

It only took a few minutes on Tuesday evening, June 14th 2005 to completely change the lives of The Crispin Family who operated a farm near Hanover (on the South Line Road). Their

closest neighbour is Allan and Joan Poechman, who are just across the road and they saw the tornado-like storm take down the Crispin barn in a loud crash.

The Poechmans were

heading to their basement at the time and looking out their window saw the Crispin barn destroyed. . . "We heard an awful crackling and the barn boards were flying off, just like

you'd see in the movie"

Jeff Coulson, a Warning Preparedness Meteorologist from Environment Canada arrived at the site by Wednesday afternoon to confirm the damage . . . and he confirmed it as a "Tornado . . . a fujita scale one or maybe two" . He stated that winds from 160 to 190 kilometres per hour hit the property.

The storm hit this area about 7:30 p.m.

Marg Crispin said that it was really getting dark outside at about 7:07 p.m. "The sky had turned black and the winds became violent. First to snap was a tree in the Crispin's front yard along with two hydro poles near their barn".

Her husband, Bryan was downstairs trying to close the windows but she said that he was having trouble "and the wind was sucking the window screen right out of his hand". Margaret then stated that all she could see was black and never did she their barn wiped out.

Joan Poechman said the boards and scraps of the barn's metal roof were crumpled and twisted off and then blown into the field behind the Crispin house. Lawn chairs and other various articles were also lifted

off the ground. Only a section of straw storage barn and a silo were left standing.

The Poechmans have a line of trees between their own house and the South Line road (about ten of them) and the storm managed to pick two from the middle of that row and twisted them off (about halfway down the trunk) like a toothpick. Marg Crispin said that the storm probably only lasted thirty seconds . . . but left a huge cleanup.

Bryan and Marg and their son, Jorge spent the day cleaning up the first layer of debris and cut down the balance of the tree in their front yard.

The Crier was told that some golfers who were playing the Whispering Hills Golf Course that evening suddenly found some tree branches falling down on them . . . And here in Mildmay Carrick, the storm was short, but scary dark and very windy. The residents holding a "Farewell" for Dr. Jae Cho, his wife, Judy and their three children at that same time and they were under a tent and weathered the storm, but it was quite cold following the storm.



You can see the TWO TREES in the centre of this tree row which were twisted off at Allan and Joan Poechman's home during last week's Tornado. The Poechman's live across from The Crispins. ~Mildmay Town Crier Photo