaman. He did sun dances and sweat

lodges. He went without food or water for days in the eastern Ontario woods.

Unsurprisingly, he saw visions. He wrote about them.

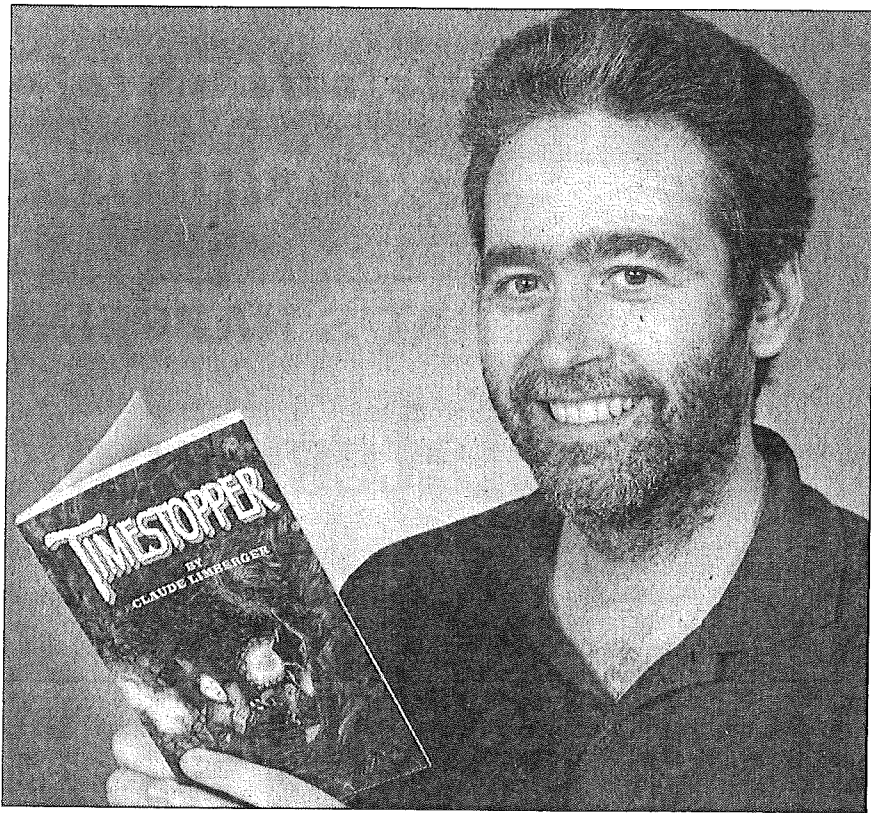
"The visions were so vivid and real. It felt as though they were happening," said Limberger. "I didn't do any drugs, but what I experienced was so powerful, I had to write it down."

The result was his first book, *Afterworlds*, written in a mere six months and published in December of last year. The 245-page *Timestopper*, published in the spring, followed. That was penned in eight months, always after work, at night, after he put his kids to bed.

"It was already written in my head."

Since Limberger is a family man, *Timestopper* is rated F or family.

"It's for all ages. There's no swearing or sex. There is some violence but it's the normal swordplay of fantasy books," said Limberger.



Mississauga author Claude Limberger has penned a new fantasy novel called *Timestopper*.