***Date* :** Tuesday, August 7, 1979

***Time* :** 6:52PM

***Location* :** Woodstock, Oxford County to SW of Waterford, Norfolk County

***F-Rating* :** F4

***Track Length* :** 56.37km (35.03mi)

***Max Width* :** 2km (1.24mi)

***Direction* :** 295° (WNW-ESE)

***Shape* :** Cone, Black Stovepipe, Multivortex, Wedge

***Injuries* :** At least 120 (official number unknown?)

***Deaths* :** 3 (Oxford Centre, Burgessville, New Durham)

***Damage Cost* :** At least $40M as more then 350 houses were damaged or destroyed. 2 schools severely damaged, 1 church, and a flour mill destroyed. Many farms were destroyed. Small towns and hamlets in the path were mostly destroyed.

***Notes* :** The second and most damaging of two violent tornadoes to touch down in Southern Ontario on the evening of August 7th. As the Stratford to Bright Tornado was lifting off, a new tornado was beginning to form about 6.5km WNW of Woodstock near Golspie. It track ESE through the SW end of Woodstock, causing significant damage to the area. It crossed Highway 401 at the Highway 59 interchange and continued on to Oxford Centre where it levelled most of the hamlet. The tornado continued ESE to New Durham, around where a nearly 2km wide swath of damage was found along with apparent damage from a satellite tornado which probably tracked for a number of kilometres beside the parent vortex. The farming communities of Kelvin and Vanessa also took direct blows from the violent storm and many buildings were left in shambles or destroyed to the ground. Crossing Highway 24, the storm rolled into the town of Waterford and caused serious damage to a number of buildings in the downtown business area. Continuing on a few kilometres past Waterford a number of other rural properties were damaged before the tornado lifted over 50 km from its point of touchdown.

***Photos/Videos* :** A few (at least 2) photos of the tornado exist from Dominic Scalisi and Joe Schurink. Likely over 100 damage photos are available. Super 8mm movie showing tornado genesis and tracking tornado with some aftermath footage is available. (taken by Dr. Gordon Dafoe, a then new dentist who currently practices in Victoria, BC) CBC news film reel with interview of survivor. Other film (TV news) reels exist showing damage, etc. A copy of “Chinook” magazine has a detailed article from Dr. Michael Newark, AES. A special fundraising publication entitled “TORNADO” by the London Free Press contains many photos and articles. Reader’s Digest, July, 1981 Contains an article with at least one photo. A box with documents and photos is available from Downsview library. Plaqued photos of satellite images in EC files.

**Google Maps plotted Track Map:** <https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=19gtMt0bnxstz4rRG5g4pVmjatUE&hl=en_US&ll=42.91884618962031%2C-80.33310415850826&z=13>