Confirmed Tornado
Wingham, Ontario
May 16, 1988

Date- Local: Monday, May 16th, 1988.
UTC: Monday, May 16th, 1988.
Time-Local: 13:00
UTC: 17:00
Location: Wingham area
Region: Huron – Perth
Classification: Confirmed Tornado
Category: D
Casualties: None
Track Length: None Available
Width: None Available
Motion: None Available
Damage Estimate: None available
F-Scale Rating: F0
Code: NI
Damage Survey: None
Spotter Reports: None
Other Documents:

Logged event citing brief tornado touchdown.
Newspaper articles (1 with photo of funnel cloud) citing eyewitness report of the tornado touching down.

Tornado F-Scale Assessment

Marci Vanhoucke
Tornado Data Production Assistant, Environment Canada
June 30, 2005.

Classification: Confirmed Tornado
Date: Monday, May 16th, 1988.
Location: Wingham area, Huron – Perth

Assessment: F0
F-Code: NI
Explanation of Assessment: From the newspapers, there is a photo of a funnel cloud as well as a principal's account of the tornado touching down near the school. However, there was not any significant damage done. Due to the lack of significant damage, this tornado is rated an F0.

CLASSIFICATION: Severe Thunderstorm
SOURCE/WATCHER ID:
EVENT TIME (UTC): 17-00 **EVENT DAY:** 16.0 **MONTH:** 5.0 **YEAR:** 1988.0 **EVENT DURATION (HR):** 0.0 **(MIN):** 0.0
DAY OF THE WEEK:
EVENT LOCALE: Wingham, Huron Co.
ASOCTD PUBLIC RGN: Huron-Perth
DETAILED DESCRIPTION: Brief tornado touchdown; few trees down.
INITIAL ASSESSMENT: NEAR-SEVERE
SPL WX STATEMENT IN EFFECT ?: UKN **STATEMENT LEAD TIME (HR):** **(MIN):**
WATCH IN EFFECT ?: UKN **WATCH LEAD TIME (HR):** **(MIN):**
WARNING IN EFFECT ?: UKN **WARNING LEAD TIME (HR):** **(MIN):**
TORNADO: YES F?
WINDSPEED:
RAINFALL: MM **RAIN DURATION:**
HAIL DIAMETER: MM **HAIL DESCRIPTION:**
EVENT DESCRIPTION: Tornado
Mesoscale ?: **Synoptic ?:** **Big Event ?:**
Statement Est Hit/Miss:
Watch Est Hit/Miss:
Warning Est Hit/Miss:
Separate Event (30km/30min): YES
Vetted by:
Vetted date:

Twister hit farmhouse 'like a missile'; [ME2 Edition]

Allan Thompson Toronto Star. **Toronto Star.** Toronto, Ont.: May 17, 1988. pg. A.4

Full Text (412 words)

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Seconds before a tornado ripped through his three-bedroom farmhouse near Shelburne, Tony McDermott opened his kitchen door and stared straight into a swirling, gray funnel cloud.

'I just saw a great big gray cloud twisting around and that's when I grabbed my girlfriend and got down," McDermott said.

A moment later the pair heard a deafening bang as windows blew out and furniture flew around the living room, "like a scene from a movie."

Power out

The 23-year-old man spoke by phone yesterday from the kitchen of his home, which is about 90 kilometres (60 miles) northwest of Metro.

The tornado touched down just after 9 p.m. Sunday, lifting the house off its foundations and knocking out power, but leaving the phone still working.

It just looks like somebody put a missile through our house. It's still standing but it's twisted all to hell," McDermott said.

The Ontario Provincial Police at Shelburne said the twister left a path of destruction about 15 kilometres (9 miles) long, causing an estimated $500,000 in damages to a number of houses, barns and other buildings. Miraculously no one was injured.

Tornado and severe weather warnings continued through yesterday in southwestern Ontario after another tornado was spotted by a group of schoolchildren near Wingham, 200 kilometres (124 miles) northwest of Metro.

* ↑ Wingham May 16/88 ✗

unnel cloud

en Scott, principal of East Wawanosh Public School just outside the village of Belgrave, said: "The kids said to me, 'Look at that unny looking cloud formation,' then the next thing you know a funnel cloud touched down in a bush about two miles from the chool."

We were just out the door and all of a sudden there was this thing coming down out of the sky," said Dean Vincent, 14, one of 00 students out for noon recess when the tornado touched down.

icked up pieces

We all ran inside and laid down in the halls of the school, but then the tornado went away and we went back to class."

he large, dark funnel cloud that meteorologists believed spawned yesterday's smaller tornado finally broke up south of Walkerton ter in the afternoon, an OPP officer said.

hile the Wingham schoolchildren were staring in wonder at a funnel cloud some two miles away, Mark Evans of Shelburne was cking up the pieces of a barn and silo ravaged by the twister that rushed by his house the night before.

lustration]

aption: Star photo (Weil): Tony McDermott and Angela King outside tornado damaged home.

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People: McDermott, Tony
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THE EXAMINER

BARRIE
ONTARIO
DAILY 13,948

MAY 17/88

4601 YONGE ST.,
WILLOWDALE M2N 5L9

Monday, May 16, 1988

Location: Near Shelburne + Wingham

Weather has everyone watching skies

F1497

Dark funnel clouds spun perilously over parts of southern Ontario on Monday but Environment Canada officials said no tornadoes had touched down by the time drier air moved into the region by late in the day.

One twister touched down Sunday near the town of Shelburne, injuring one person and destroying several homes and farm buildings.

Lightning illuminated dark thunderclouds throughout the night and into Monday morning. By midday, marble-sized hail was reported in several areas along with funnel clouds.

One funnel cloud reported near Wingham, about 110 kilometres north of London, where it knocked down some trees but no serious damage or injuries were reported, said Don Rehberg, supervisor of the Ontario Weather Centre.

Funnel clouds also appeared over Toronto and London.

"Weather watches and warnings have been flying out of here," Rehberg said. "It's been a busy day."

Funnel clouds are short-lived, rapidly rotating clouds that originate from thunderstorms. They are classified as tornadoes once they touch the ground.

"We were following the one north of Toronto on radar," Rehberg said. "It went from nothing to a funnel cloud and was gone in less than 40 minutes."

Rehberg said several areas were pelted with large hailstones, including London and nearby Strathroy, and Chalk River.

The centre issued a tornado warning for the counties of Huron and Perth in mid-afternoon and severe thunderstorm warnings were also issued throughout the day.

The warnings were cancelled late Monday when drier air began to move into the region. Peter Code, an Environment Canada spokesman, said there was little probability of tornadoes today.

On Sunday, one person was injured and about 12 barns and homes were damaged in the Shelburne area, said provincial police. Three homes had to be evacuated.

"The wind was just unbelievable," said William Bosport, town clerk for the nearby municipality of Amaranth. "I've never been so scared."

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THE TORONTO SUN

TORONTO
ONTARIO
DAILY 306,203

MAY 17/88

4601 YONGE ST.,
WILLOWDALE M2N 5L9

Monday, May 16, 1988
time: 2:00 p.m.
Location: Near 404 + Stouffville sideroad

Here comes the sun!

W-1492

It's time to bid bye-bye to stormy weather and look forward to a hot holiday weekend.

The nasty weather system of the last few days, which included tornado threats, a violent electrical storm and pounding hail, is moving out and making way for warm, sunny days.

Peter Coade, Toronto weather office supervisor, said the system moved southeast last night and the weather will improve as the week wears on.

Coade said experts tracked two funnel clouds — which can become tornadoes — in southern Ontario yesterday. One was spotted about 2 p.m. near Hwy. 404 and the Stouffville sideroad. No damage was reported.

One unconfirmed tornado was reported to have touched down near Wingham, about 110 km north of London, knocking down some trees.

Several areas were pelted with large hailstones, including London and nearby Strathroy, and Chalk River, northwest of Pembroke.

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THE EXAMINER
BARRIE
ONTARIO
DAILY 13,948
MAY 16/88
4601 YONGE ST.,
WILLOWDALE M2N 5L9

Sunday, May 15, 1988
time: 9:15 p.m.
Location: Near Shelburne

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(416) 221-1660
NORTHERN DAILY NEWS
KIRKLAND LAKE
ONTARIO
DAILY 5,567
MAY 17/88
4601 YONGE ST.,
WILLOWDALE M2N 5L9

Sunday + Monday,
May 15, 16, 1988
~~time~~
Location: Southern Ontario + Shelburne

Tornadoes sighted

Dark funnel clouds spun perilously over parts of southern Ontario on Monday but Environment Canada officials said no tornadoes had touched down by the time drier air moved into the region by late in the day.

One twister touched down Sunday near the town of Shelburne, about 60 kilometres north of Guelph, Ont. One person was injured and several homes and farm buildings destroyed.

Four injured in violent storm

F1447

TORONTO (CP-Staff) — A violent thunderstorm which swept across southern Ontario Sunday spawned a tornado and left at least four people injured.

One person was injured and several buildings damaged Sunday when a tornado touched down near the town of Shelburne, a provincial police spokesman said today.

And three other people were hurt in Toronto when they were struck by lightning.

In Barrie, the same severe storm caused the power to flick on and off a few times last night.

"We just had instantaneous breaker operations," Chuck MacNicol, electrical opeartions superintendent with the Barrie Public Utilities Commission. "There was nothing sustained. The lightning would strike, we'd have a breaker operation and it would close right up again."

The tornado touched down north of Guelph at about 9:15 p.m. and travelled eastward for 15 kilometres.

It damaged about 12 barns and homes, said OPP Cpl. Charlie Crawford. Three homes had to be evacuated.

One person received minor injuries and a horse was killed. Three animals are missing.

In Toronto, a bolt of lightning exploded into a maple tree during the storm Sunday, seriously burning a man who was sitting on a park bench.

Zbigniew Chachura and his wife Dorata, both 24, were getting up from the bench beside another tree when the bolt struck, splitting the 15-metre maple in half.

The explosive force blew bark off the maple's branches and stripped one side of the other tree, three metres away, where the couple had been sitting.

The incident occurred during a family outing in parkland just west of the Ontario Science Centre.

Henry Szunejko, a centre security officer who speaks Polish, talked to the Chachuras.

"They said they were getting ready to leave, and as they stood up, the lightning struck the tree," he said. "It blew them all off the ground. They all fell."

A sliver of lightning, apparently attracted to the metal legs of the bench, passed along Chachura's left leg, tearing his trousers and leaving burns. His wife received burns to a buttock.

Chachura was listed in serious condition in hospital Sunday. His wife and son Rafal — who was walking towards his parents — were treated and released.