***Date* :** Monday, March 16, 1868

***Time* :** “A little after 8 o’clock” (~8:30AM according to documents) Sky darkened around 8AM

***Location* :** Exhibition Grounds to East Chinatown, City of Toronto

***F-Rating* :** F3 ‘B’

***Track Length* :** ~6km (3.8mi) according to map

***Max Width* :** TBD

***Direction* :** ~235° (~SW-NE)

***Shape* :** “a violent tornado”

***Injuries* :** Several

***Deaths* :** At least 1 (or 2) (possibly more if girls never found)

***Damage Cost* :** “A tornado visited Toronto on March 16th, destroying $50,000 worth of property”

- Harper’s Weekly, 1868, Vol. 12, p.195

“Buildings belonging to Great Western Railway were damaged. 1 man killed in the wreck of the Grand Trunk round-house on the Esplanade. Fences torn down, buildings overturned and steeple of Dr. Jennings Church fell. The 150ft long brick GTR repairing shed was left a tattered wreck and one engine was overturned on its beam-ends. A two storey brick freight house in the east end was destroyed. In Mile’s coal yard, near Yonge Street, a building 200 feet long, used to store coal, was so badly wrecked that only upright posts remained. Pedestal over the belfry of the St. Lawrence Hall was blown off, and the Don Gaol was damaged. A man blown off a lumber wagon.”

***Notes* :** An extremely rare early season and strong probable tornado. This would be the earliest recorded tornado to touch down within any year in Ontario and the only other to touch down within 148 years on that day. (Clifford, March 16, 2016) Weather observation records indicate very unstable air mass (probably warm sector) nosed north into the golden horseshoe area the morning of the 16th which would account for the severe weather in Toronto that morning.

***Photos/Videos* :**