

## HALIBURTON MARINA, LUMBER YARD DAMAGED

# Cottage country twister

The second tornado to hit cottage country within a week touched down in the village of Haliburton last night

It caused more than \$250,000 damage to the Haliburton Lumber Co., Haliburton Marina and several boats.

Minden OPP reported no injuries among the 1,200 residents of the village, northeast of Toronto.

"Something hit, that's for sure," said Haliburton Marina co-owner Lile McKnight. "She came through and flattened the gas shack and threw some boats around here in the yard," said Lile McKnight, co-owner of Haliburton Marina. "The lumber yard next door's been damaged, too. The main building

has been brought down and all the lumber's inside."

Hydro lines were knocked down by uprooted trees and late last night some areas still did not have power.

"My mechanic, Norm Parrott, was going home when he saw the dust being blown up," McKnight said. "He ran back into the building and threw himself under the table, but it all blew through pretty fast."

The "small tornado" came across Lake Kashagawigamog and went along Drag River, levelling several dozen trees, wiping out power lines and TV antennae and blowing the roof off at least one house.

OPP said a female employee of the marina was standing in a kiosk by the gas pumps when the twister "blew it away" at 6:30 p.m.

"She was left standing there," police said. She wasn't injured.

A small boat with a 150-horsepower motor was later found on the roof of the lumber company.

"I don't think there was any time for a warning," an OPP spokesman said. "We weren't expecting a tornado."

Last Friday, a tornado caused \$1 million damage in Atherley, 3 km east of Orillia. The Crothers Twin Lakes Marina was devastated, but there were no injuries.

Elsewhere last night, there was hail in Kitchener and brisk winds and thunderstorms rolled across most of southern Ontario, bringing rain to Metro.

Traffic was snarled briefly on the east-bound Gardiner Expressway near the Don Valley Parkway when a dozen cars collided in a series of crashes on the slick pavement.

The storms brought cooler temperatures.

It will be sunny, windy and not as warm today with a high of 26C/79F and a low of 17C/62F.

It will be mainly sunny tomorrow and Thursday with highs of 24C/75F and lows of 15C/59F.

# Tornado tosses boats onto highway

HALIBURTON, Ont. (CP) — Boats, snowmobiles and trailers flew through the air like scraps of paper Monday night as a tornado ripped through this peaceful, summer resort community of 1,200.

Police said the second tornado in central Ontario in less than a week caused more than \$250,000 damage to the village and surrounding area about 80 kilometres north of Peterborough. But there were no reports of serious injuries.

The tornado flattened one gasoline bar, tossed boats and trailers from the Haliburton Marina several metres onto a nearby highway, uprooted trees and hydro

poles and damaged dozens of buildings and homes.

Karen Miller, an attendant at the gas station, saw the tornado whip through the station's small "shack," leaving only the counter standing in its wake.

Miller, 17, said it started to rain and she heard "an awful noise."

"The lights went out and I got scared and started to see things flying around outside," she said in an interview. "A snowmobile went by."

As she made a telephone call to her fiancée, the small building began to collapse. The telephone blew away "and they still haven't found it."

"I put my head and shoulder under the counter and started screaming. A mechanic who heard me got me out."

"If I would have been sitting on a chair near the window I think I would have been killed. I'm still shaking."

Haliburton Reeve Murray Fearrey, co-owner of a lumber yard adjacent to the marina, said there was considerable damage to his property.

Const. Paul Shaughnessy of Ontario Provincial Police said boats were scattered throughout the lumber yard after travelling up to 30 metres.

An outboard motor smashed through the

roof of a building. The tornado also picked up a boat and threw it into a building.

"People told me they saw one boat picked up and thrown as much as 200 feet (61 metres) away," said Len Pizzey, editor of the weekly Haliburton County Echo and Minden Recorder.

Police said the tornado slashed along Lake Kashagawigamog in a northeast direction, hit Haliburton and then moved on the Drag River before dissipating.

An Ontario Hydro spokesman said the tornado knocked out electricity in the area, leaving about 1,500 people in darkness for several hours.

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# ORILLIA SUN

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## Tornados rare in area

The two tornados that hit this area during the last week — at the Narrows and in Haliburton — are a very unusual occurrence. In fact before the tornado hit Haliburton, a spokesman from the Toronto weather office said the chances of another tornado in this area were very, very small.

Brian Kirkpatrick of the Toronto Weather Office says tornados are very unusual in this area

because there's not enough warm air to create unstable air masses. Last Friday's tornado developed because we're into a warm air mass much deeper than normal, he says.

Kirkpatrick explains that storms occur when there are violent up drafts and down drafts of air. The warm air is sucked upward because it's lighter than cool air. But once it goes up, other air rushes in to take its place. The

earth's rotating motion causes the rushing air to turn and if the air is moving very rapidly it gets so violently twisted around that a funnel is formed. That is the tornado.

Kirkpatrick says the Weather Office saw the air mass on the radar moving over Nottawasaga Bay. The air was a little unstable but the first indication of a rain storm wasn't until the air mass was south of Midland. Twenty

minutes later, the tornado hit the Narrows and Kirkpatrick says "We just barely had time to get the warning out. It was fortunate it didn't go over the city of Orillia."

If the air mass had come across Lake Simcoe there might not have been a tornado because the lake may have cooled the air, Kirkpatrick says.

Kirkpatrick isn't surprised the tornado was limited to the

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## Tornado a mild one - weatherman

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Narrows. "Tornados don't take up much room," he says. "One could go straight down Yonge Street in Toronto and not bother Bay Street."

In terms of severity the Weather Office

rates Friday's tornado as a one on a scale of one to five. During Friday's storm which touched down shortly before 2 p.m., boats were tossed in the air,

a 65-foot section of a boat slip was picked

up and spread over a 400-square-foot area and 29 boats and 17 vehicles were damaged. Crothers Twirl Lakes Marina on Atherley Road suffered the heaviest damages estimated at \$750,000.

# Tornado turns marina topsy-turvy

by Mike Dodd

When the tornado struck the Narrows shortly before 2 p.m. Friday Pat Boissonneault was on his boat, the Paul II with his wife Nancy and two children.

"My wife and I were fixing lunch when I heard this high pitched whistling

sound. I looked outside and there were real dark clouds overhead. At the far end of the dock I saw the sheet metal on the top of the roof begin to bend. Then like slow motion it worked its way along until it got to our boat. Just before it got there, I grabbed the kids and

dived off the boat as the roof came crashing down. Boissonneault still shakes when he describes those moments.

Jim Graves, a local farmer, found pieces of sheet metal the size of a medium car in his front yard three kilometres from the

marina from which they were blown.

Damage at the Rama Indian reserve was confined to a few damaged houses and a barn that was lifted off its foundation.

At the Hammock, trailers were tossed around like dinky toys and placed as far as fifteen metres from

their original resting spots.

At the foot of West Street in Orillia, two mobile trailers were uprooted from their foundations.

Orillia Water Light and Power crews kept busy most of Friday restoring power to areas of Orillia and surrounding Mara, as

well as collecting felled trees.

Ontario Provincial Police and City of Orillia police had to keep traffic from jamming up as spectators flocked to view the devastated area during the weekend. A number of trespassing charges have been laid.

## Orchard Point hit hardest

Is it possible that the Packet is completely unaware of the devastation at Orchard Point, Orillia, on Friday.

I do not wish to minimize the damage done to Crother's Marina and the Hammock in Atherley, but, in fact, this area took the brunt of the tornado without even a single line or a picture in your paper.

Literally scores of giant trees were either uprooted or broken off causing untold damage.

I am sure I speak for all the residents of Orchard Point when I express my gratitude to all the people who came to help us extricate ourselves from the chaos. Not only the City crews and OWLP who, as always, did a superb job, but all the others who came with trucks and chainsaws as soon as the City crews had removed the many trees blocking the roads.

Thanks to all of you.

M. WITHERS  
15 Orchard Pt. Rd.,  
Orillia

(EDITOR'S NOTE — Like other media we did stress the damage to buildings, trailers and boats in initial stories but we have since photographed and mentioned the destruction of the beautiful trees of Orchard Point, which, alas, will take a lot longer to replace than the boats and buildings.)

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ORILLIA

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July 7, 1983



# Marina owner touched by help after tornado

Special to The Star

ORILLIA — The owner of an Atherly Narrows marina destroyed by a tornado Friday says he's overwhelmed by the help he's received.

"Strangers walked in right off the road and worked like dogs to help us out. I just can't find words to thank them," said Dick Crothers.

Mara Township firefighters, the Ontario Provincial Police and other marina operators have pitched in to help him, Crothers said.

Crothers Marina received the bulk of the estimated \$750,000 to \$1 million damage caused by the storm, which lasted only a minute. The marina is located near the channel between Lake Couchiching and Lake Simcoe and about 137 kilometres (85 miles) north of Metro.

## Blown off

The main covering for 57 slips, or about 255 metres (840 feet) of boathouse, was blown off by the tornado, which hit about 2 p.m.

Constable Bruce McIntosh of the Orillia detachment of the OPP said the tornado damaged 29 large boats and 17 cars at the marina.

"It (the tornado) picked up a 20-foot boat with a big motor, lifted it 30 feet out of the water and dumped it on the shore 50 feet away," McIntosh said.

Crothers hopes to have the clean-up finished by the end of next week and says he'll start rebuilding immediately.

He said he is insured but is hoping for some financial help from the government.

## Fallen trees

Across the Narrows on Orchard Point in Orillia, residents and workers were still removing fallen trees.

The Orillia Water, Light and Power Commission worked through the night to restore power and remove trees and wires from blocked roads. The commission estimated damage to be more than \$25,000.

Police reported that, "unbelievably," no one was hurt in the storm.

Six people narrowly escaped injury when a large tree fell on a mobile home in the Hammock trailer park in the Atherly area.



JOHN PALMER/TORONTO STAR

**Roofs blown to bits:** The roofs of two boat houses at Crothers Lakes Marina in Atherly, near Orillia, were blown off during a long tornado yesterday and tossed in pieces as far as 62

metres (200 feet). The roof fragments damaged 29 boats, many of which were occupied, and 17 cars. The pieces of roof also brought down hydro lines and cut power to the area.

# 750,000 damage in Orillia tornado

al to The Star  
**ORILLIA** — A tornado whipped through the nearby Atherly area today, destroying a marina on the shores of Lake Simcoe, blowing away several boats, cars and homes.  
 One person was injured in the storm, which lasted only a minute, but Orillia Provincial Police in Orillia estimated the damage to the marina alone at between \$750,000 and \$1 million.  
 Orillia police didn't have an estimate of the damage to the marina yesterday evening of damage to their community, but said several homes were damaged and a boat was blown out of the lake and into a house.  
 "It's a wonder nobody was hurt," said Constable Wayne Bebb, who investigated the damage to the marina in the 2 p.m. incident.  
 "Some boats were completely picked up out of the water and dropped back in again, people tell me. These were big cabin cruisers."  
 Bebb said the wood and metal roofs of two boat houses at Crothers Lakes Marina in Atherly were blown off, and the debris was scattered over a large area.  
 The roof fragments damaged 29 boats — many of which were occupied by the terrified owners — and 17 cars, Bebb said. One boat sank completely.  
 Pat Boissonneault of Alliston, his wife Nancy and their two children were on their boat when the tornado hit. "We were fixing lunch when we noticed extremely black clouds in the distance," Boissonneault said.

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ly, adjacent to Orillia and about 137 kilometres (85 miles) north of Metro, was completely lifted by the storm and blown, in sections, as far as 62 metres (200 feet) away.  
**Pieces of roof**  
 "It's laying all over the place — on the railway tracks, on cars, on boats," he said.  
 The roof fragments damaged 29 boats — many of which were occupied by the terrified owners — and 17 cars, Bebb said. One boat sank completely.  
 Pat Boissonneault of Alliston, his wife Nancy and their two children were on their boat when the tornado hit. "We were fixing lunch when we noticed extremely black clouds in the distance," Boissonneault said.

"The next thing we noticed, the tin on the roof at the far end of the dock was starting to lift, and from then on, it worked its way towards our boat . . . I grabbed my kids and my wife and got off the boat just as the roof caved in."  
 Jim Graves, who lives in Orillia about a quarter of a mile from the marina, said he found large pieces of sheet metal from the marina roof in his yard.  
**Black clouds**  
 Bebb said the pieces of roof also brought down power lines, and power was out in some areas.  
 Orillia police said the storm wasn't nearly as damaging in their community, but it brought down trees and power lines. They said some cars and houses were damaged by falling trees, and roofs were blown off a few houses.

## Station operator fined for tax evasion

North York service station operator has been fined \$20,000 for evading \$21,917.37 in federal income taxes from 1976 to 1980. Provincial court was told Peter

Ross Booth, 52, of Bayview Ave., failed to report income totalling \$83,673.93. Booth, who operates a service station on Sheppard Ave. E., pleaded guilty.