Summary Sheet

IDTO - ID Number	:693403
AUTH - Report Author	:
TYFU - Tornado Type & Fuji Code	:c2
TITL - Report Title or Location	:Blenheim
PROV - Province	:Ontario
COUN - Counties	:Kent
REFS - References	:The Globe August 3, 1934
ZOTO - Touchdown Zone Number & Easting	:17417500
NOTO - Touchdown Northing	:4687000
LOVA - Touchdown Error Value & Code	:1000o
DADA - Date of Data Entry	:26/06/1990
ZOLO - Liftoff Zone Number & Easting	:
NOLO - Liftoff Northing	:
UPVA - Liftoff Error Value & Code	:
DEAD - Number of Fatalities	:
HURT - Number of People Injured	:
HERT - Injuries Code	:
DATA - Date of Tornado	:02/08/1934
DAVA - Date Error Value & Code	:
TITO - Time of Tornado	:2100
TIMR - Time Meridian	:75
TIVA - Time Error Value & Code	:104s
AXDA - Maximum Path Width	:
AXVA - Max. Path Width Error & Code	:
AVDA - Average Damage Width	:
AVVA - Avg. Damage Width Error & Code	:
SADA - Sample Damage Width	:
SAVA - Sample Damage Width Error & Code	:
INTO - Initials	:JAM
DFTO - Detailed Report Flag	:n
JUNK - PRDA & DIMO & DALE :	
CODA - Property Damage Code	:
MISC - ORDE,PICS_TYPE,PICS_AVAIL,COCO	: 1
MANY - Multiple Event Flag	:y

MEMO:Silos, cottages, tobacco barns blown down. Golf ball sized hail.

PHEN - Associated Phenomena	:A43 P
TSHP - Townships	:Harwich

JAM, 26/06/1990

THE GLOBE TORONTO, FRI. AUG. 3 1934
STORM DATE: THURS. AUG. 2 1934.

693403

1.

Excursion Steamer Aground in Storm

150 Are Removed, Others Are Aboard, But Danger Is Past

Tempest in Michigan, Which Kills Three, Drives Steamer Tashmoo Ashore—Flint Badly Hit and Ten Are Injured—Tempest Sweeps Into Ontario, Blowing Girls' Camp Tents Into River and Leveling 400 Trees at Rondeau Park—Other Ontario Centres Get Rain

EXTENSIVE LOSS FOLLOWS GALE

(Special and C.P. Despatches)

RIDGETOWN, Aug. 2. — A violent thunderstorm, doing widespread damage, broke over this district about 5.30 o'clock tonight, pouring torrents of rain, accompanied by heavy winds, and lasted until about 8 o'clock. Damage is estimated to be in excess of $100,000. Chief damage was done to crops, corn being levelled, and it is estimated about 60 per cent. is flattened so badly it will not come up again. Beans and onions were washed completely out of the ground. Hail in some districts ruined tobacco fields.

Power and Plants Disrupted.

The telephone service is seriously interrupted. Over half the rural lines are out of order, with hundreds of poles down. Similarly, the Hydro service has been impaired and it will be several hours before service can be restored.

Hail fel, the size of golf balls, in the southern part of Howard and Harwich Townships. Many trees fell on the Ridge Road, between Ridgetown and Blenheim, stopping traffic, and W. D. Colby, County Road Engineer ordered men out to clear the road, about eight o'clock to-night.

A violent wind hit Rondeau Government Park, levelling in the neighborhood of 400 trees and, according to Superintendent W. R. Reek, the road entering the woods will be closed for several days before traffic can be restored. It played havoc with the tenters also. According to Leo Roszel, secretary to Reek, over half the tents were down, some 150 in all, and their occupants forced to take refuge with sympathizing cottagers.

Y.W.C.A. Tents Blown Into Lake.

It is reported that the St. Thomas Y.W.C.A. girls in camp at Terrace Beach six miles south of Ridgetown on the banks of Lake Erie were forced to cover when their tents and bedding were blown into the lake.

A. J. M. Bowman, Superintendent of the Cross Supplies and Paving Company of Windsor, narrowly escaped possible death when a Hydro pole blew down, crashing on to the motor of his car. When Bowman was making his way toward Windsor going out of Ridgetown on Main Street West he noticed small branches falling and heard a crash. He slowed his car up and a large tree, 2½ feet in diameter, crashed down about 10 feet in front of his car. The tree fell across some Hydro wires which forced down a Hydro pole, which fell directly across the motor of his car. Bowman escaped injury, but had his car been two feet further advanced the pole would have crashed directly through on his head.

Four hundred drowned sparrows were picked up under a tree on the farm of John McDiarmid, Twelfth Concession, Howard, after the storm high winds blew them out of the tree. Heavy rain forced them to the ground into about three inches of water, drowning them.

Lightning Destroys Barn.

Hanover, Aug. 2.—A bolt of lightning today struck and destroyed a barn belonging to Peter McRitchie, a farmer, two miles west of Hanover. Mr. McRitchie was driving into the barn with a load of hay when the bolt hit. He was not injured. Damage to the etent of $2,000 was incurred and no insurance was carried on the building. The live stock was saved, and grain and farm implements were destroyed by the flames.

No Damage at Stratford.

Stratford, Aug. 2.—Stratford and district late today was visited by a severe electrical storm, but so far as can be learned no damage resulted. The rain fell in torrents and was accompanied by vivid lightning and loud thunder. In Stratford there was a severe hail storm, but according to reports from the countryside there was little or no hail in the district. The rain, according to farmers, will help revive dried-up wells and streams, and will provide needed moisture for the root crops.

Long Drought Ends.

Brantford, Aug. 2.—The drought in Brantford district which has continued since June 18 was broken by torrential rainfalls today and tonight. The rain's appearance also brought the city's rainmaker, Frank Clark, into the picture, the moisture producer claiming his mystery machine had done the trick.

Clark at first maintained somebody was stealing the raincloud from Brantford skies and disrupting his efforts to bring moisture to farm lands. He admitted his machine could not produce rain unless raineclouds appeared.

The rain this afternoon lasted only for a brief period, but tonight two hours of heavy rain fell between 7 and 9 o'clock to break the back of the drought, and to renew the life of the crops.

Blessing in St. Thomas.

St. Thomas, Aug. 2. — Two heavy downpours of rain, accompanied by severe thunder and lightning and high winds, which fell locally this morning and evening, broke the serious drought and brought new hope to worried farmers of the district. The storm this evening was especially severe, the rain swirling down the streets in sheets. The rainfall today is the most substantial this district has received since June 18.

Commercial tobacco growers who attended the field day at the Dominion Experimental Station near Delhi this afternoon, stated that the rain should be of material benefit to the late tobacco crops. It is doubtful if the moisture came soon enough to benefit the early crops. East Elgin growers reported that they have already started priming their crop. About 300 flue-cured growers of the district attended the field day, many coming from Kent County and West Elgin. Dr. E. S. Archibald, Director of Experimental Farms with the Dominion Department of Agriculture, was the chief speaker.

The need of rain in the district is shown in the meteorological report prepared by Superintendent W. A. Allan of the Waterworks Pumping Station, where the official records are kept. Three inches less rain had fallen locally during 1934 to July 31 than during the corresponding period of 1933, which was below the average. The downpours today replenished small creeks, which have been dry for weeks past.

STORMS OF THURS. AUG. 2 1934. 693403 2.

Triple Drowning in Lake St. Clair.

Windsor, Aug. 2.—Mrs. (Dr.) O. W. Pickard, daughter Lucille, aged 11, and son, Jerry, aged 6, of Detroit, were drowned at Belle River late this afternoon when a small boat in which they were out on LLake St. Clair was upset by a storm.

The storm, which came up suddenly, and was general over the county, caught the boat about a mile off shore. The water is comparatively shallow for a long distance out from shore and the seas rose quickly, causing the accident. The bodies had not been recovered tonight. The family has a summer cottage on the lake shore near Belle River Village and the three were accustomed to boating. Heavy rain and high wind swept over this area shortly after five o'clock this afternoon. It became so dark that street lights were switched on for a time. Storm sewers could not carry off the flood and many basements in Border municipalities were flooded while in many places water was curb deep in the streets. There was some hail for a few minutes. No reports of damage anywhere in the county have come in this evening.

Caledonia Relieved.

Caledonia, Aug. 2. — The summer drought ended here tonight when heavy showers of rain fell in the Caledonia district to revive pastures and aid corn and root crops, which had been at a standstill for weeks. Wells had started to go dry and the water supply for live stock was being threatened by the long dry spell, and the Grand River was at its lowest level in years.

Storm Havoc at Blenheim.

Blenheim, Aug. 2.—A 75-mile gale preceded by a terrific hail storm which flattened crops in this district did thousands of dollars worth of damage this evening. The gale blew down barns, silos, summer cottages as well as large trees which crashed on Hydro and telephone and telegraph wire cutting off communication for some hours. Some of the highways and side roads were blocked by the fallen trees but were soon cleared. Late last night no casualtis were reported. In this neighborhood alone four silos, four tobacco barns and three summer cottages were blown down.

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Chatham Badly Hit.

Chatham, Aug. 2.—The worst storm in recent years swept over Chatham and district late this afternoon, occasioning property and crop damage that will amount to thousands of dollars. The electrical storm, accompanied by a storm of cyclonic proportions, hit the district between 5 and 6 o'clock. In the city, trees were uprooted, branches broken off, Hydro and telephone poles snapped off, and several houses and gas stations were damaged by falling trees.

In Chatham and Dover Townships four barns were flattened, while reports from all parts of the rural district, indicate that the corn crop has been seriously damaged. It is impossible to secure much information regarding the damage in the rural sections on account of so many of the telephone lines being out of commission.

Virtually all of the city was without Hydro service for a short time. The Hydro men succeeded in restoring most of the domestic service in a couple of hours, but the street lights will be off for several hours.

Some of the streets in the city have been closed to traffic until the debris is cleared away.

Hospital Domes Struck.

Brantford, Aug. 2.—Lightning struck two domes on the main building of the Brantford General Hospital during the storm here tonight, causing fire under the shingles. Firemen extinguished the flames quickly, and there was no necessity of moving patients.

PLANE VANISHES, BUT PILOT SAFE

(Special and C.P. Despatches)

DETROIT, Aug. 2.—At least three persons were killed, a crowded excursion steamer was driven ashore, and property damage unofficially estimated at more than $1,000,000 was done by a heavy wind and rain storm which swept over Eastern Michigan late today.

In Four Counties.

The storm, sweeping southward from Flint, unroofed or demolished buildings, uprooted trees and disrupted communication an power services in four counties.

The steamer Tashmoo, enroute to Detroit with 250 excursionists aboard, was driven ashore on the Canadian side of the St. Clair River near Algonac. Both paddle wheels of the vessel were smashed. Coast guards took off 150 of the passengers. The 100 remaining aboard were believed to be in no danger as the storm had subsided. The steamer Put-in-Bay was despatched from Detroit to the stranded steamer.

Flint suffered most from the storm, at least ten injuries and one death being reported there. The one known fatality was that of an unidentified man who dropped dead of a heart attack while attempting to remove a fallen tree.

Two Drown.

In Cass Lake, in Oakland County, M. Willett, 38, of Detroit, and his 10-year-old son, drowned when the storm upset a rowboat in which the boy was sitting and his father went to his rescue.

Fears were expressed for an aeroplane pilot identified only as "A. Ford," who has not been reported since he took off from Oxford in Oakland County with a parachute jumper. The latter landed safely but the plane disappeared in the gathering storm.

All Damaged.

Reports from Flushing, a village six miles northwest of Flint, stated that scarcely a house in the town was undamaged. There were no reports of any injuries in the village, however. Among the more seriously injured at Flint was Daniel Johnson, aged 64, who was buried in the wreckage as his cement block garage collapsed before the gale.

Attendants at Hurley Hospital in Flint, unable to get power to operate elevators to take the injured to operating rooms, worked in an improvised first-aid station in the basement of the building, with only flashlights for illumination.

The storm swept southward into the Detroit area shortly after 5 p.m., uprooting trees and blowing in windows in many parts of the city.

100 Miles and More.

The Weather Bureau estimated that the wind attained a velocity of more than 100 miles an hour. At Flint the entire equipment of the United States Weather Bureau atop the Flint Journal Building was carried away by the storm.

Officials of the Tashmoo Transit Company, operators of the grounded excursion steamer, said that all was quiet aboard the vessel and that the passengers were in no further danger. They said that 1,200 excursionists at Tashmoo Park on the St. Clair River were stranded there until the steamer Put-in-Bay could arrive and take them aboard.

So quickly did the storm come up that the captain of the Tashmoo was unable to control his ship in time to keep it from being forced up on low water around the island. The vessel is in no danger and is expected to be freed within a few hours. The wind, it was estimated, reached a velocity of seventy or eighty miles an hour and churned the waters of the lake into a wild fury.

Detroit was darkened as if by a solar eclipse and more than an inch of rainfall was reported in a half-hour downpour. Temperature dropped from 87 to 62 in the same period.

At Wallaceburg.

Wallaceburg, Aug. 2.—The steamer Tashmoo of Detroit was blown aground on Walpole Island about 5.30 tonight in the midst of a severe storm. It is believed that some 250 passengers are aboard the boat.

The storm, which was marked by high winds and torrential rainfall, struck down power lines and communication lines in the vicinity of Wallaceburg. Limbs were ripped from trees and farm buildings were toppled by the high wind. The rainfall, which lasted for an hour, is the heaviest of the season. Hydro power lines were broken in several places, and in the vicinity of Chatham telegraph and telephone lines have fallen prey to the storm.

AUG 6 1934

Wallaceburg Man Figures In Three Unusual Mishaps

(Special Despatch to The Globe)

Wallaceburg, Aug. 5.—Charles Hazzard of Wallaceburg is wondering if there is any truth in the saying, "Three times and out." He hopes there is, because three times within the past few weeks he has been the victim of unusual accidents. The first was when the car ran down an incline at the foot of Creek Street and into the river. The second was just a short time later when a freak wind picked up his garage and dropped it in the river. The third was on Thursday during the storm which swept the country, when three silos and an implement shed on his farm on the river road were blown down.

WED. AUG. 8 1934.

McKay's Corners Church Badly Damaged by Storm

(Special Despatch to The Globe)

Ridgetown, Aug. 7.—Services in the United Church at McKay's Corners will not be held for several weeks, owing to the damage done to the structure in Thursday's electrical storm. A section of a wall about twelve feet square was pushed in by the wind and scattered over the seats in the auditorium. As one "old sweat" remarked, "It looks like a Belgian cathedral after a bombardment by the artillery." Numerous instances were reported where entire flocks of chickens were drowned when the pens were inundated before farmers had an opportunity to rescue their poultry. Extra gangs were still employed today repairing Hydro and telephone lines damaged in the storm.