0598601 A.2 F3

TORNADO PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

1. DATE AND TIME Jun 16, 1986 1800 EDT

2. LOCATION OR PATH (attach map) Lac Gareau

3. PATH LENGTH ☐ NOT KNOWN ☐ <1mi; ☑ 1-4mi; 2km ☐ 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 (Such as hail, vivid lightning heavy rain, no rain, etc.) - hail - rain

10. TOTAL DAMAGE ESTIMATE $ > 200 000 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) 2 houses destroyed, 6 others severely damaged

T.D. 184/2250

500 0

510 5375

The RCMP should stop pulling rank and solve this problem."

Cassidy cited jurisdictional problems between the two forces in April during the hostage-taking at the Bahamian High Commission on Kent Street as a possible impetus for the RCMP's action.

At the start of that drama, when a gunman took a diplomat hostage for several hours inside the commission, an Ottawa police inspector and senior RCMP officers argued over which force should handle the incident.

While Ottawa police later acknowledged the dispute, they said it was over technical operations, not jurisdiction and did not jeopardize negotiations with the gunman.

But an RCMP spokesman later said the Ottawa officer told the senior Mounties, "he didn't really need our help."

Deavy said Tuesday he's not aware of any federal roads in Nepean and the change will not affect their operations. Nepean police are not appealing to the province.

RCMP spokesmen refused comment on the matter Tuesday.

A spokesman for the provincial solicitor general's ministry would only say Tuesday that the matter is under review.

A spokesman for the federal solicitor general's department was unaware of the dispute Tuesday, but said it was a law enforcement matter for the RCMP to comment on.

Federal roads in Ottawa include Queen Elizabeth Driveway, Clemow Avenue, Colonel By, Island Park and Echo drives, the Western Ottawa River Parkway and parts of the eastern and airport parkways.

wrong information which it gave the project initial approval.

The decision by Durrell, seen as the project's main booster on council, virtually destroys any hope the developer had. The mayor joins a number of aldermen who had originally supported it and are now indicating they will vote against the plan when they review it in early July.

Durrell's decision, released in a written statement, came a day after the disclosure that the proposed hotel site at 99 Rideau St. was under a 35-foot height restriction when the property was purchased by Triax Development Corp. in 1983.

But when city politicians endorsed the scheme March 19, a staff report to council said there was no height restriction on the property when Triax purchased it.

Because many were under the

meeting.

But in light of the new information, Durrell, like other councillors, feels council had no obligation to permit a 17-storey development.

"I believe it was never the intention of council to upzone the property," Durrell says in the statement.

City officials also said Tuesday that Triax recently put the property up for sale. They said the firm is asking $7.5 million for the property, which includes two levels of retail stores which recently opened.

The plan was to build a 15-storey hotel on top of the retail levels.

Regional Realty Ltd., the firm hired by Triax owner William Trebst to handle leasing of the re-



Jim Durrell
Council not obliged to support plan

tail area, is also handling the sale.

Regional Realty officials deferred comment to Trebst, who couldn't be reached.

Opponents, who have filed an objection to the Ontario Municipal Board, say a highrise would be out of character with the historic, low-rise nature of the market.

them the the perfect opportunity to save face.

Overbrook-Forbes Ald. George Kelly said Tuesday the real reason some aldermen are rethinking their stand on the project is because they are under intense pressure from mounting public opposition.

While staff acknowledged the error in the report, they insist they spoke about the 35-foot height restriction when questioned by council at the March 19 meeting.

Wellington Ald. Diane Holmes said she remembers staff commenting on the restriction, although she recalls there was a lot of confusion over the entire issue.

But some also said they can't understand how councillors couldn't have been aware of the height restrictions at the meeting.



—Chris Mikula, Citizen

Charlie Miller in remains of barn after tornado lifted Perth-area building

OC Wed. June 18/86 B1
S.D. June 16, 1986

Tornado victims begin cleanup

By Jack Aubry and Sharon Trottier
Citizen staff writers

Residents of Lac Gareau Tuesday were picking their way through the shambles of the second cottage-tossing, tree-snapping tornado to hit the Upper Gatineau area in less than two years.

Monday's tornado touched down about 15 kilometres south of Blue Sea Lake, where a twister killed one person and did more than $1 million in damage July 16, 1984.

In Lac Gareau, a twister ricocheted off trees around the lake before hitting two houses. Its path of destruction was only about two kilometres long compared with the 90-kilometre path of the one that hit Blue Sea Lake.

The two houses were destroyed, and six others were severely damaged by strong winds. Damage is estimated at more than $200,000. No one was injured.

Michael Newark, head of climate monitoring for Environment Canada, said it was only bad luck that this week's tornado, which came complete with winds of between about 250 and 500 km an hour, struck so close to Blue Sea Lake.

Newark said tornadoes do not have preferred paths, and an area's terrain does not dictate where a tornado will strike.

He said West Quebec and the Ottawa Valley are part of Canada's tornado-prone area which lies in a belt between Manitoba and New Brunswick.

An area just east of Perth was also hit by Monday's severe weather, as a storm with hurricane-force winds touched down, leaving the small town littered with broken tree branches and shattered windows but caused no injuries.

Ronald Raymond, 44, of Lac Gareau was busy picking up the pieces of his house Tuesday after the storm.

Raymond said his family rushed to the basement when he spotted the twister coming across the lake. His house now has an open-air bathroom, with the shower wall lying in the living room.

The storm near Perth damaged roofs and tore off shingles from several rural farmhouses along Hwy. 7. No one was injured.

Ontario Hydro officials said some houses in the area were still without power Tuesday afternoon after the storm knocked down hydro lines.

But for Charlie and Amy Miller, the worst is yet to come.

The storm lifted up their barn and sent pieces of it across the highway, destroyed their machine shed and garage and tore up trees.

Late Tuesday night, the retired farming couple were still picking their way through tree branches and scattered debris.

"It's going to take another month or so to get everything fixed up," said Amy Miller in an interview Tuesday night.

Miller said she spent most of the day talking to dozens of people who drove out to the farm to see the damage first-hand.



Brown's Beat

Dave Brown

Tight market

ted, but she found her way. The office was empty. So she sat and waited.

The secretary arrived and raised hell. What was this stranger doing in her office? Hadn't she read the sign on the door? She was out, and people were supposed to wait. How did she get in? She tried to explain but was told to leave.

She eventually found a job. But she wants those who sit in positions of hiring to know they seem to have a common problem.

They're cruel.

Fished out

didn't see what Francine had seen until the shell coasted to stop. Then they looked beside them and there was a face in the water. Just the mouth and nose were showing, and there was a feeble: "Help." It was 5.45 a.m.

It would be virtually impossible to pull a man into a racing shell, so they called the coach boat over, and trainers **Carolyn Trono** and **Peter McGowan** pulled the overweight young man into the motorboat.

He was taken ashore and an ambulance was called, although by the time it arrived he had

"I thought it was a Javex bottle floating in the water," Raymond said. "I was working on my steering and aimed for it. That's what his face looked like. It was that white."

The man was about 100 yards from the Hull shore, just west of the Macdonald-Cartier Bridge.

If he had closed the Hull bars he had probably been in the water for three hours.

The river at that point is particularly dirty with raw sewage pouring into it. The party animal should worry about disease.

On the eve of the opening of official trade talks with the United States, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney delivered a televised pep talk Monday to reassure Canadians free trade will be good for them.

In an election-style speech, Mulroney asked Canadians to support the government's "difficult mission" of obtaining a free-trade agreement with the Americans.

Calling the talks which open today in Washington "an important turning point" in Canada's history, Mulroney said the government's path is risky but could lead to great accomplishments.

"This is not for the faint hearted, but

office.

Should the talks — expected to last 18 months — result in an agreement, Mulroney said the result will be jobs and greater prosperity for Canada.

"If there is any doubt in that regard, there will be no deal."

He cited figures claiming a free-trade pact could save Canadians $2 billion in U.S. customs duties, add 75,000 new jobs for every one per cent of the American market captured by Canadians and give Canadian firms access to $750 billion in annual procurement by American federal

age on the free-trade issue, and his belief that his position is being inadequately reported by the media.

Liberal Leader John Turner condemned Mulroney's effort, saying it left Canadians no more enlightened about where the government stands on free trade than before.

"The government should... say this is the type of agreement we're trying to achieve, without revealing their individual cards and I don't want to know their tactics and they shouldn't reveal their tactics to the Americans.

"We don't want to know what cards

However, New De
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(PM, page A20)
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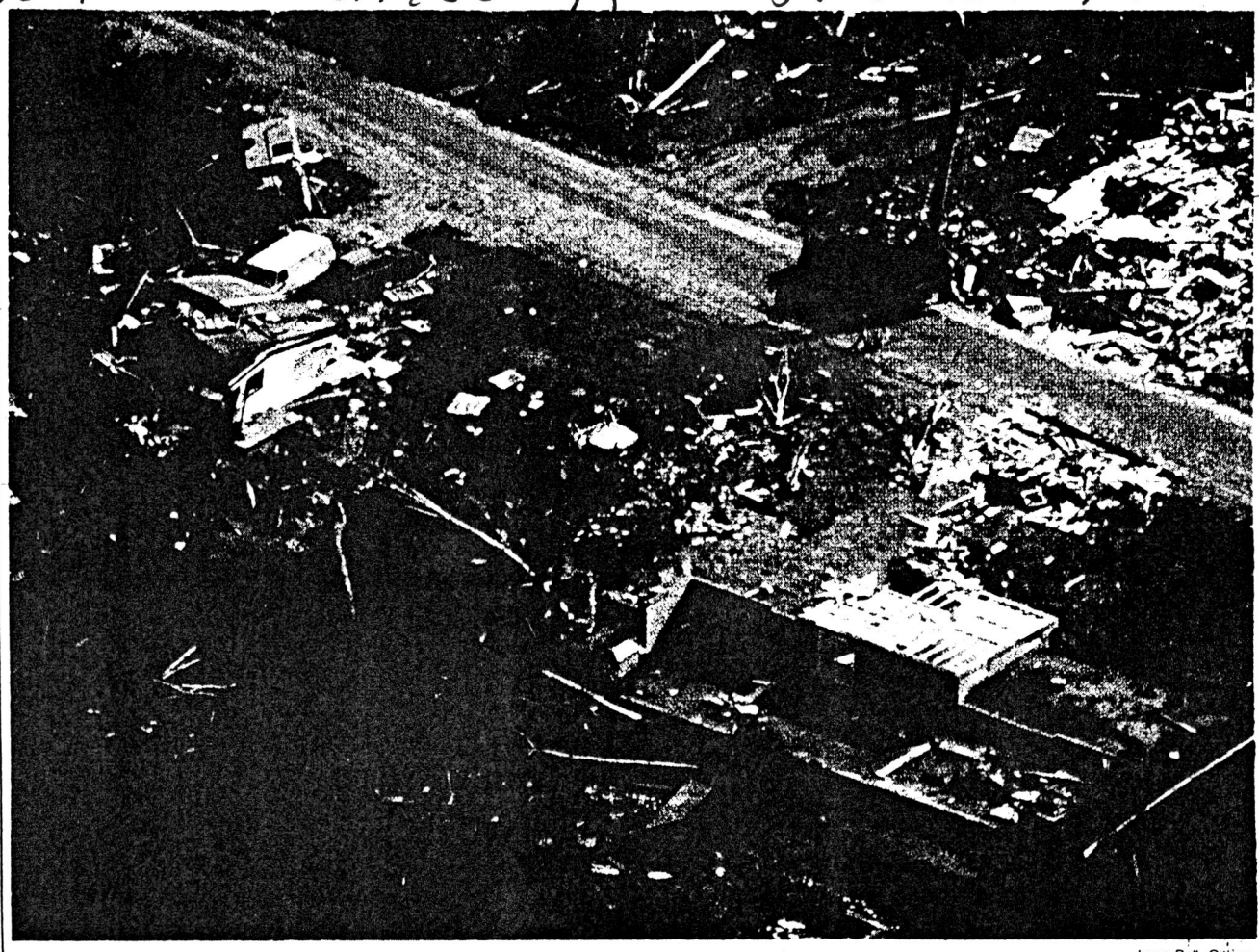
OC Tues. June 17/86 pg A1 SD. June 16, 1986



— Lynn Ball, Citizen

Tornado flattened residences along shore of Lac Gareau, about eight kilometres west of Gracefield, Que.

Buildings bear brunt of tornadoes

Citizen staff

Residents near Gracefield, Que., and in the Ottawa Valley near Perth, were clearing up the damage today after two tornadoes struck Monday, destroying houses and cottages and crushing farm buildings.

The tornadoes were most fierce in Southern Ontario, where three people were reported injured. No injuries were reported in the Ottawa area.

Strong winds and thunderstorms downed trees and knocked out power in Kanata, Aylmer and the Gatineau region.

The Quebec tornado hit around 6 p.m., flattening 10 residences at Lac Gareau, about eight kilometres west of Gracefield. Gracefield is 100 kilometres north of Ottawa.

A smaller tornado demolished farm buildings near Perth at around 5 p.m., then skipped across to Mississippi Lake and uprooted a cottage belonging to an Ottawa couple. A barn and outbuildings on a farm owned by Kevin Wheeler near the hamlet of Elphin, 20 kilometres west of Perth, was also damaged.

Strong winds at Lac Gareau ripped houses from foundations, tore off roofs and destroyed vehicles.

Quebec Police Force spokesman Robert Chicoine said police, Maniwaki rescue workers and volunteer firemen from Wright municipality rushed to the scene.

"It is unbelievable that no one even suffered a scratch," he said. A police helicopter flew in from Hull for an air search for peo-

(Storm, page A20)

Mini quit conf cha

By Mark Ke
Citizen staff writ

TORONTO tion demand Chairman E suddenly fro Monday am est controve band.

It was the tion since th took office year ago, a came le than a we after Cons vative M Phil Gilli made the fi charges in legislature.

Gillies vealed Tu day that t IDEA invest Systems Inc software fi husband, W cial consult

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Forces feud over police jurisdiction

By Ian MacLeod
Citizen staff writer

Patient welfare neglected, health minister tells MDs

TORONTO (CP) — As more Ontario hospitals announced they would close emergency wards, Health Minister Murray Elston charged striking doctors are no

over the last five or six days it's become clear that patients are not on the high priority that the OMA (Ontario Medical Association) said they were," Elston told reporters Monday after learning

Emergency departme in one Cornwall hosp

Citizen staff

Staff at Cornwall General Hospital was predicting patient waits of up to four hours today after militant doctors closed the emer-

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POOR QUALITY ORIGINAL

Continued from page 1

PM

From page A1 story:
PM makes TV pitch for free trade

ly to the Canada-U.S. Auto Pact as a model for a new trading arrangement with the Americans, Broadbent said the prime minister knows the pact is not a free-trade agreement because it contains investment and other guarantees that benefit Canada.

"I think you're seeing a backdown. He's covered himself in a way I find no recent parallel in modern Canadian history."

In his speech, Mulroney said the government wants to "recreate the success of the auto industry" that has sprung from the auto pact for "other sectors and regions of the country," specifically British Columbia forestry and coal; Prairie energy and agriculture, Atlantic fishing and offshore energy and Quebec manufactured goods.

He raised the spectre of rising protectionism around the world as a threat to Canada's access to markets vital for its trade survival.

"Every day, it becomes more difficult to defend our interests and access to American markets. There is a door of protectionism closing on us. But there remains an occasion of opportunity.

"One seizes the moment firmly . . . or we allow the opportunity to pass.

"It is no longer a question — in my judgment it never was — of simply defending the status quo. We cannot be content with that."

Getting a good deal, Mulroney said, will mean give and take by both Canadians and Americans.

Any agreement will be phased in over several years, with time to adjust and adapt to a more open, less constrained market, he said, adding the government will be "most sensitive" to those who lose their jobs as a result of free trade.

Turner and Broadbent delivered televised statements immediately after Mulroney, but both were taped before either leader had a chance to read or hear the prime minister's remarks.

Rejecting the free-trade initiative, Turner said Canada would do better if it negotiated with the U.S. as part of multilateral trade talks with other countries.

Turner raised a series of questions casting doubt on the government's decision to ask the U.S. to negotiate free trade.

He said Canadians have not been told what is and isn't on the bargaining table, and there has been no public debate on the issue.

In his speech, Broadbent said most Canadians would agree there is a need to go beyond the status quo, but disagree with Mulroney's methods.

By negotiating a free-trade deal, the NDP leader said the prime minister places at risk Canada's health, economic, social and regional development policies to American scrutiny and demands for change.

The NDP leader said he will press the prime minister to seek sectoral agreements instead of a comprehensive trade pact, coupled with a mechanism for settling trade disputes.

Storm

From page A1 story:
Buildings bear brunt of tornadoes

ple trapped in cottages deeper in the bush.

Forty permanent residents live along the tiny lake.

Tears flowed from 55-year-old Irene Lafreniere as she gathered personal effects and souvenirs in her tiny home.

"Take out my freezer, it's somewhere in the field out there and my cedar chest is in the lake," she cried to a volunteer worker.

A piano and sound system were the only belongings 48-year-old music teacher Jean Jacques Brunelle could find where his residence had stood.

Ronald Raymond said he yelled to his wife and kids to go to the basement when he saw the tornado coming.

"Everything was over in 30 seconds," said Raymond, whose house and five vehicles were heavily damaged.

Liette Lyrette, 25, was sitting in the living room with her two-month-old daughter when she heard the hail. Frightened by the loud downpour and strong winds, she sought refuge in the basement.

Later she found pieces of wood and shattered glass where she had been sitting only minutes earlier. The roof of her mobile home was badly damaged.

Power went out in the Upper Gatineau region from Gracefield to Grand Remous at 5:30 p.m. Monday. Most power was restored by midnight Monday.

A killer tornado struck the neighboring village of Blue Sea Lake, July 15, 1984, leaving one person dead and 28 injured.

Charlie Miller, a 73-year-old retired farmer who lives on Hwy. 7 about five kilometres east of Perth, said he and his wife were sitting in their farmhouse when they heard a terrifying roar and raced for the cellar.

"We spent our lives building up this place and it was all over in a split second.

"We came back upstairs and it was all gone. The barn was gone. The drive shed was gone. The shed was flattened . . . the trees just looked like skeletons."

Piles of rubble are all that remain of the buildings.

The farmhouse, however, escaped with minimal damage — three broken windows and missing roof shingles. Several cows and calves in the cement basement of the barn were not hurt.

About 100 to 200 homes in the Perth area were still without electricity this morning.

A four-bedroom cottage on Mississippi Lake belonging to Herbert and Ruth Mentzel of Ottawa was shifted about a metre from its foundation, said an Ontario Provincial Police spokesman.

The bad weather was caused by a cold front from the northwest that moved into Ottawa about mid-afternoon Monday, dumping almost six millimetres of rain between 4 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Feud

From page A1 story:
Forces feud over police jurisdiction

Ottawa force's traffic section, insisted "the public has to have a clear-cut idea who to call when they need help.

"They should not be put in the position of being told 'sorry we don't handle that, that's another police force.' "

Rice said if his officers arrive at the scene of a serious accident that's already being handled by the RCMP, his officers will offer assistance, but allow the Mounties to continue their investigation.

However, if his force is alerted to the accident first, it will respond on its own.

Until now, the RCMP was responsible for catching speeders, impaired drivers and responding to minor accidents not involving criminal offences, Skinner said.

Rice is now awaiting word from Ontario's Solicitor General's ministry on whether his force should stop responding to serious accidents on federal roads.

But "until such time as I'm relieved of that duty, I'll continue to do what the municipal police are expected to do."

The RCMP has refused to comment on the issue, outlined in an April 21 letter to Rice from Favreau. The letter said the new policy would be effective May 1.

"It's beyond my comprehension at the moment and that's why I've put it in the hands of the province," Rice said, when asked why the RCMP changed its policy.

A spokesman for the federal solicitor general's department, which oversees the operation of the RCMP, said today the issue is a law enforcement matter and any comment would have to come from the federal force, not the ministry.

A spokesman for the provincial solicitor general's ministry did not know today what the province's response will be to Rice's request for direction on the issue. Senior ministry officials were not available for comment.

Because of the confusing array of federal roads in the city, Rice fears public uncertainty over which force to alert, especially among people visiting Ottawa.

Hotel

From page A1 story:
City hall error puts market hotel development in doubt

meeting when initial approval was given.

SEARS
AFTER FATHER'S DAY



SP. June 16, 1986

I'll seek veto in trade pact premier says

Quebec will seek the right to veto any freer trade agreement between Canada and the U.S., Premier Robert Bourassa said yesterday.

Veto power is necessary to protect vulnerable Quebec industries such as textiles and softwood from the impact of a general lowering of tariffs, he said in an interview.

Quebec wants "the power to be able to refuse or to accept the treaty in the light of its impact on our economic interests."

The premier had been speaking to a group of Southam Inc. editors from across Canada participating in a three-day conference.

He said later that his government, in general terms, favors freer trade.

"With the small market we have, we can only be in favor of enlarging the market, taking into account our vulnerable industries."

Gales cause widespread damage

By PEGGY CURRAN
of The Gazette

In the Gatineau community of Wright, a tornado ripped Ronald Raymond's house from its foundation, dumping it yards away.

In Stoneham, near Quebec City, gale-force winds pitched Alfred and Shirley Craig's old chicken coop across the field. Luckily, their 14,000 chickens are housed in another building 30 metres away.

In Deauville, in the Eastern Townships, winds demolished three townhouses valued at $250,000 which owner Bertrand Labrie hoped to complete this week.

In Ogden Township, farmer Winston Flanders spent yesterday auctioning two newborn calves. Their mothers and a third calf died when the barn collapsed around them.

The violent rainstorm whipped through Quebec communities from Hull in the west to Tadoussac in the east, uprooting trees, flipping over cars and pulling barns and sheds from their moorings.

Hydro crews were still working late yesterday to restore power to 6,000 homes in Sherbrooke, Sutton and Knowlton which had been blacked out since Monday evening.

In the Townships, hundreds of roofs were damaged and barns blown over. Volunteers spent yesterday clearing trees from roads.

Environment Canada official Gilbert Filion said the weather service is probing reports of tornadoes in several areas.

Olivier Boisvenue was reading a newspaper in his chalet in Wright, on Lac Gareau 80 kilometres north of Hull shortly before 5 p.m. Monday when he felt a tremor and the afternoon sky grew dark.

But when Boisvenue stepped to the window, a swirling white cloud blocked his view.

When the cloud dispersed moments later, Boisvenue saw that neighbor Ronald Raymond's house had been picked up and the roof and walls were caving in.

In Stoneham, many trees were toppled but the Craigs' chicken farm was hardest hit.

"The wind must have lifted that bulding pretty high because when it came down it was 10 feet away," recalled Shirley Craig, who has lived in the area for 30 years.

In Deauville, 15 km south of Sherbrooke, Labrie said he was just thinking that with construction problems settled, he'd be able to complete three condominium townhouses by their July 1 delivery date.

In minutes the townhouses had been buffeted by the wind and the walls and roofs had collapsed. "There's no saving them."

In Ayer's Cliff, Stephen Knox was walking up from Lake Massawippi when he was knocked down by "a wall of wind and water."



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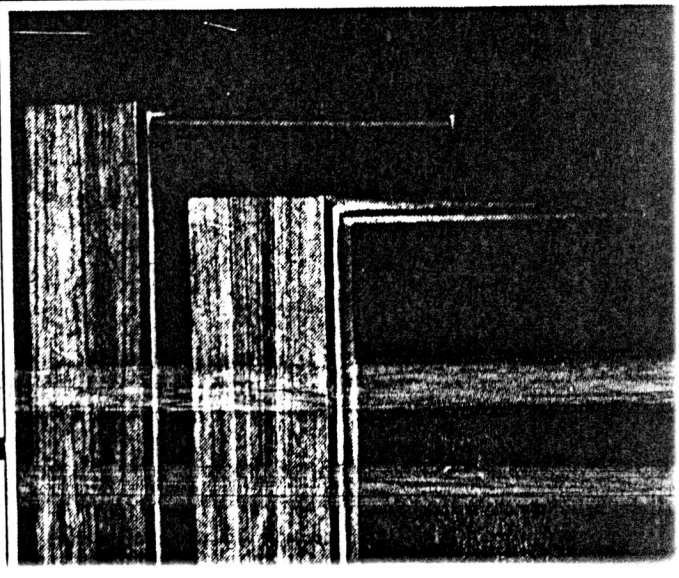

just about ready and about nine days work are needed to make the rest of the building ready.

But Dobie admitted that's small consolation for elderly people who've been looking forward to getting settled before the full heat of summer sets in.

"This isn't a case of a couple waiting for a cottage to be ready. These are 150 people who, in many cases, are moving for what they expect will be the last time," Dobie said.

As volunteer administrator of the housing project, Dobie said he's made arrangements to store tenants' furniture in the basement of Holy Cross church hall, which adjoins the project.

He has also urged them to make arrangements to stay with friends or relatives — advice that isn't always easy to follow.

"I'm all alone. My son died in 1978 and I lost my husband in December," said Imbleau.

Nor have Lucien and Ginette Brunette figured out where they will go if the building isn't ready by the time they have to vacate their apartment June 28.

"My wife is diabetic and she has to have a fridge for her insulin," said Lucien Brunette, 71. "I don't know what we are going to do. I spoke to her doctor to see whether she could go to the hospital for a few days. But he said it wasn't an emergency.

"Ever since the construction strikes began, she has been very worried because we were moving and she knew we would have to get out. We have a daughter but her place is small. I don't think she has room for us."

Anne Cyr is still trying to work up the nerve to explain the problem to her ailing sister.

Cyr said her sister Madeleine has just completed a three-month stint in hospital after heart surgery. She can't be moved to their fifth-floor apartment until the elevator is working and furniture installed.

"She's been watching the news and she knows about the construction strike," Cyr said. "But I don't know what to tell her. I don't have any sons or daughters or nieces we could stay with. We have cousins but they don't have room for us."

Others, like Marcel Masson, Catherine Stevens and Josie Atkinson, admit they can find temporary shelter with family — although it will mean storing furniture and taking unplanned trips to Ottawa and southwestern Ontario.

For John and Myrtle Szwec, the hardships have already begun. Expecting to move this weekend, they've already given away their stove, refrigerator and washing machine.

"I sure don't feel good about it," said Szwec, 63. "This strike business is very inconvenient, what with storing furniture and then having to move during the peak period."

Myrtle Szwec said her husband has lost 15 pounds and slept fitfully since rotating strikes began with the end April 30 of the decree regulating construction workers.

"In 44 years, I've never known he was a worry wart before," she said.

As former president of the Provincial Association of Catholic Teachers, Dobie said he wouldn't want anyone to think he's trying to break a strike.

But he said the Holy Cross project demonstrates the need for the government to resolve long-standing differences between 100,000 construction workers and their employers.

"The fact is that this whole business has seriously inconvenienced many people — which is the very reason they've been putting the push on just before the July 1 deadline," Dobie said.



Gazette, Pierre Obendrauf

Building unfinished: New tenants get a first-hand look at lack of progress.

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MG Tues. June 17/86 A3

Thunderstorm fells trees, cuts power on West Island

SD. June 16, 1986

A short but violent thunderstorm struck the West Island area last night, knocking down trees and leaving an estimated 25,000 Hydro-Québec customers without power for hours.

No one was reported injured but some houses and cars were damaged when struck by falling trees during the height of the storm between 7 and 8 p.m.

Most of the power failures were caused by falling trees and branches as winds gusted as high as 100 km/h.

A 12-metre maple tree fell on a house at 365 Lakeshore Rd. in Pointe Claire and another fell on two parked cars in front of 2225 Lakeshore Dr. in Dorval.

The weather also resulted in a disappointing turnout for Brazil's fireworks display in Montreal's annual fireworks competition at La Ronde and was responsible for the program being cut short to 18 minutes from 25 minutes.

Ports Canada police estimated only 10,000 spectators gathered on the Jacques Cartier bridge and 3,000 along the waterfront.

Dorval traffic circle to get $6.5-million fa

By DANIEL MACELUCH
of The Gazette

Quebec government officials yesterday unveiled a $6.5-million plan to improve safety and service for commuters at the Dorval traffic circle.

A new commuter train station, bus terminal, new platforms, shelters and tunnels should be in use by the summer of 1988.

The project also includes a shuttle bus service to Dorval airport and is calling for the installation of traffic lights at access points to Dorval traffic circle which links Highway 20, Dorval Ave. and Côte de Liesse Rd.

Dorval Mayor Peter Yeomans said the timing of the project is good news for the future of Dorval airport.

The Montreal Airports Advisory Board, a federal committee studying the future of Dorval, Mirabel and St. Hubert airports, is expected to make its recommendations to Transport Minister Don Mazankowski by the end of the month.

Moving all jet traffic to Mirabel, and leaving Dorval with only short-haul turboprop and commuter flights, is one of five options the committee is considering.

Dorval now handles domestic and U.S.-bound flights.

But Yeomans said the provincial government wouldn't spend that much money if it suspected passenger traffic at Dorval will be reduced.

The bus terminal at Dorval Gardens shopping centre will be moved to the northwest side of the Dorval traffic circle and a new commuter train station will be built a few hundred metres west of the current station.

The bus terminal and station will be linked by a tunnel under the CN tracks.

Transport Department officials hope the number of passengers using the Montreal-Rigaud commuter train line will increase to about 15,000 from 9,000.

Another tunnel will link the bus terminal with the south side of Highway 20 where the shopping centre is situated.

The route from the current commuter station to the shopping centre takes five minutes on foot across several busy roads feeding the circle.

Several hundred new parking spaces will also be added.

"The provincial government has shown it is committed to improving ground transportation for airport clients and that's a good sign," Yeomans said.

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