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TORNADO PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

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1. DATE AND TIME SUNDAY, SEPT 3, 1978 1350 EDT

2. LOCATION OR PATH (attach map) WELLAND (SW-NE) 097-7

3. PATH LENGTH ☐ NOT KNOWN ☐ <1 mi; ☒ 2 1-4mi; ☐ 5-10mi; ☐ 11-50mi; ☐ LENGTH IF>50mi

4. PATH WIDTH U 5. TORNADO PART OF SQUALL LINE? ☐ YES; ☐ NO; ☐ UNKNOWN:

6. ANY UNUSUAL COLORATION? ☐ YES; ☐ NO; ☑ UNKNOWN

7. ANY UNUSUAL SOUND? ☑ YES; ☐ NO; ☐ UNKNOWN

8. IF ANSWER TO 6 OR 7 YES, ELABORATE; 7. A terrible roar, like a blast furnace, or a train

9. LIST ANY ASSOCIATED PHENOMENA (Such as hail, vivid lightning heavy rain, no rain, etc.) No rain or hail.

10. TOTAL DAMAGE ESTIMATE $ U 11. TOTAL DEATHS NONE

12. TOTAL INJURED NONE 13. TOTAL HOMELESS NONE

14. LIST ALL REFERENCES

WELLAND EVENING TRIBUNE, SEPT 5, 1978.
VISIT TO WELLAND ON OCT 7, 1978, M.J. Newark.

15. SUMMARIZE REMARKS PERTAINING TO (a) FUNNEL; (b) INTERESTING OR CAPRICIOUS EVENTS.

(a) Funnel seen by several eyewitnesses. At one point it was aloft carrying debris. At another it was seen crossing old Welland Canal where it drew water up several hundred feet.

(b) Damage limited mainly to broken or uprooted trees with secondary damage to hydro wires.

Visit to Welland on October 7, 1978 with reference to tornado of September 3, 1978.

Interview with Mrs Hine. 735-1997 On sunday afternoon Mrs Hine was sailing a small boat on an abondoned portion of the Welland canal just south of the Broadway Bridge when she heard a terrible sound like a train or a dune buggy. The clouds darkened but there was no rain and then she saw material from Rootse Lumber (On the west bank of the canal) spiralling high in the air. The building was undamaged, but lumber stacked outside was lifted up and was high enough that at first Mrs Hine mistook it for a flock of birds. All of the material was carried aloft above her towards the east bank where the funnel dipped down and struck the Union Carbide factory and shook its metal siding. (This building is a solid and large functional plant). There was no damge to it. Mrs Hine was about 400 yards from it when it hit the factory, in a canoe, and felt no wind

Interview with Chris Hine, Mrs Hine's son.
Chris Hine 18, is a lifeguard at the Cross St swimming pool. At 1350 EDT according to the pool clock, a spiralling cloud appeared. It moved a park bench and threw a garbage can into the outdoor pool. It also picked up Chris Hines car onto 2 wheels and moved it 7 or 8 feet as well as lifting water out of the pool. After it had gone about half the water was left remaing in the pool (actually a wading pool).

Interview with Jim Brown, 78 MerrittSt East . 732-3960
Mr Brown, a hydro employee, heard a tremendous noise like a roaring blast furnace or train at about 1400 EDT. He saw a strange cloud coming from the west and saw it root trees out of the ground and toss them on a high tension wire. It crossed the Welland River at about the Niagara St Bridge and then crossed the old Welland Canal at about the Court House and Rideau Hotel area (also the location of the Cross St pool). It pulled water out of the canal several hundred feet up into the air, twirling like a top.
There had been a few heavy drops of rain which had quit just before the tornado was seen.

Notes. The only way to account for the direction of travel of this tornado is to assume that there were two (not all that likely) or else there was one which followed a sinusoidal path more or less along the canal (see map, and more likely). It was not possible to estimate the damge width . The length was at least 2 miles.

M.J.Newark