B

TORNADO PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

F=0 ONT

1. DATE AND TIME 11-7-1969 1430 EST

2. LOCATION OR PATH (attach map)
SMITHS FALLS 0696918.

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 (Such as hail, vivid lightning heavy rain, no rain, etc.)
HAIL 19 mm in diameter
Temperature fell 13°C in 15 minutes.

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

12. TOTAL INJURED NONE 13. TOTAL HOMELESS U

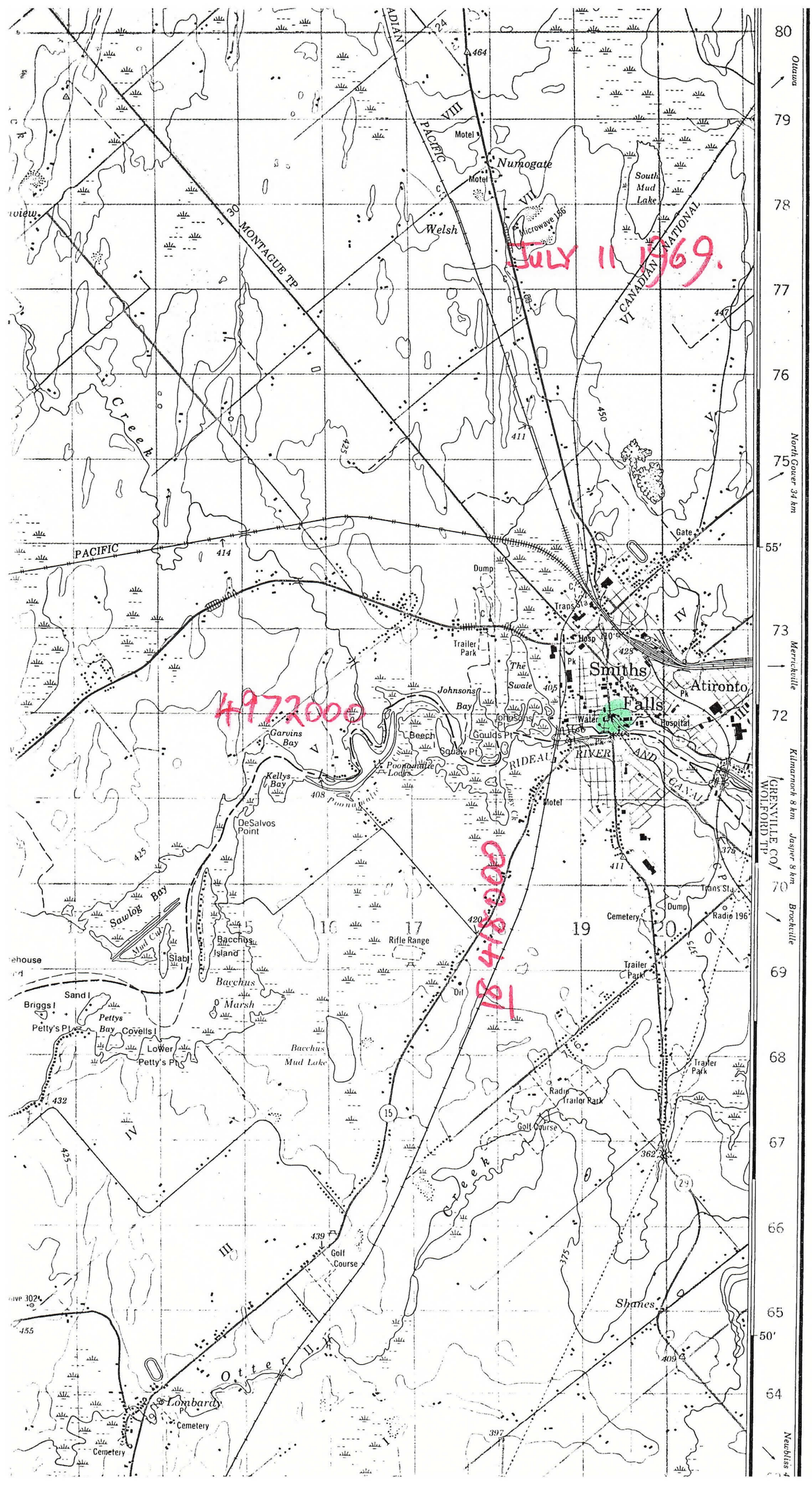
14. LIST ALL REFERENCES

SATURDAY CITIZEN, OTTAWA JULY 12, 1969
OTTAWA JOURNAL JULY 12, 1969
GLOBE & MAIL JULY 12, 1969

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

(a) no remarks.

(b). Smiths Falls looked like a battleground with hundreds of trees uprooted which landed on rooftops, blocked streets and crushed cars. TV antennas were ripped from rooftops and aluminum siding was torn from the walls of homes.



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SMITH FALLS

THE SATURDAY CITIZEN
OTTAWA
JULY 12 1969

is battered by wild storm

FRI JULY 11 1969

By David Smithers
Citizen staff writer

SMITHS FALLS — Floods, blocked streets, uprooted trees and darkened, damaged homes were left in the trail of a violent 10-minute storm that lashed the town Friday afternoon.

Towns further up the Ottawa Valley also reported similar destruction as the "hurricane-like" storm continued its rampage.

Winds rose, rain poured without warning

Skies blackened about 3.30 p.m., "and without any warning the winds rose and it started pouring rain, accompanied later by hailstones up to three-quarters of an inch in diameter," said Gary Stevens, of radio station CJET.

The station was put off the air for 2½ hours and most homes in the town were without power for up to three hours after the storm moved in.

Dozens of trees in the town were torn up by winds estimated to have gusted to 80 m.p.h.

Some sliced through hydro lines while others blocked streets and landed on top of two unoccupied cars. The roofs of several homes were also damaged by falling trees and limbs.

Streets flooded

The initial rainfall was so heavy that many streets were several inches deep in water.

The Chambers Street subway — in the east end of town — was flooded to a depth of about two feet and several cars were stranded.

Blinded by the deluge, other drivers stopped their vehicles wherever they were caught.

At least one accident in the area, involving a milk truck, was blamed on the heavy rain.

Gutters on some streets overflowed onto sidewalks and front lawns as storm sewers became overloaded.

"Branches of trees were snapping off like matchsticks," said one witness. "I saw a large tree just lifted out of the ground and flung down. There are leaves all over town. It's going to be quite a clean-up job."

Hail lay thick

When it was all over there were so many hailstones on the ground that it looked as though it had been snowing. Although damage was concentrated to the town, local farmers reported flattened hay and corn fields.

There were no injuries reported to police during the storm.

Weathermen said the storm was caused by two high pressure systems joining forces with a cold front.

29

Temperatures in the town dropped from 85 degrees at 3.15 p.m. to 61 at 3.30 p.m.

Thunder and lightning also accompanied the storm, which left Smiths Falls and swept up the Ottawa Valley to Pembroke and Petawawa where more damage was reported.

All but the hailstones moved into those communities and caused similar destruction.

Pembroke radio station CHOV was off the air from the time the storm struck at 4 p.m. for two hours while power to many homes was disrupted.

Trees were uprooted and thrown against power lines and at least one secondary road was blocked to traffic for several hours.

Provincial police reported several boats overturned in the Ottawa River off Petawawa Point, 10 miles west of Pembroke.

[redacted]

Only one was manned, they said. Two young boys were flung into the water as winds pitched over their canoe. They swam to shore.

Main property damage was reported to cottages nestled among tall pine trees bordering the Ottawa River.

One unoccupied car in the area was crushed beneath a fallen tree.

Area farmers reported heavy damage to crops and waterlogged fields.

Maintenance crews in all communities worked throughout the night to repair several hydro lines and clean trees and limbs from sidewalks and streets.

The Globe & Mail
Toronto, Ontario
Circ. 262,000
July 12, 1969

FRI JULY 11 1969

Flash storm strikes Smiths Falls, trees uprooted, side streets closed

1055

Special to The Globe and Mail

SMITHS FALLS — A severe 10-minute storm, with hurricane-force winds, yesterday flooded streets and houses basements, toppled trees and downed power lines, leaving this town of 10,000 without electricity for more than two hours.

The high winds were accompanied by hailstones which covered lawns and streets for about half an hour after the storm ended. There were no reports of injuries.

Trees were uprootee and dropped across streets, cutting traffic. Branches fall on cars and across hydro wires. Trees were blown against houses and buildings in the downtown area, but no serious damage was reported. Emergency crews had most of the main streets cleared by nightfall, but side streets were expected to remain closed, in some instances for the weekend.

Sewers could not handle the heavy rainfall and streets were soon inches deep in water. A railway underpass flodded within moments, stalling cars and several drivers abandoned their vehicles and waded out.

Beckwith Street, in the middle of town, was covered with about eight inches of water, most of which had drained off 15 minutes after the storm ended.

Hydro crews had power restored by 5:30 p.m. Radio Station CJAT was off the air for 2½ rours until lines were repaired.

The storm was severe mainly in the centre of town. Outlying areas received only a moderate fall of rain. "One minute the sun was shining and the next minute it turned black and started to pour," one resident said.

Canadian Press
Clipping Service

Ottawa Journal, Ont.
Circ. 78,318
July 12, 1969

FRI JULY 11 1969

(1)

Savage Storms

From Page One

In many homes basement drains became geysers as flooded storm sewers backed up under high pressure. Ground floor toilets behaved similarly.

Two new cars owned by transport department employees, were flattened when a 100-year-old maple at Jones' Locks crashed to the ground. In another part of town a small European car was crushed by a tree.

Rows of wooden crosses at the town's cenotaph were tilted at a 30 degree angle southwards by the wind.

Smiths Falls works department crews were on the job at once cutting up fallen trees so traffic could resume.

A second, less severe storm, hit the town about 7 p.m..

Farmers in the area are assessing crop damage, but early reports indicate it was not too serious, as the hail storm apparently struck only urban Smiths Falls.

'ROOF WAS GONE'

In the Pembroke area, damage was heavy at Petawawa Point where several cottage roofs were caved in by falling pines.

The wind also took a heavy toll of trees on Allumette Island on the Quebec side of the Ottawa River.

A card game at the island home of Lorne St. Cyr was broken up when the lights went out.

"It was dark as night," said Mrs. St. Cyr. "Then there was this crash and part of the roof was gone."

A tarpaulin was rigged over the hole but not in time to save the interior of the house from water damage.

Boat owners reported craft flooded to a depth of eight inches during the 50-minute downpour.

Frank Dench, agricultural representative for Renfrew County, said he had received no reports of serious crop damage.