

Also Damages Douglas Area Farm

Twister strikes Queen's Line farm—leaves mess

by Carol Doran

They say that lightning never strikes twice in the same place, but Ron and Sharon Jaremko will tell you that wind definitely does.

The Jaremko farm on Queen's Line was struck twice in the past six months by wind storms that partially destroyed their property. Oddly enough, neighbors' farms were bypassed.

Last Tuesday, Sept. 8, Mrs. Jaremko was upstairs in her brick farmhouse when she noticed branches flying past the window during a rain storm. She hurried down to let the cat in, opened the front door and discovered that a large tree was on her front lawn.

Wires were down from three hydro poles and tree branches lay everywhere.

In a state of shock, Mrs. Jaremko pulled on her boots and ran outside to survey the wreckage of the barn, implement shed, pump house and toppled hen house.

"I just ran around and around," Mrs. Jaremko said Wednesday, the day after the twister hit. "I couldn't believe it. Then I phoned Ron at school (Opeongo) — where he is a teacher, and called the neighbors for help."

A few moments later, the Jaremko phone went dead, but by that time help was on the way.

Luckily, the cattle were not in the barn at the time and the fowl in the henhouse were not harmed.

Ironically, the twister struck on the first day of school and the Jaremko's two children — Mary Anne and Laura — who would probably have been playing in the barn, were safe at school.

About 2,000 bales of hay, stored in the barn, were moved to a

neighbor's barn until the Jaremko's build a new shelter.

They had no wind insurance on the outbuildings, although the house, which suffered damage to the roof and porch, was fully covered.

"We have no plans to rebuild yet," Mrs. Jaremko said. "But we have to get some sort of shelter for the animals. We haven't thought that far ahead yet," Mrs. Jaremko said.

During the cleanup operations, neighbors remarked on the storm's inconsistencies.

Although the barn and milk house were heavily damaged, a pail of water and a beer bottle which stood about six inches away, remained undisturbed.

Neighbors' homes and buildings were not damaged by the twister, but an old rowboat moored across the road, was picked up by the high winds and dumped on the Jaremko property.

The Jaremko's, still shaken by sudden storm that destroyed much of their property, last week remembered storm last Easter weekend that ruined the summer kitchen, attached to the back of the house. The family can hardly believe that two similar freak storms could strike in the same place without harming anyone else's property.

But, whenever disaster strikes, one can always depend on help and good will from friends and neighbors.

By Wednesday, neighbors had rallied with food donations, materials for cleanup and the loan of tractors and wagons. Things were beginning to look up again, but it will be a long time before the damage is repaired. No estimate of the damage was available.

A Douglas area farm sustained

several thousand dollars in damage last Tuesday afternoon when a twister touched down and wrecked three buildings.

The noon hour was coming to an end when the funnel-shaped black cloud descended on the Pat McDonald farm and within a minute caused extensive damage to a machine shed, a cattle shed and a stable attached to the machine shed.

Two tractors and a combine were also damaged when the roof over the machine shed caved in on the equipment. One of the tractors was purchased new this year.

Sections of the buildings were tossed around and thrown out into nearby fields. The roof off one of the buildings was literally picked up and thrown about 30 feet.

Mrs. Carmel McDonald was alone on the farm when the storm hit.

"The power went off in the house and she (his mother) looked outside—she heard a rumble—she looked outside and everything was down then," Mr. McDonald said.

The storm came from the south-east and other than a few trees being blown down and uprooted there were no other reports of damage in the immediate Douglas area.

It didn't take long until news of the disaster reached friends and neighbours and later that afternoon a small army of workers had arrived at the farm to assist in clean-up operations. The clean-up took about two days.

Mr. McDonald plans to rebuild immediately and a host of people have offered their services free of charge.

Fortunately, the damage is covered by insurance.