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**Confirmed Tornado  
Town of Blue Mountains, Ontario  
August 20, 2009**

**Date- Local:** Thursday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**UTC:** Thursday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Time- Local:** 1640

**UTC:** 2040

**Location:** Town of Blue Mountains

**Region:** Grey - Bruce

**Classification:** Confirmed Tornado

**Category:** A

**Casualties:** None

**Track Length:** 12500 m

**Width:** 400 m

**Motion:** 223.47 degrees

**Damage Estimate:** None available

**F-Scale Rating:** F2

**Code:** AH, IB

**Damage Survey:** Yes done by Geoff Coulson and Ryan Pimiskern

**Spotter Reports:** One

**Other Documents:**

Damage survey report detailing damage

Map of damage path and waypoints

Pictures of damage

2 OSPC vetted reports

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## **Tornado F-Scale Assessment**

Brad L. Rousseau

Tornado Data Production Assistant, Environment Canada

February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010

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**Classification:** Confirmed Tornado

**Date:** Thursday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Location:** Town of Blue Mountains, Grey – Bruce Region

**Assessment:** F2

**F-Code:** AH, IB

**Explanation of Assessment:** Some homes had roofs partially removed and others completely removed, there was also a roof torn off of a storage building at Georgian Peaks Ski Resort.

# OSPC Storm Damage Survey Report

<b>Investigators</b>	<i>#1 Geoff Coulson</i>	<i>#2 Ryan Pimiskern</i>
<b>Location / Region</b>	<i>Town of Blue Mountains</i>	<i>Grey - Bruce</i>
<b>Event Date Local and UTC (YYMMDD)</b>	<i>090820</i>	
<b>Event Time Local and UTC</b>	<i>4:40 PM</i>	<i>2040</i>
<b>Severe Weather Event Type</b>	<i>Tornado</i>	
<b>Classification</b>	<i>Confirmed</i>	
<b>Classification Code</b>	<i>A</i>	
<b>F-scale Value</b>	<i>F2</i>	
<b>F-scale Code</b>	<i>AH, IB</i>	
<b>Start Lat and Long</b>	<i>44.4548</i>	<i>-80.4825</i>
<b>End Lat and Long</b>	<i>44.5370</i>	<i>-80.3733</i>
<b>Path Length (m)</b>	<i>12500</i>	
<b>Motion (degrees)</b>	<i>223.47</i>	
<b>Max. Path Width (m)</b>	<i>400m</i>	
<b>Avg. Path Width (m)</b>	<i>300m</i>	
<b>Human Injuries / Fatalities</b>	<i>0</i>	<i>N/A</i>
<b>Animal Injuries / Fatalities</b>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>
<b>Damage (\$K) / Source</b>		
<b>Damage Description</b>		
<b>Other Notes</b>		

**Images and Captions**

*include storm photos, damage photos, maps, etc. below*

Investigation conducted by Coulson/Pimiskern on August 21st resulted in Waypoints 421-437 on map below. Terry Darling, CANWARN Volunteer, conducted investigations on August 28th and September 7th resulting in Waypoint Darling Damage 5.



Map of extent of damage track from tornado (12.5 km)



House Damage at Georgian Peaks Ski Resort, W of Collingwood  
Looking N  
Lat/Long - 44.5370 / -80.3733



Georgian Peaks Ski Resort - Damage to storage building - looking south



Georgian Peaks Ski Resort – Looking S



Georgian Peaks Ski Resort – Looking SW

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Event type	Tornado (vetted)
Event start date	2009-8-20 UTC (exact)
Event start time	20:40:00 UTC (exact)
Event duration	00:01:00 (exact)
Entered by	yangm (2009-08-27 16:57:32)
Event version	latest
fcst region	GREY - BRUCE
meso region	OWEN SOUND - BLUE MOUNTAINS - NORTHERN GREY COUNTY
Latitude/Longitude	44 ° 29' N 80 ° 21' W
Location	12 KM SE of Thornbury
Hail	no
Hail size descriptor	N/A
Hail diameter	N/A
Hail depth	N/A
Wind	no
Gust speed	N/A
Wind direction	N/A
Wind intensity	N/A
Rain	no
Rain amount	N/A
Rain duration	N/A
Tornado	yes
Tornado intensity	F2 (measured)
Lightning	no
Lightning Intensity	N/A
Mesocyclone	no
Funnel Cloud	no
Waterspout	no
Narrative	Georgian Peaks Ski club in Craigleith (~ 12 km SE of Thornbury). He witnessed a tornado 250 yards southwest of HWY 26 near the base of the ski club. Tornado came down one of the valleys. He saw it in his rear view mirror as he drove away from it; he was about 200 ft from it when he floored the truck. The tornado was 50 ft wide and there were some debris with it (plywood with it).
Confidence	confirmed
Warning Criteria	met or exceeded
Source	Public
MSC initiated report of event	N/A
Contact name	Matthew Cranswick
Contact phone	705-443-0694
Contact email	N/A
Contact address	N/A
Number of fatalities	N/A
Fatality comments	N/A
Number of injuries	N/A
Injury comments	N/A
Damage amount	N/A
Damage comments	N/A
Power outage	N/A



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Note: Event details are highlighted in orange.

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Event type	Tornado (vetted)
Event start date	2009-8-20 UTC (exact)
Event start time	21:00:00 UTC (estimate)
Event duration	00:01:00 (rough)
Entered by	yangm (2009-08-27 16:54:45)
Event version	latest
fcst region	GREY - BRUCE
meso region	OWEN SOUND - BLUE MOUNTAINS - NORTHERN GREY COUNTY
Latitude/Longitude	44 ° 33' N 80 ° 27' W
Location	0 KM N of Thornbury
Hail	no
Hail size descriptor	N/A
Hail diameter	N/A
Hail depth	N/A
Wind	no
Gust speed	N/A
Wind direction	N/A
Wind intensity	N/A
Rain	no
Rain amount	N/A
Rain duration	N/A
Tornado	yes
Tornado intensity	F2 (measured)
Lightning	no
Lightning Intensity	N/A
Mesocyclone	no
Funnel Cloud	no
Waterspout	no
Narrative	He reported tornado sighting by his dad at around 5pm-ish in the vicinity of Thornbury. Power outages & trees down.
Confidence	confirmed
Warning Criteria	met or exceeded
Source	Canwarn
MSC initiated report of event	N/A
Contact name	Terry Darling
Contact phone	N/A
Contact email	N/A
Contact address	N/A
Number of fatalities	N/A
Fatality comments	N/A
Number of injuries	N/A
Injury comments	N/A
Damage amount	N/A
Damage comments	N/A
Power outage	N/A

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Note: Event details are highlighted in orange.

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The logo for the Government of Canada, featuring the word "Canada" in a stylized serif font with a small Canadian flag above the letter 'a'.

THE CANADIAN PRESS 

## Violent storm and suspected tornadoes leave one dead, widespread damage in Ont.

Thu Aug 20, 11:20 PM

By Tamsyn Burgmann, The Canadian Press

DURHAM, Ont. - An angry black curtain of cloud carved a sudden and destructive swath across southern Ontario on Thursday, killing at least one person as a series of suspected tornadoes flattened buildings, stripped roofs off homes and toppled trees and power lines.

In the tiny town of Durham, Ont., south of Owen Sound, police confirmed a lone fatality but refused to comment on reports the victim was an 11-year-old boy. Witnesses said the person was inside a workshed when it collapsed.

"It's complete destruction," said resident Gord Becker, who described how several buildings were levelled by the storm as a low, rotating bank of cloud roared its way through town.

"The sky was just black; the clouds were moving in circles. There was tremendous amounts of tree damage, wires were down - I just barely got through the road."

The town was alive with emergency personnel as crews worked frantically to attend to the damage and search for possible victims.

The intense storm prompted tornado warnings as it tracked east, leaving more than 69,000 Hydro One customers without power in the aftermath. Suspected tornadoes were also reported in two communities north of Toronto - Vaughan and Newmarket - and in Collingwood.

So severe was the threat that at one point, Environment Canada took the unusual step of advising people to take shelter in basements or other secure areas.

In Toronto, there were reports of a funnel cloud being sighted near the busy central intersection of Yonge and Bloor. Motorists tried to negotiate debris-strewn roads awash in ponds of heavy rain, many of them dark and without functioning traffic lights.

Numerous flights at Pearson International Airport had been cancelled or delayed.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper, currently on a tour of Canada's North, expressed his concern.

"We share our thoughts and prayers with any who have lost lives or have dislocation because of this," Harper said. "Obviously the government of Canada, where appropriate, will work with local and provincial authorities to deal with this situation."

The storm, which is just the latest instance of severe, spectacular weather in the area in recent days, followed several days of sweltering heat and oppressive humidity - a regular feature of life in southern Ontario in the

Environment Canada said it considered the events of the day the worst it had seen in years.

"From year to year we do tend to get at least one big defining event and it does appear that the events of Aug. 20 will be one of these large scale events," said meteorologist Geoff Coulson.

"Now it's just a question of trying to figure out how much damage it caused, its path and rating."

Teams will be going out to Durham and areas north of the Toronto area over the next few days to assess the extent of the damage and rate the strength of the suspected tornadoes.

Residents in the suburb of Vaughan, north of Toronto, reported seeing the roofs torn from homes and businesses.

The city declared a state of emergency, with reports saying 120 homes had been evacuated.

"I saw three little small funnel clouds join themselves into one and just kept on coming towards my store," said Vince Varano, manager of the Highland Farms grocery store.

"I was just going to come to my store and lock everybody in."

Varano's store escaped harm, but another one not far away lost its roof. There were also reports of cars being flipped over in a shopping centre's parking lot.

Debris was scattered across the parking lot of another nearby mall, including concrete blocks and a satellite dish. Cars were displaced from their parking spots, streetlights were out and signs were broken.

"This is the air conditioning unit we had on our roof," said Robin Yadranji, pointing to a square scrap of metal in the parking lot of his car dealership.

"It landed on top of the cars, then they just twisted, went around and all the cars got damaged."

One business owner, who would only identify herself as Carm, said she was inside when she started seeing "things flying in the air and cars all over the place."

"It was pretty bad. You could see wind tunnels basically, and you could see things flying away with it," she said.

"And it happened it a minute."

Every available York region police officer was brought in to deal with the aftermath, a spokeswoman said. There was widespread damage, power outages and debris, but police were aware of no serious injuries, she added.

Mike De Pinto was driving on Highway 400 north of Toronto when he encountered the storm.

"You just see these clouds close to the ground and then they start spinning. It was raining a lot, everything was horrible," he said.

"It got to the point where you couldn't see four feet in front of you."

Once home in Vaughan he found one neighbourhood had been closed off because of gas leaks. Roofs have

also been ripped off houses.

"It's a mess. Apparently a car went 30 feet in the air and smashed down," he said.

Police were urging residents to stay off the roads because of the dangers posed by debris and downed power lines.

There were also no reports of serious injuries after a possible tornado sighting near Newmarket. The suspected funnel cloud was spotted near an equestrian facility, police said.

Pat Zolnai, who lives in Durham, said the weather turned nasty mid-afternoon.

Zolnai said her next door neighbour had been driving home from the nearby community Mount Forest and had seen what she thought was a tornado touching down around 3:30 p.m.

"She saw a funnel," said Zolnai.

The suspected tornado that ripped through Durham worked its way east to the top of Blue Mountain before barrelling down into the town of Craigeleigh located between Thornbury and Collingwood, Ont., police said.

"It was a large funnel cloud, coming over the top of the mountain and then touching down ... shearing off the tops of homes," said provincial police Sgt. Chris Maecker.

The twister then went out across Georgian Bay and over to Gravenhurst, which was reporting significant damage as well, Maecker said.

Although about 20 homes were destroyed and a number of barns flattened, no one seems to be hurt in the Collingwood area, he added.

The east side of Gravenhurst appeared to be the worst hit with residents reporting extensive damage to houses and hydro lines snapped in half.

"It sounded like a train or a jet," Innkeeper Tyler Allair said.

Residents remained in the dark as hydro crews worked to restore power to the town.

"It's pretty chaotic and there's no power," Allair said.

Hotels on Georgian Bay also reported minor damage from the gales that shook their grounds earlier in the evening.

-With files from Romina Maurino, Diana Mehta, Brian Pardoe and Peter Cameron

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