Tornado-like winds

sweep over Ontario

High winds, driving rain and tornado-like clouds ripped through Ontario yesterday leaving downed power lines, uprooted trees and damaged buildings.

However, there were no reports of injuries as a result of the violent storm which swept eastward across the province.

In Oakville a funnel cloud—believed by some residents to be a small tornado touching down—destroyed a barn on Highway 5.

"The wind was going around and around," said Bob Jeffreys, 15, who lives on the farm where the barn was destroyed. "It came like a freight train. It got so dark I couldn't see and when it was gone the barn had disintegrated."

Phone service to about 1.000 Oakville-area homes was disrupted when three cables were torn loose by the high winds.

Electric power was out in sections of Mississauga for a short time last night but was restored by Hydro crews.

Wind gusts up to 70 miles per hour were recorded at North Bay where the roofs were ripped from several houses under construction and a warehouse. Several trees were also toppled in the downtown area.

Parts of Sarnia were blacked out for 90 minutes when power lines fell and \$100,000 in property damage was reported. Windows in several downtown buildings were smashed, three roofs were ripped away from houses and a pick-up truck was crushed under a falling tree.

A funnel cloud was sighted at London and hallstones half an inch in diameter fell on Windsor where more than 1.7 inches of rain was recorded. That's more than half the average for the city for all of August.

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An empty silo was wrecked by lightning near Chatham.

A 25-mile stretch of Highway 17 between North Bay and Sturgeon Falls was without power all evening. Fire caused by lightning damaged a house in Sturgeon Falls and one in nearby Cache Bay.