

A

TORNADO PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

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ONT

1. DATE AND TIME SUNDAY, SEPT 3, 1978 1350 EDT

2. LOCATION OR PATH (attach map) WELLAND (SW-NE) 0971-7

3. PATH LENGTH NOT KNOWN <1mi; 1-4mi; 5-10mi; 11-50mi; LENGTH IF >50mi

4. PATH WIDTH U 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; 7. A terrible roar, like a blast furnace, or a rain

9. LIST ANY ASSOCIATED PHENOMENA (Such as hail, vivid lightning heavy rain, no rain, etc.) No rain or hail.

10. TOTAL DAMAGE ESTIMATE \$ U 11. TOTAL DEATHS NONE

12. TOTAL INJURED NONE 13. TOTAL HOMELESS NONE

14. LIST ALL REFERENCES
WELLAND EVENING TRIBUNE, SEPT 5, 1978.
VISIT TO WELLAND ON OCT 7, 1978, M.J. Newark

15. SUMMARIZE REMARKS PERTAINING TO (a) FUNNEL; (b) INTERESTING OR CAPRICIOUS EVENTS.

(a) Funnel seen by several eyewitnesses. At one point it was aloft carrying debris. At another it was seen crossing old Welland Canal where it drew water up several hundred feet.

(b) Damage limited mainly to broken or uprooted trees with secondary damage to hydro wires.

Visit to Welland on October 7, 1978 with reference to
tornado of September 3, 1978.

Interview with Mrs Hine. 735-1997 On sunday afternoon
Mrs Hine was sailing a small boat on an abandoned portion of
the Welland canal just south of the Broadway Bridge when she
heard a terrible sound like a train or a dune buggy. The
clouds darkened but there was no rain and then she saw material
from Rootse Lumber (On the west bank of the canal) spiralling
high in the air. The building was undamaged, but lumber
stacked outside was lifted up and was high enough that at
first Mrs Hine mistook it for a flock of birds. All of the
material was carried aloft above her towards the east bank
where the funnel dipped down and struck the Union Carbide
factory and shook its metal siding. (This building is a
solid and large functional plant^{ing}). There was no damage to it.
Mrs Hine was about 400 yards from it when it hit the
factory, in a canoe, and felt no wind

Interview with Chris Hine, Mrs Hine's son.
Chris Hine 18, is a lifeguard at the Cross St swimming
pool. At 1350 EDT according to the pool clock, a spiralling
cloud appeared. It moved a park bench and threw a garbage
can into the outdoor pool. It also picked up Chris Hines
car onto 2 wheels and moved it 7 or 8 feet as well as
lifting water out of the pool. After it had gone about half
the water was left remainig in the pool (actually a wading
pool).

Interview with Jim Brown, 78 MerrittSt East . 732-3960
Mr Brown, a hydro employee, heard a tremendous noise like
a roaring blast furnace or train at about 1400 EDT. He saw
a strange cloud coming from the west and saw it root trees
out of the ground and toss them on a high tension wire. It
crossed the Welland River at about the Niagara St Bridge
and then crossed the old Welland Canal at about the Court
House and Rideau Hotel area (also the location of the Cross
St pool). It pulled water out of the canal several hundred
feet up into the air, twirling like a top.

There had been a few heavy drops of rain which had quit
just before the tornado was seen.

Notes. The only way to account for the direction of travel
of this tornado is to assume that there were two (not all
that likely) or else there was one which followed a sinusoidal
path more or less along the canal (see map, and more likely).
It was not possible to estimate the damage width . The length
was at least 2 miles.

M.J.Newark