

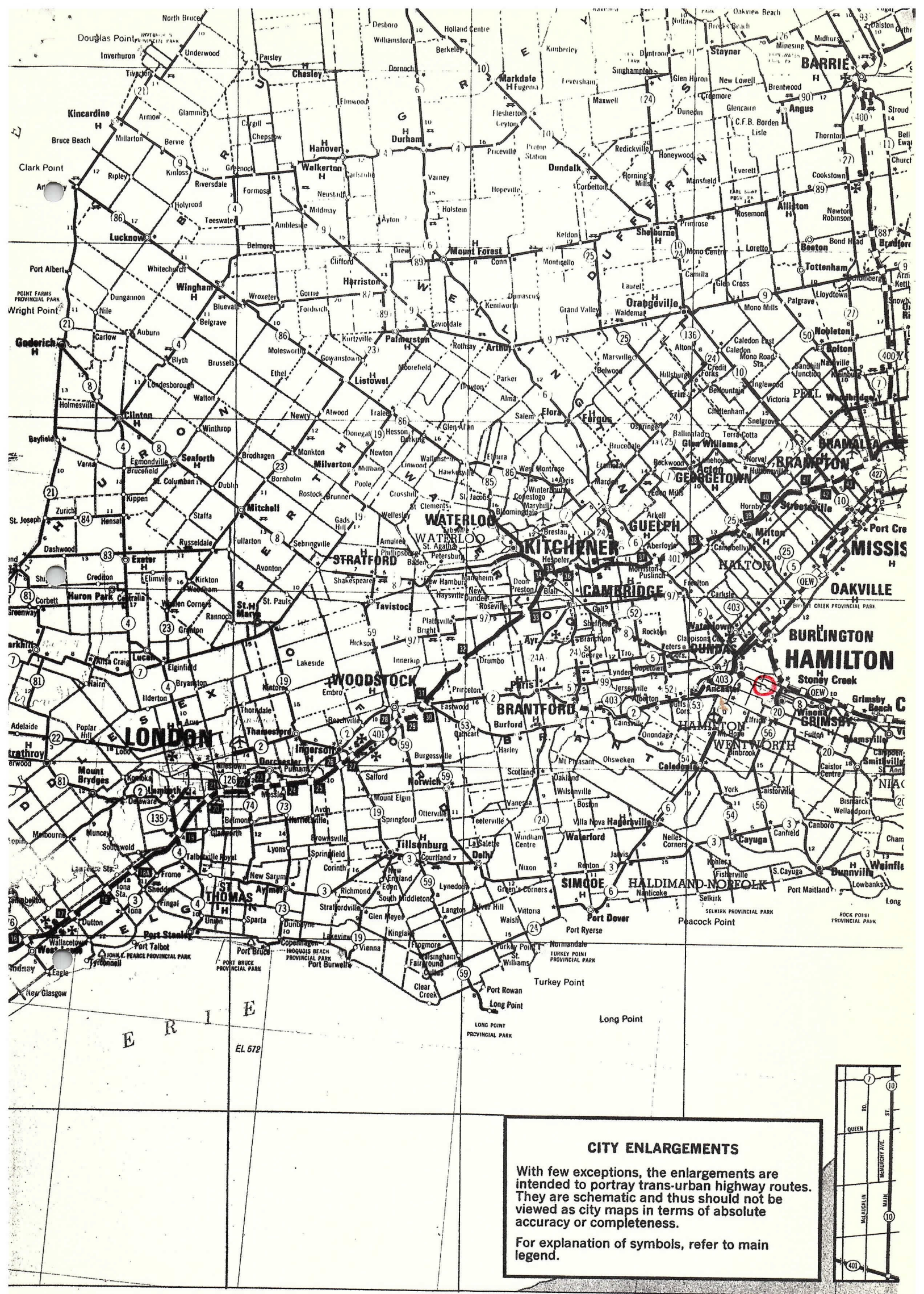
TORNADO PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

F=2

ONT

AUG.

1. DATE AND TIME 6.8.1968 0300 EDT
2. LOCATION OR PATH (attach map) HAMILTON (ABOUT 24 BLOCK AREA) 06968-27
3. PATH LENGTH ☐ NOT KNOWN ☐ <1mi; ☐ 1-4mi; ☐ 5-10mi; ☐ 11-50mi; ☐ LENGTH IF >50mi
4. PATH WIDTH UNKNOWN 5. TORNADO PART OF SQUALL LINE? ☒ YES; ☐ NO; ☐ UNKNOWN:
6. ANY UNUSUAL COLORATION? ☐ YES; ☐ NO; ☐ UNKNOWN
7. ANY UNUSUAL SOUND? ☐ YES; ☐ NO; ☐ UNKNOWN
8. IF ANSWER TO 6 OR 7 YES, ELABORATE;
9. LIST ANY ASSOCIATED PHENOMENA (Such as hail, vivid lightning heavy rain, no rain, etc.) WIND UP TO 100 M.P.H.
10. TOTAL DAMAGE ESTIMATE \$ 1,000,000 AT LEAST 11. TOTAL DEATHS NONE
12. TOTAL INJURED ~~UNKNOWN~~ 13. TOTAL HOMELESS 40
14. LIST ALL REFERENCES HAMILTON SPECTATOR AUG 6 1968
TORONTO TELEGRAM AUG 6 1968
TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL AUG 7 1968
PEMBROKE OBSERVER AUG 6 1968
KITCHENER WATERLOO RECORD AUG 6 1968.
15. SUMMARIZE REMARKS PERTAINING TO (a) FUNNEL; (b) INTERESTING OR CAPRICIOUS EVENTS.
- (a) NO REMARKS BUT FUNNEL CLOUDS REPORTED ELSEWHERE (SEE LONG POINT SUMMARY). HAMILTON POLICE DESCRIBED THE STORM AS BEING "LIKE A TWISTER".
- (b) 200 HOMES AND BUSINESSES DAMAGED IN THE EAST END INCLUDING 3 APARTMENT BUILDINGS. WALLS OF ONE APARTMENT BUCKLED. A CAR PICKED UP AND BLOWN 40 FEET. TREES UPROOTED.



Ontario Hydro Press Clipping Service

Paper Hamilton Spectator
Date August 6, 1968
Source Niagara Region

Storm clipping file

7/5-5

AUG - 8 1968

TUES AUG 6 1968

New story 1/15

N

200 Homes, Businesses Hit By Storm

Winds, Rain Claw City

By GERRY McAULIFFE
Spectator Staff

An electrical storm with hurricane-force winds of up to 100 miles an hour damaged about 200 homes and businesses in Hamilton's east end this morning.

And at Long Point on Lake Erie, high waves smashed cottages while winds tore boats from their moorings and blew boat houses out on to the lake.

Hamilton was said to be the worst hit centre in Ontario.

An inch-and-a-half of rain fell on the city in just one hour.

About 400 homes in the Parkdale Avenue and Main Street area were still without power at noon. Hydro service to another 400 homes in the Kenilworth Avenue area was restored at 9:30 a.m. after a five hour break.

Residents of Rosewood Road described how the wind sucked trees from the ground and dumped them against houses and over the top of cars.

OCCUPANTS of two three-storey apartment houses, one at Isabel Avenue and Queenston Road and the other at King and Caroline Streets, were evacuated when one roof was blown off and the other ripped open.

Mrs. Andy Smith of Isabel Avenue said she and her husband were in bed in their third floor apartment when suddenly there was a bang and the roof fell off. It landed in the parking lot, smashing car windows.

"We closed the windows and got back into bed and the water started pouring in," Mrs. Smith said.

"The next minute the people down below were pounding on the door because the water was coming in down there," she added.

Mrs. Paul Muzepa, occupant of the adjoining third-floor apartment, said the walls of the building have buckled.

The building is owned by Joseph Robinson of Stoney Creek.

At Caroline and King Streets, where the wind ripped a hole in the roof of a three-storey apartment block, 18 persons, including an 80-year-old invalid confined to a wheelchair, were rescued by police and firemen.

TENANTS, in their night clothes or anything they could grab, were taken, in some cases by police cruisers, to spend the rest of the night with friends or relatives.

Widowed Mrs. Ellen Haschuk, told how police rescued her in her wheelchair.

"When I opened my door there was enough water in the hall to float a ship", she said.

Five persons were injured by flying debris, at Long Point.

Rubble from a \$16,000 cottage owned by Arthur Ings. of London, was found a quarter of a mile away. He had taken his family home eight hours before the storm hit.

WIDOWED Mrs. Pearl Price, of Brantford, arrived at Long Point this morning to find her cottage a shambles, eight feet off the foundation.

Provincial police sealed off the point while hydro crews cut through a maze of wires and about 150 felled trees.

Hardest hit section of the city was bordered by King Street on the north, south to Main Street, and from Parkdale Avenue in the east to Ottawa Street.

Rosewood Road, Weir Street and Tragana Avenue are where homes were damaged the most.

ALL OF THE STREETS were littered with tree branches that smashed or scratched cars.

But on Rosewood Road three homes were extensively damaged by uprooted trees.

Carl Delio of Rosewood Road found his chimney lying in a pile of shattered brick on the driveway next door, and a front awning bent back over the roof.

Harold Gooderham, also of Rosewood, surveyed the smashed front of his house and recalled that the trees leaning against the house he had planted as saplings 23 years ago.

Up the street lives Julio DiBacco, who was married two weeks ago.

Outside, his car sat windowless under a pile of tree branches.

AREA HIT.

LONG-POINT TORNADO.

P-2
7/5-5
AUG - 8 1968 N
Hydro Press Clipping Service

per Hamilton Spectator
Date August 6, 1968
Source Niagara Region

TUES AUG 6 1968

AROUND the corner, a pizza shop owner and a business machine store proprietor swept up shattered glass that had once been the plate glass windows.

Larry Smith, a former police department mechanic who runs a service station at the Queenston Road traffic circle, looked in bewilderment at the shattered remains of his garage.

There was a gaping hole in the roof left by a sign (torn from its bracing) that lay in a heap outside the shattered front window. A car had been blown 60 feet.

Two blocks away, on Fairfield Avenue, Mayor Vic Copps surveyed the twisted remains of a 40 foot television tower.

Miss Mary Herbolie, a stenographer in Wentworth County Sheriff's office, sustained cuts to her legs and feet when a piece of fence smashed through a window.

Residents of Tyrrell Road, Burlington, complained of up to 20 inches of water in the basement.

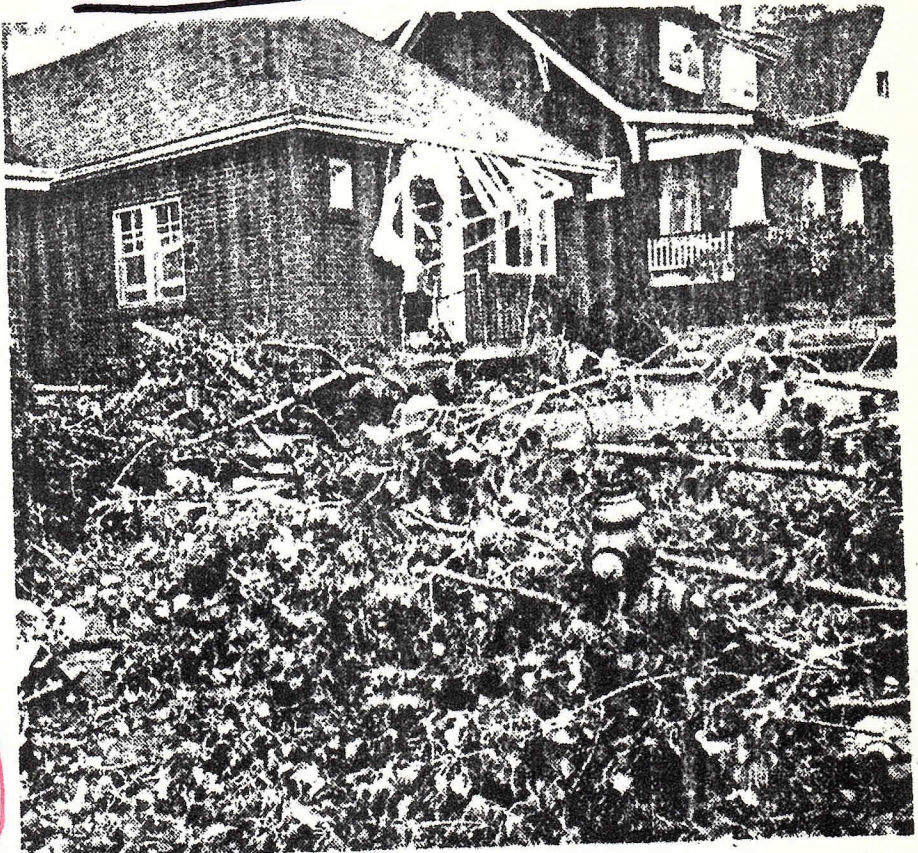
On Elgin Street, a dispatcher in the basement of the police station sat in four inches of water caused by backed up sewers.

Hydro service was disrupted in some parts of Burlington for up to 90 minutes.

At Greensville, fire raced through a barn, killing 17 pigs and destroying about \$500 worth of feed belonging to Lloyd Tewes.

Eleven cars of a Canadian Pacific Railway freight train from Hamilton to Goderich were derailed 19 miles north of Stratford.

Rain washed out a newly-built culvert, throwing the train off the track after the engine and seven cars had crossed.



A fire hydrant is one of the few things left standing in Rosewood gardens.



Cochrane Road was badly hit with fallen trees littering gardens.

10
1 INJURED

993-2846
Mrs. Brown
N.K.C.

1

Most of the city was without power after the wind hit at 3:30 a.m. EDT. Many traffic lights were still out during the morning rush hour, but police kept traffic moving smoothly. One householder reported his garage was picked up and moved four feet. There were no serious fires reported, but the Hamilton fire department received about 30 calls, mostly to deal with downed power lines.

The city's east-end beach strip area and parts of neighboring Burlington reported flooding from the heavy rains. Officers at the Burlington provincial police headquarters building worked in ankle-deep water. A Burlington resident on

It will take a couple of days to get the plant back into full operation.

The sewer plant in Kitchener was not as hard hit, but had about a foot of water on the main floor.

"It doesn't hamper operations, but it sure created a mess and a lot of work," an official said.

DISASTER AVERTED

A two-hour power failure nearly brought disaster to the plant, however. Power was restored just as the rising flood was about to engulf the electrical motors.

Kitchener Public Utilities Commission has warned residents to stay out of water in back yards and flooded basements. There is a danger from submerged electrical services, an official said.

Residents with gas heating and flooded basements should contact the PUC to turn the gas off.

The gas lines are not hazardous because the heaters shut off automatically when wet, said Rudy Senyshen, chief engineer, but the equipment must be tested before it can be turned on again.

Lightning strikes and high water caused numerous power failures all over the city but no lines were down, Mr. Senyshen said.

Lightning tripped circuit breakers and blew fuses in many transformers and water knocked out several ground level transformers in back yards.

Work crews restored power at most places before residents got up this morning. By noon, only a Kingsdale Cres. school and a few homes were still cut off.

HOOR BLACKOUT

Waterloo escaped with only slight power interruptions.

A fifth of Waterloo in the north end had power cut off for an hour when a high tension line was hit. Lightning also temporarily shut off a low voltage feeder line servicing about 200 homes in the city's east section.

Bell Telephone Co., "got off very lightly" during the storm, said local manager James Reid.

About 200 home telephones in Waterloo County were cut off.

In the Twin Cities the runoff from lawns and lots washed out parts of some roads and spread layers of mud on others.

Flooding occurred in Victoria Park about 20 minutes after the

See STORM—Page 2

Additional story on Page 3.

KITCHENER WATERLOO RECORD
TUES
2 AM AUGUST 6TH 1968

STORM

rain started, an eyewitness reported.

The rain filled the lake and flooded homes on David Street. Only the trees on the island in Victoria Park were visible above water this morning.

About four feet of water was reported in some backyards. The boathouse at the park was inundated and the canoes were all floating inside. The heating plant at the boathouse is submerged.

The foot bridge at Wilson Avenue and Boniface Street was washed down to Mill Street.

The pumping equipment at the Wilson Park swimming pool was flooded and the pool will not be in operation again until electrical contractors can

repair the damage.

Water washed around the ends of the new dam in Centennial Park but it is not yet known if there was any damage to the structure itself. The band shell at Waterloo Park is an island.

The new Moses Springer swimming pool in Waterloo received its second mud bath since it was opened a few weeks ago.

Officials said the mud washed down the hill into the pool and is ankle-deep. It will take about two days to clean it up this time. Last Thursday the pool operators closed it to flush out the mud from an overnight rain fall.

In Doon, four people were evacuated from one home and two from another, as the Oregon Pond burst its banks and sloshed two feet of water on the Doon-Blair Road.

Downpour Heavier Than Hazel

Ontario was hit early this morning by its worst storm since Hurricane Hazel came calling nearly 14 years ago. And the worst of the storm lashed the Kitchener-Waterloo area, which was battered by 4.4 inches of rain in three hours.

Homes, barns and animals in fields were hit by savage bursts of lightning that accompanied the downpour.

The storm, which began at 2 a.m., flooded homes and roads and overflowed ponds and lakes.

It was the heaviest rainfall since Aug. 4, 1915, when 6.9 inches was recorded over a 24-hour period. Hurricane Hazel dropped 3.97 inches.

The rain fell at a rate of about two inches an hour.

FOUR HOMES HIT

Lightning struck four Twin City homes, but in all cases damage was minor.

Galt received the most rain, a record 5.89 inches, while Preston recorded 4.25 inches and Waterloo-Wellington Airport 3.93 inches.

Contrasted to this is a .37 inch rainfall at London, 2.12 at Toronto, and .77 at Simcoe.

The airport weather office forecast scattered showers for tonight and cloudy skies for Wednesday.

Flooding was severe in the Twin Cities. Some homes had water up to the basement window sills, while some basement apartments were flooded, forcing residents to flee.

Possibly hardest hit was the Waterloo sewage treatment plant operated by the Ontario water resources commission. It was put out of operation.

An official said only the pumps are working and the sewage is being pumped into the Grand River which was already badly muddied by the water runoff.

The engine and seven cars crossed over the culvert before it washed out, buckling 500 feet of track and derailing 11 cars. None of the four crew members was injured.

The high winds in Hamilton centred on the six-square block east end area, where hydro crews worked this morning to repair lines brought down by uprooted trees. The area was sealed off as branches and crushed cars made passage impossible.

Ontario Hydro Press Clipping Service

Paper
Date

Toronto Telegram — Home Edition

AUG - 6 1968

TUES AUG 6 1968

715-5

DKAG →

file

Storm leaves Metro trail of havoc

Lightning set a North York home ablaze early today as a violent thunderstorm dropped two inches of rain on metro causing widespread power blackouts and flooding.

Alec Jelinek and his family fled their Bayhampton ct. split-level house when the streak sliced into the attic roof, shorting Hydro cables.

Two pumpers attended the blaze. Firemen estimated damage at \$4,500.

The storm scythed across Ontario from London to Trenton and north to Georgian Bay.

Police at Hamilton described the storm as being "like a twister," wrenching trees from the ground, setting Hydro poles ablaze and causing roofs to buckle

and collapse beneath the weight of the rain. An 18-block area in the east end of the city was the worst affected.

In Metro, lightning struck a Hydro sub-station on Saunders rd. blacking out Scarboro from Eglinton ave. e. and Markham rd. to the lakeshore for almost three hours.

An official said some Eglinton ave. e. apartment dwellers were in a "near-panic" as telephone and elevator power was severed leaving them in darkness on upper floors.

Toronto fire-fighters raced to 35 locations where crackling Hydro wires whipped crazily on roads and gardens.

The wires, most of them slashed by falling

branches, were guarded until the arrival of emergency Hydro crews.

Among the worst-hit areas in Toronto were Bloor st. and Dovercourt, and Middleton st. and Delaney cres.

North York firemen converged on the Ontario Crippled Children's Centre on Rumsey rd. as a precaution when telephone lines were cut, setting off an alarm.

Toronto Harbor Police rescued a 40-foot sailboat swept from its Toronto Islands mooring and into the bay. The boat was taken to the Harbor Police dock.

Etobicoke emergency water crews were kept busy with flooding calls and Hydro workers attended a power blackout in the Westway and Dixon rd. area, caused when a Hydro pole caught fire.

Water department crews throughout Metro cleared flooded underpasses and most were passable for the morning rush-hour.

Police in Hamilton estimated damage could run to \$1,000,000.

An apartment building was evacuated when high winds tore off the roof.

About 25 trees crashed on roads and Hydro lines. Police estimated that another 100 trees were torn up on private property across a mile-wide area in the city's east end.

Extra crews were called out and most roadways were cleared by 8 a.m.

*I didn't
play this -
Disasters.
an awfully funny
tornado track*

(11)

Ontario Hydro Press Clipping Service

Paper

Toronto Globe and Mail (Final)

Date

AUG - 7 1968

715-7

DKAG → file

"Storm Reports - Clippings"

TUES AUG 6 1968

Second storm hits South Ontario, smashing trees and cutting power

For the second consecutive night, a summer storm blew across Southern Ontario, smashing down trees and wires and dropped more rain upon an already saturated area.

High winds, accompanied by lightning and thunder, struck Toronto around 11:30 last night. Downed hydro wires, broken tree limbs and flooded basements were reported by police, firemen and public works crews minutes later.

Metro police said that more than 100 burglar alarms were set off within a half hour period by the storm. Several areas in Metro were blacked out as a result of electrical breaks and Parliament Street north of Queen Street was blocked for almost an hour by a tree that had fallen across the road.

In North York the high winds toppled a crane from the roof of an apartment building under construction.

On Weston Road, timber from the roof of another apartment building under construction was blown down onto the road.

In Scarborough, police and firemen were sent scurrying to Midland Avenue shortly after midnight to gather up lumber that was being whipped on to the roadway from a lumber yard.

A sign was blown down from the front of a building on

Adelaide Street West and several store windows were also blown out.

Branches were ripped from trees and dropped across hydro and telephone wires throughout Metro by the storm. Police said that they answered several calls to offices where windows had been left open and rain had damaged the interiors.

Mini-tornado reported • LONGPOINT

Storm strikes as southern Ontario recovers from earlier havoc

As Southern Ontario communities tried to recover from the effects of a severe storm which buffeted the region a night earlier, a second storm of lesser intensity swept across the area early today.

Heavy rains early yesterday were accompanied in some areas by violent squalls that uprooted trees, cragged down power lines and damaged property.

Flooding, wind damage, power blackouts and fires set by lightning were reported in an area from Toronto to Long Point on the Lake Erie shoreline.

A mini-tornado cut a swath more than a mile long and 300 to 400 yards wide at Long Point, about 25 miles southwest of Simcoe. Four persons were treated at hospital in

Tillsonburg for minor cuts and bruises.

Half a dozen motorboats were sunk in the storm and at least six cottages badly damaged.

Arthur Ings of London, Ont., said his \$16,000 summer house was flattened. Mr. Ings and his family had gone home on Monday night after a two-week vacation at the cottage.

Mrs. Pearl Price of Brantford said her cottage was moved about four feet by the tornado. One side was torn off and every window was broken.

Hamilton also was hard-hit by the wide-ranging storm. Rain and winds of up to 100 miles an hour damaged 200 houses and businesses in the city's east end.

More than 1.5 inches of rain

fell there in an hour, starting about 3 a.m.

About 40 residents of two three-story apartment houses in the downtown area were moved out when one roof was blown off and the other was ripped open. Sections of one roof landed in an apartment building's parking lot and damaged some residents' cars.

Most of the houses and small businesses that were damaged were in a 24-block area of the east end.

The Hamilton Fire Department reported 30 alarms were answered, mostly minor.

Hamilton's beach-strip area and parts of neighboring Burlington reported flooding. Officers at provincial police headquarters in Burlington worked in ankle-deep water.

At Ancaster, five miles west

of Hamilton, the chimes of the Marshall Memorial United Church started ringing about 4 a.m., just at the height of the storm. A short circuit was blamed.

Rain which washed out a recently built culvert was responsible for a freight train derailment on the CPR's Hamilton-to-Goderich line, 19 miles north of Stratford. The engine and seven cars crossed the culvert before it crumpled, buckling 500 feet of

track and derailling 11 cars.

In Kitchener, the fire department responded to more than 200 calls during the storm that dropped 4.4 inches of water on the area in three hours. It was a record rainfall. In 1915, 6.9 inches were recorded in 24 hours.

"It was the worst electrical storm I ever recalled here. It caused the most havoc since Hurricane Hazel (October, 1954)," Kitchener Fire Chief Edward Johnson said. Mr. Johnson said the 200 alarms his men answered were minor fires caused by lightning.

The main street of Doon, four miles east of Kitchener, was flooded and two families were moved from their homes.

The Waterloo sewage treatment plant was put out of operation and waste was being

pumped into the Grand River yesterday. The plant is not expected to resume operating for several days.

A storm sidelight was a heavy fog that rolled over the St. Mary's River and stopped shipping between Lake Huron and Lake Superior. The locks at Sault Ste. Marie were closed for 10 hours, forcing close to 20 ships to anchor.

Up to 4.8 inches of rain fell on the Galt area in a two-hour period. Numerous flooded basements were reported, hydro and telephone lines were knocked out briefly and a number of minor fires were reported.

Rainfall in Brant County ranged from .12 inches in some parts to 4.06 inches in others. Just an inch of rain fell on the district throughout July.

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Pembroke Observer, Ont.
Circulation 7,599
August 6, 1968

TUES AUG 6 1968

Tornado Hits Hamilton Area

By THE CANADIAN PRESS

A mini-tornado ripped through the east end of Hamilton early today, tearing the roofs from two apartment buildings and a gas station, blowing one car 40 feet and damaging many more with uprooted trees.

Residents of two apartment buildings were evacuated, but no injuries were reported.

The wind was part of a storm that dumped more than two inches of rain from Toronto to Mount Forest, Ont., about 65 miles northwest of Toronto. Hamilton bore the brunt of the storm, receiving 1½ inches of rain in an hour.

Damage was not estimated.

The high winds in Hamilton centred on the six-square block east end area, where hydro crews worked this morning to

repair lines brought down by uprooted trees. The area was sealed off as branches and crushed cars made passage impossible.

POWER CUT

Most of the city was without power after the wind hit at 3:30 a.m. EDT. Many traffic lights were still out during the morning rush hour, but police kept traffic moving smoothly.

One householder reported his garage was picked up and moved four feet.

There were no serious fires reported, but the Hamilton fire department received about 30 calls, mostly to deal with downed power lines.

The city's east-end beach strip area and parts of neighbouring Burlington reported flooding from the heavy rains.