
**Confirmed Tornado
Franktown, Ontario
May 16, 2000**

Date- Local: Tuesday, May 16th, 2000

UTC: Tuesday, May 16th, 2000

Time- Local: 1130

UTC: 1530

Location: Franktown

Region: Smith Falls-Lanark-Sharbot Lake

Classification: Confirmed Tornado

Category: G

Casualties: None

Track Length: 200m

Width: 6 m

Motion: None available

Damage Estimate: None available

F-Scale Rating: F0

Code: BS

Damage Survey: None available

Spotter Reports: Four

Other Documents:

Personal Correspondence between David Sills MSC King Radar and Stephen
Mayne, Spotter

Two pages With Eight Damage Photographs

Newspaper Clippings

sj/s

Meteorological Service of Canada
4905 Dufferin Street, ARMP
Downsview, Ontario M3H 5T4

CANADA

Tornado F-Scale Assessment

Sarah J. Scriver

Tornado Data Production Assistant, Environment Canada

April 21st, 2004

Classification: Confirmed Tornado

Date: Tuesday, May 16th, 2000

Location: Franktown, Smith Falls-Lanark-Sharbot Lake

Assessment: F0

F-Code: BS

Explanation of Assessment: Old barn of questionable construction blown down.
Siding and steel roofing blown around.

SJS

Meteorological Service of Canada
4905 Dufferin Street, ARMP
Downsview, Ontario M3H 5T4
CANADA

Sills, David [Ontario]

From: Stephen, Theresa, Michael & Mackenzie Mayne[SMTP:stephenm@storm.ca]
Sent: June 7, 2000 11:35 PM
To: David.Sills@ec.gc.ca
Subject: Franktown 'Tornado'



figure1.jpg



figure2.jpg



figure3.jpg



figure4.jpg



figure5.jpg



figure6.jpg



figure7.jpg



Figure8.jpg

Hi David! Here is the info you requested to the best of my ability. I have also included 8 photos for you of the barn and the debris. Not all of the debris is shown here but I tried to include most of the large pieces. The furthest of the larger pieces travelled upwards of 100 feet from the barn in two distinct directions. The debris shown is in a straight line from the barn while the debris on the other side of the bushes is to the left of the track and some debris also landed to the immediate left of the barn.

Some of the smaller pieces travelled upwards of 150 - 175 feet away in a pattern like an inverted 'V' outward from the barn.

Time: 11:30 a.m. +/- 15 minutes

Place: 2021 Sixth Line Road (Beckwith) at hwy.#15 approx. 3km. north of Franktown

Weather Conditions around event time: Overcast, threatening rain all morning. Had been breezy most of the morning but had died down prior to event. The air was heavy at the time and the weather seemed unstable. Mixture of light and dark cloud cover (very confused sky).

Lightning?: None

Hail / size?: None

Wind gusts not from tornado at time?: Possible gust front moving through. Wind gusts had reached 20 kph. max

Odd clouds / cloud motion?: Confused sky with cloud motion every direction at times.

Funnel observed?: Appearance like a condensation funnel (white)

Funnel shape / behaviour: somewhat barrel shaped seemed to have a 'whipping' type action

Swirling dust / debris observed at surface?: Yes. Mainly dust as it crossed hwy.#15. Did not observe at the barn. When I realized what I was dealing with I was much too close to stay and watch (100 feet)

direct path

Damage / injuries: Barn as per pictures, some minor tree damage including splitting and leaf stripping.

No injuries unless you count a few scratches from flying branches and stuff on my neck and arms.

Width of damage path: At it's widest - 100 feet

Length of damage path: maximum 150 feet

Direction of funnel: Out of the SW travelling ESE

Funnel rotation direction: clockwise (again I was way too close for comfort but if memory serves me right it was clockwise when it crossed hwy.#15)

Any additional information: Was accompanied by a roaring sound much like a freight train. I hadn't noticed it because we have train tracks about 300 yards away but I was having work done at the front of my property and Howard from Topps Top Soil was there. He had just said to my 5 year old son that "it sounds like a train is coming". (there wasn't one) The next thing I knew I could hear the old barn being ripped apart. I ran back to see what had happened because I knew a neighbour was back there cutting grass and thought that the barn had fallen and maybe he was in it. It was when I got to within about 100 feet or so that I suddenly realized, due in part to the huge wind at my back and the fact I was being hit from behind by leaves, small branches etc. that I was facing a "tornado". At that point I noticed the 'funnel' and debris, turned around, and RAN LIKE HELL. My son was out front by the dump truck and backhoe so I ran to him, warned everybody and it was then that Howard and I saw it cross the highway and disipate.

What I observed then was a lot of dust from the ditches and shoulders being whipped around in a funnel shape that was barrel shaped but noticably narrower at the bottom however I did not look up into the sky to see how high up it went. It didn't really last long enough crossing the highway for me to take full stock of the situation otherwise I would have thought to look up. It was enough for me to see a funnel whip past me at this point about 300 feet away. Its width at that point was approximately 20 -25 feet across and I could sort of see through it.

I can't think of what else I can say about it. Maybe if you were to see the damaged area and prod me with questions I might think of more details. Even it's rotation direction I can't be 100% sure of although I am about 90 - 95% sure it was clockwise.

As for the images, they are named figure1.jpg through fugure8.jpg but this does not represent any particular order. I have a few more photos not included here and I also have the newspaper photos.

If I can be of any help David, please don't hesitate to call or drop in. The coffee is always hot, I am always home (most of the time as I don't have a vehicle now that the wife is off maternity leave and back to work. I am a partially disabled computer programmer/web designer who cannot work full-time so I am available everyday.

Something I was wondering about and I don't know if you can tell me who to talk to. I am interested in running a small weather station out here as we

don't have one in the area. Would E.C. be interested in helping set one up if I was to take the observances and call them in?

Anyway, I've taken enough of your time and will shut up now. If you have any problems with these images such as the format (jpg) and need it done in another (I can do that easily) or a problem this message please let me know immediately and I will rectify the situation right away. I would also appreciate your letting me know what you determine as I am very interested in all things weather related (hence my joining the EC Severe Weather Watchers). Also if you or someone comes out here, send them to me and I'll direct them to the spot.

Oh, I just thought of something that might be important in your evaluation. The area in which this event took place is surrounded by bush and forest. The ground is very damp/wet with many small swamps and springs. The water table is high in the area (my well keeps overflowing), and there are many artesian wells around. The forested areas are very thick with vegetation with little to no open ground. Tree tops are approx. 30+ feet on average.

Sincerely,

Stephen Mayne

2021 Sixth Line Road (Beckwith)
R.R.#6
Smiths Falls, Ontario
K7A 4S7
(613)253-2215
stephenm@storm.ca



figure 1.gif

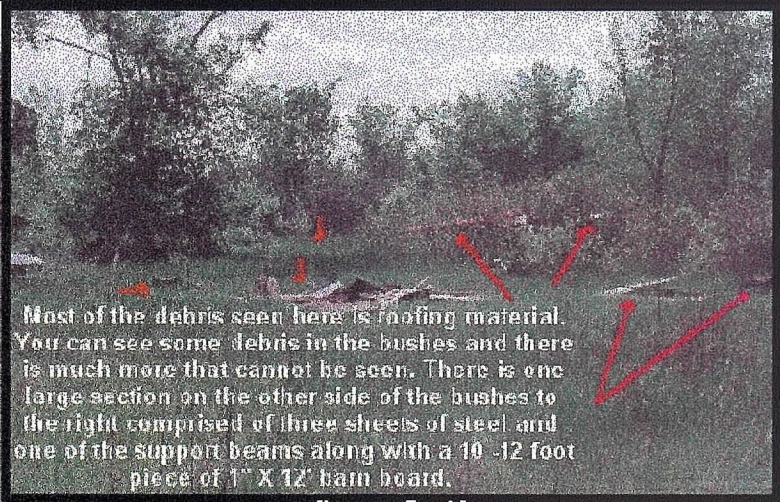


figure2.gif

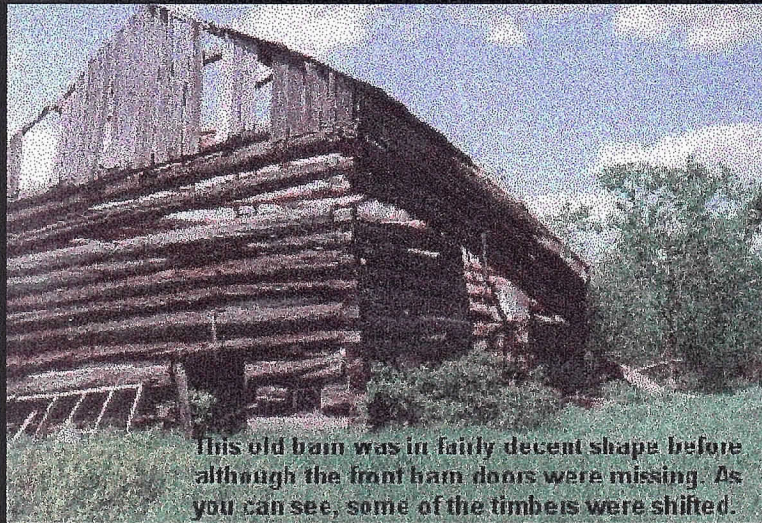


figure3.gif



figure4.gif

The point marked in red is approx. 75' from the barn which is to the extreme right in this photo. The car was already here (just so you know).

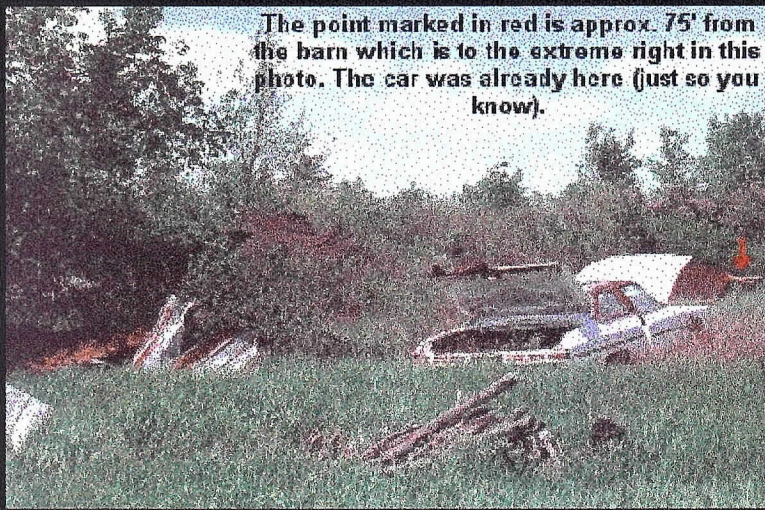


figure5.gif

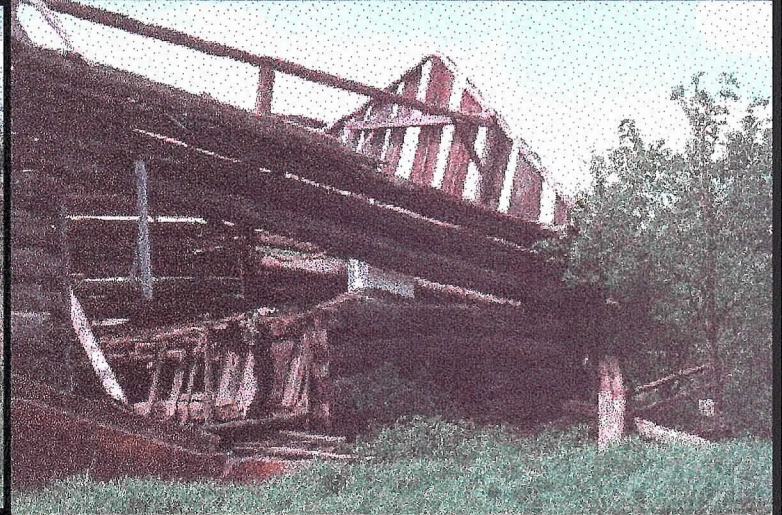
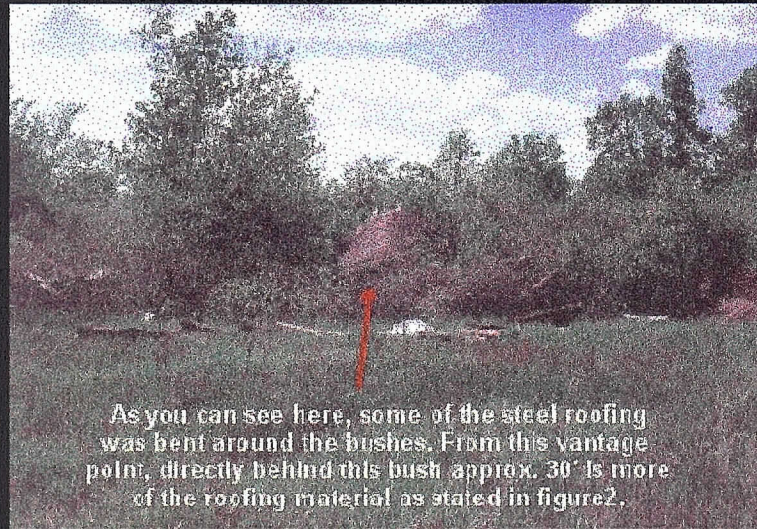


figure6.gif



As you can see here, some of the steel roofing was bent around the bushes. From this vantage point, directly behind this bush approx. 30' is more of the roofing material as stated in figure2.

figure7.gif



Figure8.gif

Spotter Reports, May 16, 2000

CLASSIFICATION: Severe Thunderstorm **SOURCE/WATCHER ID:** Stephen Mayne
EVENT TIME (UTC): 15-30 **EVENT DAY:** 16.0 **MONTH:** 5.0 **YEAR:** 2000.0
EVENT DURATION (HR): 0.0 **(MIN):** 0.0 **DAY OF THE WEEK:** EVENT
LOCALE: Near Franktown, (SW Ottawa) **ASOCTD PUBLIC RGN:** Frontenac-Lanark
DETAILED DESCRIPTION: "More info.."whitish-grey swirling mass" - "train sound"
heard - pine needles stripped off trees - "funnel" diameter 40 feet at most - debris path
200 m long - "looked like large dust devil" - couldn't say if funnel top reached "
INITIAL ASSESSMENT: UNCONFIRMED **SPL WX STATEMENT IN EFFECT ?:**
NO STATEMENT LEAD TIME (HR): (MIN): **WATCH IN EFFECT ?:** NO
WATCH LEAD TIME (HR): (MIN): **WARNING IN EFFECT ?:** NO **WARNING**
LEAD TIME (HR): (MIN): **TORNADO:** NO **WINDSPEED:** **RAINFALL:** MM
RAIN DURATION: **HAIL DIAMETER:** MM **HAIL DESCRIPTION:** EVENT
DESCRIPTION: Wind Mesoscale ? : Synoptic ? : Big Event ? : Statement Est
Hit/Miss: NO **Watch Est Hit/Miss:** NO **Warning Est Hit/Miss:** NO **Separate Event**
(30km/30min): UKN **Vetted by:** Kuhny **Vetted date:** 16/05/2000

CLASSIFICATION: Severe Thunderstorm **SOURCE/WATCHER ID:** Stephen Mayne
EVENT TIME (UTC): 15-30 **EVENT DAY:** 16.0 **MONTH:** 5.0 **YEAR:** 2000.0
EVENT DURATION (HR): 0.0 **(MIN):** 0.0 **DAY OF THE WEEK:** EVENT
LOCALE: Near Franktown **ASOCTD PUBLIC RGN:** Frontenac-Lanark **DETAILED**
DESCRIPTION: "More info - leading edge of virga passed over as it happened -
superadiabatic lapse rates blo 1000' (YOW T/Td = 16/1) - may have been eddy on edge
of microburst reaching ground - possible landspout or huge dust devil as well"
INITIAL ASSESSMENT: UNCONFIRMED **SPL WX STATEMENT IN EFFECT ?:**
NO STATEMENT LEAD TIME (HR): (MIN): **WATCH IN EFFECT ?:** NO
WATCH LEAD TIME (HR): (MIN): **WARNING IN EFFECT ?:** NO **WARNING**
LEAD TIME (HR): (MIN): **TORNADO:** NO **WINDSPEED:** **RAINFALL:** MM
RAIN DURATION: **HAIL DIAMETER:** MM **HAIL DESCRIPTION:** EVENT
DESCRIPTION: Wind Mesoscale ? : Synoptic ? : Big Event ? : Statement Est
Hit/Miss: NO **Watch Est Hit/Miss:** NO **Warning Est Hit/Miss:** NO **Separate Event**
(30km/30min): UKN **Vetted by:** RS-see other 3 entries **Vetted date:** 14/06/00

CLASSIFICATION: Severe Thunderstorm **SOURCE/WATCHER ID:** The Canadian
(newspaper: Carleton Place, ON) **EVENT TIME (UTC):** 15-30 **EVENT DAY:** 16.0
MONTH: 5.0 **YEAR:** 2000.0 **EVENT DURATION (HR):** 0.0 **(MIN):** 0.0 **DAY OF**
THE WEEK: **EVENT LOCALE:** Beckwith **ASOCTD PUBLIC RGN:** Frontenac-
Lanark **DETAILED DESCRIPTION:** "More Info: barn was 100 yr, on 6th Line of
Beckwith Township.Environment Canada outruled tornado, stated winds up to 80 km/h,
likely microburst. Event occurred just before 16Z." **INITIAL ASSESSMENT:** NEAR-
SEVERE **SPL WX STATEMENT IN EFFECT ?:** **NO STATEMENT LEAD TIME**
(HR): (MIN): **WATCH IN EFFECT ?:** **NO WATCH LEAD TIME (HR): (MIN):**
WARNING IN EFFECT ?: **NO WARNING LEAD TIME (HR): (MIN):**
TORNADO: NO **WINDSPEED:** 80 **RAINFALL:** MM **RAIN DURATION:** **HAIL**

DIAMETER: MM HAIL DESCRIPTION: EVENT DESCRIPTION: Wind
Mesoscale ?: **Synoptic ?:** **Big Event ?:** **Statement Est Hit/Miss:** NO **Watch Est Hit/Miss:** NO **Warning Est Hit/Miss:** NO **Separate Event (30km/30min):** UKN
Vetted by: RS-even more info **Vetted date:** 15/07/00

CLASSIFICATION: Severe Thunderstorm **SOURCE/WATCHER ID:** Steve Mayne
613-253-2215 StephenM@storm.ca **EVENT TIME (UTC):** 15-30 **EVENT DAY:** 16.0
MONTH: 5.0 **YEAR:** 2000.0 **EVENT DURATION (HR):** 0.0 **(MIN):** 5.0 **DAY OF THE WEEK:** **EVENT LOCALE:** Near Franktown, (SW Ottawa in Ern Lanark County)
ASOCTD PUBLIC RGN: Frontenac-Lanark **DETAILED DESCRIPTION:** "Small "tornado" ripped metal sheet roof off of small old decrepid barn and threw it about 100 feet away. This "tornado" touched down right onto the barn. Nails ripped out from wood where roof was attached. Tree limbs snapped. " **INITIAL ASSESSMENT:**
UNCONFIRMED SPL WX STATEMENT IN EFFECT ?: NO **STATEMENT LEAD TIME (HR): (MIN):** **WATCH IN EFFECT ?:** NO **WATCH LEAD TIME (HR): (MIN):** **WARNING IN EFFECT ?:** NO **WARNING LEAD TIME (HR): (MIN):**
TORNADO: POSSIBLE WINDSPEED: 80 (Est) **RAINFALL: MM RAIN DURATION: HAIL DIAMETER: MM HAIL DESCRIPTION: EVENT DESCRIPTION:** Wind **Mesoscale ?:** **Synoptic ?:** **Big Event ?:** **Statement Est Hit/Miss:** NO **Watch Est Hit/Miss:** NO **Warning Est Hit/Miss:** NO **Separate Event (30km/30min):** UKN **Vetted by:** Kuhny **Vetted date:** 16/05/2000

ITEM

PUBLICATION The Ottawa Sun
DATE Wednesday May 17, 2000
PAGE 2
BYLINE JASON CUMMING

HEADLINE: GONE WITH THE WIND
 FREAK FUNNEL RIPS THROUGH RURAL NEIGHBOURHOOD

A freak exhibition of nature's vengeance ripped the roof off a heritage barn yesterday and rained down torn tin and timbers over a rural neighbourhood.

Witnesses said the violent vortex "sounded like a train" as it hit the beat-up building before cutting a 200-metre swath through some bush, and then touching down on Hwy. 15 about noon.

Computer programmer Steve Mayne was pelted by wind-whipped flying foliage outside his home as the "defined funnel" appeared in a neighbour's backyard -- about 3 km north of Franktown.

'BIZARRE BUT PRETTY COOL'

"It was just a swirling white mass," the 39-year-old dad of two said. "It was bizarre but pretty cool. I just wish I had a camera with me when I was out there."

Debris tossed about by the brief and sudden windstorm left corrugated metal panels lodged in trees and tossed broken wood slabs throughout a nearby field off Concession 6.

Weather experts said despite the funnel, the phenomenon was more than likely an intense and concentrated 80 km/h breeze known as a microburst.

"There's no evidence of any ingredients necessary for a tornado ** according to our radar and satellites," Environment Canada forecaster Alain Boisvert said.

"I don't know where it came from but my gut feeling is it probably was a strong wind gust."

ILLUSTRATION photo by Jason Ransom, Ottawa SUN
 BECKWITH TWP. resident Steve Mayne looks at his neighbour's trashed storage barn after a freak gust of wind ripped it apart yesterday afternoon.

SEARCH TERMS ENVIRONMENT; THE; CANADA;

*** END OF STORY***