(A)

TORNADO PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

F=3

1. DATE AND TIME July 24 1975, THURSDAY 1640 ~~1705~~ EST

2. LOCATION OR PATH (attach map) St-Bonaventure (West to east) at the ~~east~~ end of village tornado shifted South 0597508

3. PATH LENGTH ☐ NOT KNOWN ☐ <1mi; ☒ 3.5 1-4mi; ☐ 5-10mi; ☐ 11-50mi; ☐ LENGTH IF>50mi

4. PATH WIDTH 8-10 HND FT 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
(Such as hail, vivid lightning heavy rain, no rain, etc.)

10. TOTAL DAMAGE ESTIMATE $3 MILLION 11. TOTAL DEATHS 3

12. TOTAL INJURED ~~500~~ 60 13. TOTAL HOMELESS 50-60

14. LIST ALL REFERENCES
Le Soleil: Friday 25 July 1975
And Saturday 26 July
Le Nouvelliste: Friday 25 July 1975
THURSDAY 7 Aug 1975

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

a) a witness reported: "It is now the winds it is like a vacuum which pull and push at the same time en a Spiral motion"

b) tornado crosses the village broking everything on its ~~paths~~ 50 house, barnes, garages uprooted trees. A house trailer has been lifted in the air and carry over 500 fts, 3 in house persons has been killed,

Mother, twins killed

Quebec town ripped apart by tornado(ES)

Tornadoes

July 24

STAR JUL 25 1975

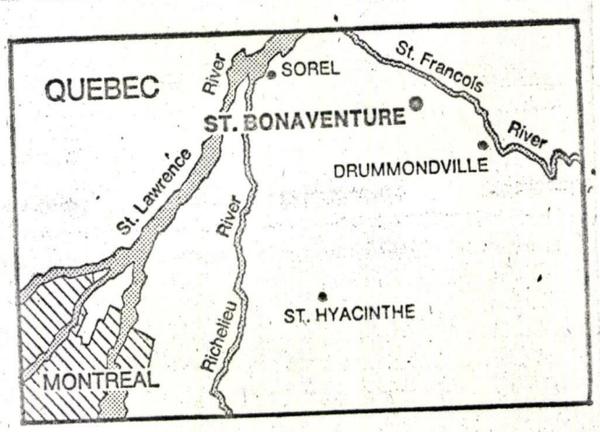
By PETER LLOYD and JIM ROBINSON
Star staff writers

ST. BONAVENTURE — A murky dawn crept up on this village today, exposing a five-mile string of splintered buildings cloaked in the dank smell of wet, raw, exposed lumber.

Ten hours after a tornado ripped through St. Bonaventure killing a mother and her infant twins, police and civil protection crews were working to clear downed wires and debris from the main street.

A few hundred feet from where Denise St. Laurent, 32, and her 2-month-old twins, Patrice and Patricia, were killed in their mobile home, the once-proud steeple of the Roman Catholic church lay crumpled like a discarded milk carton in the middle of the town 60 miles east of Montreal.

"The trailer the St. Laurents were in was broken into pieces this big," said Lt. Lucien Gauthier of the Quebec Provincial Police, spreading his hands six inches apart.



TORNADO SMASHED ST. BONAVENTURE
Leaving three dead, many hurt

SMALL BODY

The body of one of the twins was found 500 feet from where the mobile home was crushed by the tornado, which witnesses said roared down the main street in an easterly direction.

About 40 people were treated in hospital in nearby Drummondville but only four were detained.

Despite the fact that more than 60 homes were destroyed, leaving one-third of the town's 1,000 people homeless, police were confident that no other victims lay among the rubble.

A civil protection official estimated that damage might reach $3 million.

SMASHED SHELL

Oblate Father Georges-Etienne Cartier stood in front of the smashed shell of the church where he was baptized 63 years ago and spoke the words that describe an entire town today:

"It's a complete disaster."

The tornado wrecked the church, where sections of all the walls were blown out, leaving the pipe organ protruding from one end and the roof crushed on the ground.

Headstones in the grave-

TORNADO, page A2

Town starts cleanup of killer tornado mess

ST. BONAVENTURE, Que. (CP) — Residents of this small town today began the task of cleaning up in the wake of a two-fisted tornado Thursday evening that killed at least three persons and injured 45.

A 32year-old woman and her three-month-old twins died after the storm ripped through this community of 1,000, uprooting trees and wrecking houses.

JUL 25 1975

Police said the tornado hit the town at about 6:30 p.m. EDT and lasted until 6:45 p.m. Fifteen minutes later, the community was struck a second time.

"Some people were injured when their homes shifted or collapsed," said a QPP spokesman. "Others were struck by flying objects as they ran from cover when the tornado struck."

The Windsor Star Library

Continued from page 1

yard were flattened by the twister, which overturned several vehicles and blew large pieces of corrugated roofing material hundreds of yards across open areas.

"The poor village, it's finished," said Fabien Beauchemin, a retired farmer living across the street from the heavily-damaged church.

He estimated damage to his own home, one of the least damaged in the immediate area, at more than $8,000. His wife, fighting back tears as she collected pieces of debris from the front porch, was concerned mainly about the church.

"We've spent $40,000 for repairs to the church only two years ago," Mrs. Beauchemin said. "Now it's finished."

"The village is destroyed," Constable Yves Raby of the provincial police said. "There is not a single tree or a single utility pole left standing. The whole village will have to be rebuilt from scratch."

Small groups of those who escaped injury wandered aimlessly through the littered streets until the early hours today.

"There's no sign of looting," one officer said. "The people who are wandering around are just looking for anything they can recognize as their own."

The tornado struck without warning at 6.05 p.m., cutting a swath about five miles long and half-a-mile wide across the 108-year-old community.

Surrounding villages and farms were not affected and the homeless spent the night with nearby relatives and friends.

Weather bureau officials said the tornado was an offshoot of a storm that dumped heavy rain and whipped up winds of up to 70 m.p.h. across southern Quebec.

"It was a tremendous roaring in the middle of the storm," said one dazed villager. "We had no warning and people were hit everywhere by things flying through the air."

Most of those taken to hospital were suffering minor wounds and shock.

Buildings without roofs or windows and shattered facades contrasted sharply in spots with homes that miraculously escaped the twister.

"There are some places destroyed, with undamaged buildings only five feet away from them," Gauthier said. He pointed toward an unscathed farmhouses that had narrowly missed being crushed by the toppled roof of what had been an adjacent barn.

Not far away, a farm silo stood twisted and bent while the mooing of cows sounded across the flat farmland even in the full darkness of the night.

"The poor damn animals," said one policeman, struggling to erect an emergency light. "Some might have been injured by falling trees, but no one's had the time to find out."

Leo Forcier, a lumber yard owner, said that when the tornado struck, he and his family went to the basement. "When we came back up, the second floor of our house was gone."

Some roofs and upper storeys of homes were hurled hundreds of feet by the twister. Farmers said their barns and silos disintegrated, with hay flying in all directions.

The main employers in the village, the sawmill and flourmill, were completely destroyed.

Etienne Labonte, who lives in the village, said: "The air was full of debris. Trees were falling everywhere."

He said his house was damaged only slightly, but some of his neighbors' homes "were flattened."

Telespore DeLorm, who lives about four miles from the village, said he recieved "only the tail end of the tornado—but my neighbor's cows are nearly all dead."

Jean Paul Bonin, who farms two miles southwest of St. Bonaventure, said his son's home, located 200 feet from his, was destroyed.

No one was in the son's house at the time, he said.

"But the town of St. Bonaventure, it will have to be all rebuilt," he said. "The church, the rectory, the houses—everything is destroyed."

An intermittent drizzle fell through the night, giving the splintered remains of St. Bonaventure's frame homes the smell of a damp sawmill.

About 50 provincial police officers patrolled the village and manned road blocks on its approaches, stopping all unauthorized people from entering.

Civil protection crews from Drummondville and Montreal, worked through the night to set up an emergency control centre.

They were joined by local service club volunteers who provided clean-up assistance, coffee and snacks to police and the residents who drifted about the streets or squatted in front of what hours before had been the tidy homes of a rural Quebec village.

Telespore DeLorm
Jean Paul Bonin

LONDON FREE PRESS

Three killed, 45 hurt by tornado in Quebec

JUL 25 1975

JUL 25 1975

St. BONAVENTURE, Que. (CP) — Quebec Provincial Police (QPP) spokesman Pierre Lemarbre said early today three persons were killed when a tornado hit this community, 50 miles northeast of Montreal.

Earlier reports from the QPP at nearby Sorel, Que., had placed the number of dead at 15 but Constable Lemarbre said those reports had been gathered from townspeople here who had apparently overestimated the number of victims.

Another QPP spokesman said there were about 45 people in hospital at nearby Drummondville. Earlier reports had placed the number of injured at 75.

QPP and civil protection authorities would not identify the three victims although they did say the three were a young woman and her twin infant daughters who were killed when their trailer home was overturned several times during the tornado.

Police were still sifting through debris early today but they said they did not expect to find any more victims.

A QPP spokesman said the storm first hit the town of 2,500 at about 6:30 p.m. EDT and lasted until about 6:45 p.m. The spokesman said the tornado struck a second time some 15 minutes later.

A local radio station reported that a length of the town measuring five miles by half a mile was destroyed. This includes the town's main street.

Other reports said 100 buildings, including the local church, rectory, water tower and school were destroyed or heavily damaged, along with numerous houses and barns in this rural community.

A police spokesman from nearby Sorel said damages were "too vast to estimate," while priest Theophile Cote said "the whole town will have to be rebuilt."

Another source estimated damages at $1 million.

An unspecified number of persons in a car near the church narrowly escaped death when the church's bell tower collapsed and two heavy brass bells came to rest within inches of their car.

Preliminary reports indicated the neighboring town of St. David was also hit by the storm but no estimate of damage was available.

Telephone and electricity poles were felled in the storm, cutting almost all communication with outside communities.

QPP officers have cordoned off the area to prevent looting and fire departments of neighboring towns have been placed on alert although no fires were reported.

There were reports late Thursday of electrical wires blown off their poles and exposed connections hindering rescue operations in some areas.

One resident in this community, Etienne Labonte, said: "The air was full of debris. Trees were falling everywhere."

He said his house was only slightly damaged but some neighbors' houses "were flattened".

Telespore Delorme, who lives about four miles from St. Bonaventure, said he received "only the tail end of the tornado — but my neighbor's cows are nearly all dead."

MONTREAL GAZETTE

Twister kills 4, wrecks town

JUL 25 1975

Weather

By BILL KOKESCH
of The Gazette

At least four persons are dead and 75 injured in the aftermath of a tornado which devastated the tiny farming community of St. Bonaventure, about 55 miles northeast of Montreal, last night.

The twister struck the village of 945 shortly after 6 p.m., leaving behind a trail of destruction estimated in the millions of dollars.

The tornado actually hit twice within a 10-minute period, destroying three-quarters of the town.

The dead have been identified as Mrs. Denise St. Laurent and her five-month-old twins, and Yvon Desmarais.

Police said the St. Laurent family was in its mobile home when the twister hurled it 500 feet through the air.

Desmarais was killed when he was caught outdoors.

Mrs. Etienne Labonte, who was preparing dinner when the twister struck, said "Everything [illegible] going

"Then my cousin came screaming in, yelling her house had been destroyed."

Only three homes were left without visible damage.

St. Bonaventure Church, a massive greystone building, resembled a bombed-out shell after catching the brunt of the twister.

Leo Forcier said his lumber yard sustained at least $250,000 damage.

"We went to the basement and, when we came up, our second floor was gone," he said.

"My daughter, Linda, had the ring on her finger blown off after she was sent reeling 20 yards across the front lawn."

Quebec Police Force spokesman Pierre Lamalice said all the injured were transported to Drummondville's St. Croix hospital for treatment. At least 30 officers answered the first call for help.

The St. Bonaventure area was cordoned off by police to prevent looting and keep sightseers away.

Wednesday, July 30, 1975 14:30
DISASTERS

HANSARD

(English)
DAMAGE TO ST. BONAVENTURE BY TORNADO - REQUEST FOR FEDERAL AID

Mr. A. D. Alkenbrack (Frontenac-Lennox and Addington): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Acting Prime Minister. It arises from my belief that, primarily, Canadians should help Canadians in times of need. Will the government be giving appropriate assistance to the stricken village of St. Bonaventure following the damage caused there recently by a tornado, the extent of the disaster being now estimated at $3 million?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): As the Prime Minister said when he was asked a similar question, the government of Canada does stand ready to assist the provinces on application in cases of disaster. We have a formula which applies generally and which does not discriminate on the basis of particular cases - only on the basis of whether a province itself shares part of the cost. If the Province of Quebec makes an application, it will be considered on its merits.

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END OF PRINT REQUEST

Friday, July 25, 1975 11:50
DISASTERS

HANSARD

(Translation)
FEDERAL AID TO VICTIMS OF TORNADO AT SAINT-BONAVENTURE

Mr. Claude Wagner (Saint-Hyacinthe): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the right hon. Prime Minister.

With reference to the joint motion introduced earlier by the hon. member for Drummond and the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe, could the Prime Minister assure the House that the Saint-Bonaventure disaster victims can count on immediate assistance from the federal government, through all its departments concerned?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, as indicated by the hon. member, the House has agreed to the motion of the hon. member for Drummond that the government should assist as much as possible the disaster victims of Saint-Bonaventure. I should like merely to remind the House that the federal government is always willing to help. There is a procedure we must follow whenever the province of Quebec or some other province submits an application in respect of a disaster area. There exist all sorts of means to assist disaster victims. It is the responsibility of the hon. member for Drummond, within which the disaster area is situated, to see that the Quebec government submits a formal application to the federal government.

Mr. Wagner: Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

Has the minister received a request for assistance from the Quebec government and if not has he already taken some steps to help that disaster area?

(English)

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I have not been in my office for a couple of hours. Before that, there certainly had not been a representation, which I think is understandable. I suspect the province would want some time to assess the damage. I will be glad to do whatever I can in conjunction with other departments and the province to see what we can do to assist in that area. I might point out there is a disaster formula program which, I believe, is administered by other departments of government. However, we will certainly supplement those efforts if we are asked.

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END OF PRINT REQUEST

THE GAZETTE, October 17, 1975 241075 618

Up to $15,000

14

Tornado losers get loans

QUEBEC — (CP) — The Quebec government will guarantee loans up to $15,000 to farmers whose operations were damaged by tornados or landslides this year, Agriculture Minister Kevin Drummond announced yesterday.

The government also will pay all interest on the loans up to June 30, 1976, but only five per cent of the interest after that date.

These special considerations are granted farmers in 17 designated areas under a law favoring special credit for agricultural producers in times of crisis, the minister said.

Farmers concerned must obtain authorization from the Quebec Farm Credit Board to obtain a loan of no more than $15,000 and of a duration no longer than 15 years.

The loans will be granted by chartered banks and credit unions at preferential rates no higher than one per cent above the institution's basic rate.

Designated areas for program are:

- St. Bonaventure, St. David and St. Joachim de Courval, about 60 miles east of Montreal, struck by a tornado July 24.
- St. Ambroise, Shipshaw, Chambord, Metabetchouan, Hebertville, St. Bruno, Bourget Township, Hebertville Station, St. Gedeon and Larouche in the Chicoutimi-Lac St. Jean area, hit by a tornado June 23.

G.AA, available through NOAA, through EPA.

Dear Mr. Newark

here is the little item you were cited in the NEWS data base. I have spoken to Les Baychuk who has worked in WATDOC for some time and he thought it unlikely that you would have found anything on tornados - since our records should pertain to water. we are doing another search. He suggested that your librarian might have some luck were she - or he - to get a search on the data base alone - an American data base but they do look at north -