

High winds destroy barn

More tornadoes a possibility, says meteorologist

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Midwestern Ontario could be hit with a second tornado before the end of summer.

Geoff Coulson, a warning preparedness meteorologist with Environment Canada, said this part of the province could see another tornado in the coming months, similar to the one that touched down near Hanover last week.

"In the area around Walkerton, Kincardine and Hanover, there is definitely the possibility of seeing some more damaging summer weather," said Coulson, who was at Margaret and Bryan Crispin's farm between Walkerton and Hanover last Wednesday, investigating the tornado sighting.

"Warm, muggy air is the fuel that drives these storms," he said.

The Crispins' barn was destroyed by last Tuesday's tornado, which Coulson said was likely the strength of an F2 funnel, meaning wind speeds reached up to 180 kilometres per hour.

"That's a decent tornado.

Most of the tornadoes we get in Ontario are F2 or F1; this was the strongest tornado we've had this year," said Coulson.

The province averages 14 tornadoes per year. Coulson said 90 per cent of these are lower wind-speed rankings, between F0 and F2. (The strongest tornado possible is an F5, which would result in wind speeds of 500 kilometres per hour.)

Because the tornado season lasts from late April until early October, Coulson said there's plenty of time left for another storm to hit the region.

"This was one of the slowest starts to the (tornado) season we've had in Ontario," he said. "We had to go back to 1984 to find a slower start."

According to Coulson, six tornadoes have been confirmed in Ontario so far this year, all between early May and mid June. A few others are still being investigated as possible tornadoes, he said.

The funnel that knocked down the Crispins' barn was spotted by their neighbours. Coulson said the Crispins



Bryan and Margaret Crispin's barn, located on the outskirts of Brockton near Hanover, was destroyed by a tornado that touched down in the area last Tuesday. Environment Canada reported winds reached speeds of between 160 and 180 kilometres per hour.

Christine Brandt photo

were in the house at the time the storm went through, but were seeking shelter in the basement and didn't witness the damage to their property as it occurred.

When Coulson arrived at the farm the day after the tornado blew through, he said his team was struck by how

concentrated the damage was.

"If the damage is due to a tornado, it tends to be concentrated along a narrow path, and somewhat random in nature, as was the case here," said Coulson.

A neighbouring property experienced minimal shingle

damage to its residence, and some tree damage, while the Crispins' barn, on the other side of the concession, was completely destroyed. A tree in the front yard was snapped off, but the house and two nearby sheds were not touched.

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