069811 (B) F? ONT

TORNADO PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

1. DATE AND TIME MON JUNE 16, 1986 1425 EDT (stopped clock)

2. LOCATION OR PATH (attach map) NEAR HARCOURT (ELEPHANT LAKE ROAD)

3. PATH LENGTH ☑ NOT KNOWN ☐ <1 mi; ☐ 1-4 mi; ☐ 5-10 mi; ☐ 11-50 mi; ☐ LENGTH IF >50 mi

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.)

10. TOTAL DAMAGE ESTIMATE $ 11. TOTAL DEATHS NONE

12. TOTAL INJURED 13. TOTAL HOMELESS

14. LIST ALL REFERENCES
THE ECHO AND RECORDER, WED JUNE 25, 1986

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

T.D. 17 723 600 50 04 700

$R (flw)^{1/2} (12)^{-1/2}$
$= (7000 \times 250)^{1/2} (12)^{-1/2}$ mm
$= 381$ m

THE ECHO AND RECORDER WED JUNE 25, 86

STORM DATE MON JUNE 16, 1986

Twister blows into Harcourt

Husband and wife held hands on their couch

By JOHN JANSEN
Staff Reporter

Most of the news about last week's tornado has focussed on reported damage on a line from Brady Lake to Hurricane Lake. But, as tornados are want to do, it didn't end at Highway 118 but touched down again near Harcourt. At least one couple sat through the twister as it ravaged their property and car but left their home untouched.

John and Ethel Smith were inside their cottage when they realized something they hadn't experienced before was on the way. Like others who survived the disaster they described the sky "like midnight" and the brief severity of the winds.

The Smiths live off the Elephant Lake road on a long single driveway with no neighbours in sight. After it was over no one knew what had happened to them.

"We just sat on the couch and held hands," Ethel Smith said. "I said if we're going to die, we're going to die together."

The Smiths' living room has a large picture window looking over Fishtail Creek only a few feet away. When the sky went dark the creek disappeared from sight.

"We could hear the wood cracking and the wind howling as it came through. It only lasted about two minutes and then it was over," Ethel Smith said.

Fallen trees on both sides of the house formed innumerable bridges across the creek. Outside the window was mute testimony to the fine line between destruction and peace during a tornado -- an undisturbed hummingbird feeder hung from a tree branch.

"Half an hour after it passed the hummingbird was back at his feeder," Smith said.

"I tried the door but it was blocked by trees," said Smith, whose clock stopped at 2:25 when the twister hit. She and her husband waited until 6 o'clock for help before she started for a phone.

"I couldn't find the road," Smith said. "I crawled under the trees with a pocket full of quarters for the phone."

Smith got to a pay phone -- they have no phone in their cottage -- and called a friend for help. The same night friends and neighbours were on hand to clear the road as much as possible before dark. Smith returned to her husband, crawling over and under the trees, and spent the night.

The next day the road was cleared and the Smiths began calling insurance adjusters and Hydro. The greatest damage was to the Smiths' car which was crushed under the weight of three trees. A friendly neighbour loaned the Smiths one of his cars until their own can be repaired or replaced.

"You're just so thankful that you're all right," Smith said. "Everyone has been such a great help. We really want to thank them for their concern."

The Smiths are not worried about their damaged property and car. The fallen trees will be sold for firewood.

"It's a lot clearer in here now with all the trees down," Smith said. "We're going to sell (the wood) if we can. We have already phoned for a fire permit to burn the small wood and sticks and clean up the place."

After the fact the Smiths' lives will continue as they have. "Evereyone h s been so helpful, and we're all right. The rest doesn't mean a thing. It really doesn't."