Probable Tornado
St. Albert - Casselman, Ontario
September 11, 1971

Date- Local: Saturday, September 11th, 1971
UTC: Saturday, September 11th, 1971
Time- Local: 1805
UTC: 2205
Location: St. Albert - Casselman
Region: Prescott and Russell
Classification: Probable Tornado
Category: C
Casualties: None
Track Length: 6900 m
Width: None available
Motion: 205 degrees
Damage Estimate: None available
F-Scale Rating: F2
Code: AH, MH
Damage Survey: None
Spotter Reports: None
Other Documents:

Multiple e-mails from Etienne Grégoire providing details about the location, track length and damage, date and time.

Tornado F-Scale Assessment

Brad L. Rousseau
Tornado Data Production Assistant, Environment Canada
June 8th, 2011

Classification: Probable Tornado
Date: Saturday, September 11th, 1971
Location: St. Albert - Casselman, Prescott and Russell Region

Assessment: F2
F-Code: AH, MH
Explanation of Assessment: Home was destroyed with some walls left standing (construction unknown) and a mobile home was picked up and tossed. Narrow damage path with buildings near the path left untouched. Farm had silo removed from foundation, and there were a few barns that were also destroyed. Numerous trees along the path were also uprooted.

From: Gregoire,Etienne [CIS-RCNC]
Sent: June 8, 2011 11:21 AM
To: Rousseau,Brad [Ontario]; Sills,David [Ontario]
Cc: Phillips,David [Ontario]
Subject: RE: Tornado database

That part I do not know. I do know next door, a mobile home was pick up and move about 50-100 feet and landed on its side. The 3rd house over was no touched or damaged.

I think I told you, that a large manure spreader, landed in the neighbours field, and imagine, with a bull still tied to it and alive !!! A great story for David P.

From: Rousseau,Brad [Ontario]
Sent: Wednesday, June 08, 2011 11:17 AM
To: Gregoire,Etienne [CIS-RCNC]; Sills,David [Ontario]
Subject: RE: Tornado database

Hi Et,

One more question...Do you recall if the home owners reported seing the funnel, or do they possibly know some one in the are who saw one.

Brad

From: Gregoire,Etienne [CIS-RCNC]
Sent: June 3, 2011 7:48 AM
To: Rousseau,Brad [Ontario]; Sills,David [Ontario]
Subject: RE: Tornado database

Yes I do...the house was destroyed and demolished. Only 2 walls were left standing. I would say F2 for sure from what I saw back then.

From: Rousseau,Brad [Ontario]
Sent: Thursday, June 02, 2011 11:48 AM
To: Gregoire,Etienne [CIS-RCNC]; Sills,David [Ontario]
Subject: RE: Tornado database

Hi Et,

Do you recall how much damage was done to the womans home that you spoke to? Trying to gauge whether this warrants an F2 rating or not.

Brad

From: Gregoire,Etienne [CIS-RCNC]
Sent: April 21, 2011 12:04 PM
To: Rousseau,Brad [Ontario]; Sills,David [Ontario]
Subject: RE: Tornado database

OK Guys...Casselman tornado, the lady who's house was destroyed was contacted, and she remembers. I had the wrong month.

11 Sept 1971, at 605PM

Not bad for investigative work !!!

From: Rousseau,Brad [Ontario]
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2011 11:33 AM
To: Gregoire,Etienne [CIS-RCNC]
Subject: RE: Tornado database

Nothing I can see in the databse....I will go have a look in the library right now see if there is anything in the Archives

Brad

From: Gregoire,Etienne [CIS-RCNC]
Sent: April 21, 2011 11:30 AM
To: Sills,David [Ontario]; Rousseau,Brad [Ontario]
Subject: RE: Tornado database

BTW...the track my Dad took us to look at, extended from Casselman to west of St Albert, maybe some 8-10 km long.

From: Sills,David [Ontario]
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2011 11:26 AM
To: Rousseau,Brad [Ontario]
Cc: Gregoire,Etienne [CIS-RCNC]
Subject: FW: Tornado database

Hi Brad,

Do you see anything in the database that might cover this event?

Dave

From: Gregoire,Etienne [CIS-RCNC]
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2011 11:12 AM
To: Sills,David [Ontario]
Subject: RE: Tornado database

I know it was July 1971, not sure of the date. Maybe my Dad remembers. We had just moved there. I could even draw you a line on a map of the damage since my dad took us around to go look at it. It track just SW of the village, maybe 1kmn or so.

Our neighbour, a farm, his silo was moved 1 foot off the foundation, but stayed upright. A mobile home just west of the village on Cty rd 3 was picked up clean and landed almost in the

neighbours yard. Uprooted trees were numerous along the track. Clearly tornadic, building/tress close to the track left untouched.

One family affected and that still lives in town were the Langlois's

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From: Sills,David [Ontario]
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2011 10:58 AM
To: Gregoire,Etienne [CIS-RCNC]
Subject: RE: Tornado database

Hmm...nothing is showing up for Casselman. If you've got more info on that event, let me know.

Dave

From: Gregoire,Etienne [CIS-RCNC]
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2011 10:51 AM
To: Sills,David [Ontario]
Subject: RE: Tornado database

Thanks. Not sure if you have the one in Casselman in July 1971. I remember this one well as a kid...a few barns destroyed, and a mobile home carried some 100 feet.

From: Sills,David [Ontario]
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2011 10:25 AM
To: Gregoire,Etienne [CIS-RCNC]
Subject: RE: Tornado database

Hi ET,

The database goes back to 1792 now so we do have a few events:

11 Aug 1903 F3 near Rockland: "A vast whirlwind cloud swept down the S shore of the Ottawa River. 60 houses, barns and outbuildings shattered. On six large and prosperous farms 1/2 mi W of Rockland hardly a building remains undamaged, indeed few are left standing."

27 Jun 1978 F2 near St. Amour: 5 steel hydro towers were blown down and twisted, a concrete silo was destroyed

25 June 1997 F0 near Pointe-Fortune: numerous large trees uprooted and snapped intermittently, church and barn had portions of sheet metal roofing material removed

17 Jul 1998 F0 near Rockland: no significant damage reported

Hope that helps,

Dave

From: Gregoire,Etienne [CIS-RCNC]
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2011 9:38 AM
To: Sills,David [Ontario]
Subject: Tornado database

Hi Dave

Any chance to get some info on confirm or probable tornadoes for Prescott Russell? I am doing a presentation in Vankleek Hill, I remember one that way a while back, but do not have details. There is also the one at Voyageur Provincial park I remember about.

Thanks

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