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TORNADO PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

1. DATE AND TIME September 7, 1983 1530 ADT

2. LOCATION OR PATH (attach map) McNamee, NB

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

4. PATH WIDTH ☐ 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;

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

10. TOTAL DAMAGE ESTIMATE $ 11. TOTAL DEATHS

12. TOTAL INJURED 13. TOTAL HOMELESS

14. LIST ALL REFERENCES

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

b) Trees broken and uprooted, roof torn off barn, glassed in veranda torn from house.

T.D. 19707250 2000 5153500

L.O. 19711750 5155250 2000

MIRAMICHI WEEKEND SEPT 9, 1983

N.B.

STORM DATE: WED, SEPT 7, 1983 1530 ADT

(NOTE, THIS FOLLOWED A ~~HEAT~~ RECORD-BREAKING HEAT WAVE FROM MON TO WED DURING WHICH THE TEMP ROSE TO 32.2°C)

Mile wide tornado hits McNamee

Joanne Cadogan

An intensely violent summer storm struck the Miramichi Wednesday afternoon, resulting in a tornado in the small central New Brunswick village of McNamee, and high winds and rain in other northern areas.

Mike St. Croix of the C.F.B. Chatham weather office, says the storm started in the Chatham-Newcastle area at 4:15, and lasted for one hour and five minutes.

"In that time, 11 mm of rain fell, and we had winds from the west gusting at between 30 and 45 knots," St. Croix says.

The storm itself was moving at about 35 knots, which meant it passed through the St. Lawrence river valley and northern New Brunswick quite swiftly.

"Essentially, it was caused by a cold front aligned with the St. Lawrence river. What made the storm so intense was the extreme heat and humidity in this area when the cold front moved in," St. Croix says.

While base weather officers had not heard about any tornados in the northern region, they agreed that the McNamee area has ideal conditions for such a weather phenomenon to occur.

"With high winds, and the temperature conditions it is more likely that most areas experienced a severe thunderstorm. However, in a valley(where McNamee lies) the land depression acts as a funnel, drawing the wind down to form a tornado."

There is little doubt in the minds of McNamee citizens that a tornado did cut a mile wide swath through their small town.

"I've never seen anything like it," says Donald H. O'Donnell, who lost 10 large trees and a small car in the McNamee storm.

"Everything in a mile wide path was mowed down, just like grass. It struck with tremendous force, shaking the ground just like an earthquake. The wind and the noise were awful. There is no doubt -- it was a tornado."

SEE STORIES ON PAGE 4.

Everything destroyed in a few minutes

Ruby Campbell

A number of residents of the McNamee and Carroll's Crossing areas were still assessing damages folowing Wednesday's rain and wind storm.

"Something you've put your life into being destroyed in a few seconds is hard to take," said 72-year-old Stanley Lyons.

The roof was torn from his barn and carried 400 feet landing in a field.

The roof barely missed a summer cottage owned by Mr and Mrs Ernest Arbeau of Blissfield but it clipped a utility pole near the cottage.

Mrs Arbeau, who was resting at the time, was awakened by the thunder.

"I got up and closed the windows and held onto the doornob and prayed. I didn't know what was going to happen. My prayers were answered. The only thing damaged was the television aerial."

Lyons has 80 hens. "I just bought 45 laying hens on Tuesday. I ran out after the storm and counted my new layers. Not one was killed. My home, except for the furniture, aerial and lawn furniture, are safe and sound."

In Doaktown, Derwin Parker was driving through the village when the storm hit.

"I could feel my car lifting off the road. It was real bad, everything a blur. I couldn't see. Trees were waving back and forth. It really gave me a scare."

William O'Donnell lost his garden, apple trees and TV aerial.

"Premier Hatfield will have to set up a fund to help us here," he said.

"It's something that we never think could happen in this part of the country, but it happened oday(Wednesday)."

Power crews and government work crews were on the scene within a very short time. Power was restored and debris taken off the highways within a few hours.

Storm results in one mile of destruction

Ruby Campbell

Residents of the small communities of McNamee and Carroll's Crossing were still in shock Wednesday afternoon as they viewed the aftermath of a 3:30 p.m. storm which left a mile of destruction in its wake.

Some referred to it as a hurricane, others a twister or tornado.

"A deathly calm settled over the area after the hurricane which lasted anywhere from three seconds to 10 minutes," said one resident.

Barns and cars were demolished, houses damaged, trees uprooted, and property damaged.

Residents who have lost what they have worked their lifetime for hope Premier Richard Hatfield will view the scene and declare it a disaster area.

The storm came down the river and crossed to the north side of the river where it rolled the steel off a barn on Lloyd Betts' farm.

Terry Lyons escaped injury when he was lifted off a staging and thrown 400 feet into a corn field. He had been removing urea formaldehide from the home of Patrick O'Donnell. A nearby building was demolished and came down on top of his car and demolished it.

Men coming home from working in the woods found the highway blocked. Gerald Hamilton, one of the woodsworkers, luckily had a power saw and was able to cut a path through after the storm subsided.

Brothers Vaughan and Bedford O'Donnell were working in the south branch of the Renous River when it hit.

"It was an awful sight to come home to. The twister smashed windows in Bedford's home and damaged the interior of mine," said Vaughan O'Donnell.

The hardest hit appeared to be the home of his parents, Mr and Mrs Mont O'Donnell.

Veranda torn off

A glassed-in veranda was torn off the house and a chesterfield which was inside was thrown 50 feet into the yard.

After it hit the home, it demolished the barn, tearing off the roof and throwing it 50 feet over a pig pen. The animals were not hurt.

The heavy rains and high winds from the south then moved to the property of Donald O'Donnell. A tree, estimated to be 100 feet tall and 80 years old fell on his car, destroying it.

"The noise from the wind was worse than the crashing of the trees. Everyone lost their flowers, flower pots, aerials and lawn furniture," he said.

Ralph Parker was fortunate to have had his car in the garage. Usually, he said, it is parked in the driveway. The garage door was torn off and the ramainder of the garage partially destroyed.

He was in the veranda of his home when it struck. "The wind picked up everything in the open veranda. The furniture was thrown against the house door.

"There wasn't time to think. All I could do was stand and look."

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