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**Confirmed Tornado  
Grindstone Lake, Ontario  
June 29, 2003**

**Date- Local:** Sunday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2003

**UTC:** Sunday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2003

**Time- Local:** 1750

**UTC:** 2150

**Location:** Grindstone Lake

**Region:** Bancroft-Bon Echo

**Classification:** Confirmed Tornado

**Category:** B

**Casualties:** None

**Track Length:** None available

**Width:** None available

**Motion:** None available

**Damage Estimate:** \$100 000

**F-Scale Rating:** F0

**Code:** TS

**Damage Survey:** Available at [ontariostorms.com](http://ontariostorms.com), by Walter Arksey

**Spotter Reports:** None

**Other Documents:**

“Grindstone Lake Tornado”, storm report by Walter Arksey

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*sjs*

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

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## **Tornado F-Scale Assessment**

Sarah J. Sriver

Tornado Data Production Assistant, Environment Canada

July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2004

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**Classification:** Confirmed Tornado

**Date:** Sunday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2003

**Location:** Grindstone Lake, Bancroft-Bon Echo Region

**Assessment:** F0

**F-Code:** TS

**Explanation of Assessment:** Numerous trees snapped and uprooted, damaging cottages, causing power outages, and blocking roads.

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SJS

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

# Grindstone Lake Tornado

## June 29th, 2003

Just before supper on June 29th, 2003, a tornado (according to Chris, our local Learning Channel expert) came across the west shore, over the islands and touched down on the peninsula. It was preceded by a continuous roar with branches flying high in the air. It only lasted about 20 seconds but caused thousands of dollars of damage. No one was hurt, but three vehicles were damaged, 4 cottages were badly damaged and one may have to torn down.

The baby at Kinkaid's had just been moved from the crib before a huge tree crashed into the bedroom breaking the crib. Another family had just packed the cars to head back home when it hit. Both of their cars were blocked, one pinned under a tree and the cottage had the roof smashed in with such force that it shifted the cottage off of its foundation while the family was in it seeking protection.

Within 30 minutes all neighbours were out offering assistance and had the main road cleared of trees. Hydro and telephone service was lost to all on the peninsula. Some cottages had power again in about 6 1/2 hours, others took until the next day and some will have to wait until they can fix their cottages and have them pass inspection. The Hydro was on the scene very quickly.

The passing of the tornado by the islands was captured on video by Brian family and numerous pictures were taken, some of which I have added to this page. The resolution of most pictures has been reduced for display on computer monitors. If you would like a copy of the higher res files, please send an e-mail to [walterarksey@sympatico.ca](mailto:walterarksey@sympatico.ca) or click [here](#). Story was covered by the New RO and the Ottawa Sun and was mentioned on The Weather Network on July 2nd.

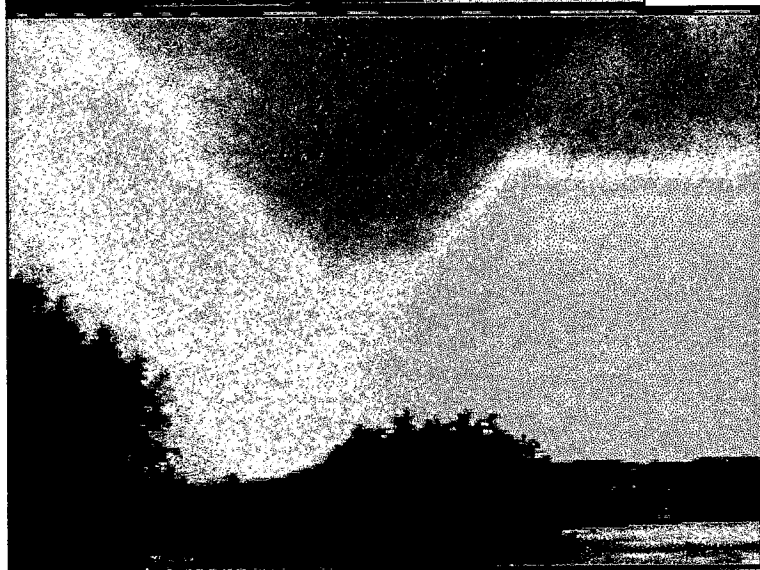
Video clips:

For those of you that do not have PowerPoint to view the PowerPoint Slide Show, a free copy of the PowerPoint Viewer (2.8Mb) is available by [clicking here](#). To download the PowerPoint Slide Show (3Mb), [click here](#).

For those of you that don't want to download big files, here are some individual pictures: [Larry's truck](#) [Car](#) [Jackson's](#) [Kinkaid's](#) [Davidson's](#) [The Crews and a canoe](#)

Hope I got all of the facts correct,  
- Walter Arksey.

Images from the video....



Newspaper Article  
Tuesday, July 1, 2003

## **Cottages blown away**

**Thousands in damage from apparent tornado**

By TOBI COHEN, Ottawa Sun

Cottagers southwest of Ottawa are spending the Canada Day long weekend picking up the pieces after a tornado ripped through their vacation community Sunday evening.

While Environment Canada has yet to confirm it, residents from the town of Plevna say a twister touched down just before 5 p.m., downing trees and power lines and destroying several cottages and vehicles.

"I saw everything. I was lying on the couch and everything started vibrating in the cottage," said Chris McNamara, who watched as a 30-metre funnel of water seemed to rise from the depths of Grindstone Lake carrying leaves and debris.

"I was shocked. I never saw a tornado in my life. I've seen them on the Learning Channel and the Discovery Channel, but I never saw it like this in my life ... I was scared to death."

### **NO INJURIES**

McNamara, who drove around to all 38 cottages along the lake to make sure everyone was okay after the storm, which lasted a mere 20 seconds, said there were no injuries but plenty of property damage.

While the twister spared his own cottage despite coming within 300-400 ft. of it, many of his neighbours, he said, were not so lucky.

A tree slammed through one cottage right into a crib where a baby had been sleeping just moments before, while another cottage suffered an estimated \$35,000 in damage, he said.

Environment Canada forecaster Camil Laprise said that while there was probably a tornado in the small community about 120 km from Ottawa, he couldn't confirm it with the information he had.

Sunday's stormy weather, he noted, was responsible for another confirmed tornado in Rockford south of Owen Sound and there were also reports of another possible tornado near Windsor.