Summary Sheet

IDTO - ID Number :594903
AUTH - Report Author :
TYFU - Tornado Type & Fuji Code :b2
TITL - Report Title or Location :Rock Forest
PROV - Province :Quebec
COUN - Counties :Sherbrooke
REFS - References :Ottawa Citizen July 23, 1949
ZOTO - Touchdown Zone Number & Easting :19265600
NOTO - Touchdown Northing :5025780
LOVA - Touchdown Error Value & Code :230c
DADA - Date of Data Entry :18/06/1990
ZOLO - Liftoff Zone Number & Easting :
NOLO - Liftoff Northing :
UPVA - Liftoff Error Value & Code :
DEAD - Number of Fatalities :
HURT - Number of People Injured :4
HERT - Injuries Code :
DATA - Date of Tornado :22/07/1949
DAVA - Date Error Value & Code :
TITO - Time of Tornado :1915
TIMR - Time Meridian :75
TIVA - Time Error Value & Code :15c
AXDA - Maximum Path Width :1200
AXVA - Max. Path Width Error & Code :25c
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 :5
MISC - ORDE,PICS_TYPE,PICS_AVAIL,COCO :1 2
MANY - Multiple Event Flag :n

MEMO:Church partially demolished, small frame houses and barns destroyed, trees broken and uprooted, 4 confirmed minor injuries.

PHEN - Associated Phenomena :P
TSHP - Townships :Rock Forest

JAM, 18/06/1990

EVENING CITIZEN, OTTAWA. SAT. JULY 23 1949. 594903
STORM DATE: ABOUT 8.15 p.m. FRI. JULY 22 1949.

TORNADO, QUEBEC.

Freak Storm Lashes Quebec, Injuring Four

By the Canadian Press

SHERBROOKE — A "terrifying" wind smashed at the neighboring hamlet of Rock Forest last night causing minor injury to at least four persons, demolishing half a dozen barns, two homes and a church and causing thousands of dollars damage.

The wind—a violent disturbance in a 400-mile long storm belt moving across Eastern Canada—overturned the small frame home of Antoine Verdoux.

Bertrand Verdoux, 11, Madeleine Martin, 15, and Jean Roxby, 16, who were in the home at the time, were treated in hospital here for lacerations and possible fractures.

Mrs. Robert Leslie was milking a cow in a barn when the heavy structure was lifted 20 feet off its foundation. A falling beam killed the cow, but Mrs. Leslie suffered only bruises and cuts.

Four persons in St. Roch's Roman Catholic church in the center of the village escaped injury, although only the steeple and front of the church were left standing after the wind passed.

Terrifying Sound

Gerard Blanchet said he was saying his evening prayers in the church at the time. Also present were Roland Ledoux and two nuns.

"It was about 8.15," he said, "when I first heard the wind. There was a terrifying sound. We could hear bricks falling, metal from the roof crackling, wires snapping. We rushed out a side door and found bricks falling all around us."

The steps of the church were blown high into the air, falling back across the jagged remnant of a wall.

Oliva Bergeron, whose barn was demolished, estimated his loss at $3,000. He said he thought he heard a window pane breaking and went out to look. His barn had disintegrated into scattered timbers.

Charles Pittman lost 14 young calves in the debris of his barn and the remainder of his frightened stock ran from the farm.

Residents said the village itself looked as if a bomb had landed in its center. The streets were strewn with broken glass and fallen electric wires shot up sparks.

Villagers, who usually retired early, wandered about the streets with flashlights surveying the damage. Only candles and oil lamps glowed in the homes.

Weather men said the freak storm was a violent movement in a band of showers and thunderstorms moving northeastward across eastern Canada.

There were reports that nine others were injured in the area, but these could not be confirmed by Sherbrooke police who sent a radio car to the village four miles from here.

Church Demolished

The Roman Catholic church at Rock Forest was demolished, roofs were torn off buildings, uprooted trees were strewn across highways and power and communications lines were blown down.

Farmers of the district reported losses among their stock, struck by flying debris.

The storm brought an inch of rain in two hours, started about 7:30 p.m. (EDT) and swept a path ¾ of a mile wide through Rock Forest.

There was no immediate estimate of the freak storm. Because communications were disrupted the full extent of the damages could not be ascertained.

Uprooted trees blocked the main highway between here and Rock Forest and power and telegraph and telephone lines were disrupted.

In Sherbrooke itself power was off in the western section for two hours and cellars were flooded.

Patrons of one hotel had to leave the basement tavern when water poured in.

One man was in the church at Rock Forest when the wind struck. He was hit by falling plaster, but escaped without injuries.

At St. Vital d'Orford, two miles from Rock Forest, a house was reported blown down.

Boards stacked in a lumber yard were hurled about by the force of the wind.

GLOBE AND MAIL, TORONTO, SAT. JULY 23 1949.
STORM DATE. "TONIGHT" FRI. JULY 22.
About 8:15 P.M.

QUEBEC.

Gale in Quebec

Barn Razed, Cow Killed, Woman Milking It Lives

Sherbrooke Que. July 22 (CP) Wind smashed at the neighboring hamlet of Rock Forest tonight causing minor injuries to at least four persons demolishing half a dozen barns, two homes and a church and causing thousands of dollars damage.

The wind, a violent disturbance in a 40-mile-long storm belt, moving across Eastern Canada overturned the small frame home of Antoine Verdoux.

Betrand Verdoux 11, Madeleine Martin, 15 and Jean Rosby 16 who were in the home at the time were treated in hospital here for lacerations and possible fractures.

Mrs Robert Leslie was milking her cow in a barn when the structure was lifted off its foundation. A falling beam killed the cow, but Mrs Leslie suffered only bruises and cuts.

Four persons in St Roch's Roman Catholic Church in the centre of the village escaped injury although only the steeple and front of the church were left standing after the wind passed.

Gerard Blanchet said he was saying his evening prayers in the church at the time. Also present were Roland Ledoux and two nuns.

"It was about 8:15" he said "when I first heard the wind. There was a terrifying sound. We could hear bricks falling, metal from the roof crackling, wires snapping. We rushed out a side door and found bricks falling all around us."

The steps of the church were blown high into the air falling back across the jagged remnant of a wall.

Oliva Bergeron, whose barn was demolished estimated his loss at $8,000. He said he thought he heard a window pane breaking and went out to look. His barn had disintegrated into scattered timbers.

Charles Pittman lost 14 calves in the debris of his barn and the remainder of his frightened stock ran from the farm.

Residents said the village itself looked as if a bomb had landed in its centre. The streets were strewn with broken glass and fallen electric wires shot up sparks.

Villagers, who usually retire early, wandered about the streets with flashlights surveying the damage. Only candles and oil lamps glowed in the homes.