

Suspected tornado 'looks like a scud'

BY MARY BETH HARTILL AND KIM GOGGINS

Reports of a funnel cloud in the Bracebridge area are circling.

Ryan Tetreault was working at Woodsmith's of Muskoka on Monica Crescent when he stepped outside to observe the eerily dark sky. Dark for 4:15 p.m..

He said he saw what looked like a "v-shaped funnel coming down from the sky. Clouds dark and there was rotation."

He said it seemed to be right over Cedar Lane going towards the fairgrounds but said it wasn't very windy so he didn't give it much thought.

The dark sky is what prompted him to step out of the building at 4:15 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 11 and he noticed the cloud out of the corner of his eye.

"I thought that was kind of weird and saw that it was rotating," he said. He said his reaction was simply "Wow."

This sighting prompted him to get colleague Rory Maclean to witness it as well.

He said he wasn't concerned over the dark funnel-like clouds that seemed, from his vantage point, to be touching the trees.

"It was just moving too slowly and didn't look like it was picking anything up," he said.

He said he watched for a while and when the rain began coming down hard, the cloud just disappeared.

According to Bracebridge fire chief Murray

Medley, the fire department hadn't received any calls about the sightings and weren't able to find any signs of damage.

"We saw what seemed to resemble a bit of a funnel cloud out there, just standing in front of the fire hall," he said. "We're not an expert. It didn't resemble what I would interpret to be a tornado. There seemed to be some circular winds out there but there was nothing that looked like it was forming up to touch down and cause any damage."

Just to be sure, firefighters did take a quick look around to see if there was any damage but "there was nothing we saw at this point time."

According to the Ontario Tornado Watch Facebook page, in response to a submitted photo of the sighting, "At first glance this looks like a scud."

Scud clouds, according to Wikipedia, is a type of fractus cloud that is low, detached, and irregular found beneath nimbostratus or cumulonimbus clouds. These clouds are often ragged or wispy and, when caught in a downdraft beneath a thunderstorm, scud clouds will often move faster than the storm clouds themselves.

The possible tornado sighting today is coincidentally almost a year to the day from a similar sighting of an unconfirmed tornado last year on Aug. 13, also in Bracebridge.

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— Murray Medley
Bracebridge fire chief

Near death from anaphylaxis —

■ Continued from front

to her husband, telling him they were doing everything they could to save his wife. What she does know is that she lived.

"If they weren't here and I had to have been transferred somewhere else I wouldn't have made it. That's obvious and it's scary," said O'Brien, who became an auxiliary member to South Muskoka Hospital in January and now vows to do more.

The 61-year-old said the incident didn't instill a greater fear of bees, but she does now fear the loss of a local hospital and the staff, such as Dr. Gillian Wiwcharuk, who was the doctor in the trauma unit helping O'Brien's fight for her life.

O'Brien now knows just how important it is for her to have a hospital nearby and worries about others with medical conditions that demand immediate hospital care such as seniors, those with heart conditions and other people with severe anaphylactic reactions.

"I think about children who have so much ahead of them who

may have the same type of reaction," she said.

She also knows that if the hospital were to leave Bracebridge, she would have no alternative but to move.

"I am a senior and I know what my health concerns are; I would move to where there is a hospital because I want to stick around," she said. "I want to see my son get married next year and I want to see my grandkids grow."

It is yet to be seen whether the Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare decision to single-site hospital services in Muskoka will be approved by the provincial Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and, if approved, where this hospital will be located, but O'Brien is very grateful the hospital was in Bracebridge when she needed it so desperately. She is grateful to everyone who

helped save her life, from the moment she began to collapse, to the paramedics who she doesn't recall seeing, to the hospital staff who showed her great care.

"I don't know how to say thank you," she said. "How do you say thank you for that?"

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ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS OF UNION GAS LIMITED

Union Gas Limited has applied for approval to change its gas commodity, storage and transportation rates effective January 1, 2016.

Learn more. Have your say.

Union Gas Limited has applied to change its rates to better reflect how it supplies natural gas to its customers. The proposed changes include the following:

- A change in the reference price used to set rates on a quarterly basis for a majority of its customers; and
- A change to how it allocates costs to the different types of customers that it serves.

An average residential customer would see the following annual bill impact, but these impacts would only start in 2018:

Residential Customer – Service Area	Approximate Bill Impact
Southern Ontario (Windsor to Hamilton) Northern Delivery Area (North Bay to Kapuskasing) All Other Delivery Areas	Decrease of \$20 Increase of \$26 Decrease of \$1.50 – \$51.50

Other customers in Union Gas Limited's service area, including businesses, will also be affected.

THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD IS HOLDING A PUBLIC HEARING

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) will hold a public hearing to consider the application filed by Union Gas.

We will question Union Gas on the case. We will also hear arguments from individuals and from groups that represent the customers of Union Gas. At the end of this hearing, the OEB will decide whether to approve the changes that Union Gas has requested in this application.

The OEB is an independent and impartial public agency. We make decisions that serve the public interest. Our goal is to promote a financially viable and efficient energy sector that provides you with reliable energy services at a reasonable cost.

BE INFORMED AND HAVE YOUR SAY

You have the right to information regarding this application and to be involved in the process.

- You can review the application filed by Union Gas on the OEB's website now.
- You can file a letter with your comments, which will be considered during the hearing.
- You can become an active participant (called an intervenor). Apply by **August 25, 2015** or the hearing will go ahead without you and you will not receive any further notice of the proceeding.
- At the end of the process, you can review the OEB's decision and its reasons on our website.

LEARN MORE

Our file number for this case is **EB-2015-0181**. To learn more about this hearing, find instructions on how to file letters or become an intervenor, or to access any document related to this case, please select the file number **EB-2015-0181** from the list on the OEB website: www.ontarioenergyboard.ca/notice. You can also phone our Consumer Relations Centre at 1-877-632-2727 with any questions.

ORAL VS. WRITTEN HEARINGS

There are two types of OEB hearings – oral and written. The OEB will determine at a later date whether to proceed by way of a written or oral hearing. If you think an oral hearing is needed, you can write to the OEB to explain why by **August 25, 2015**.

PRIVACY

If you write a letter of comment, your name and the content of your letter will be put on the public record and the OEB website. However, your personal telephone number, home address and e-mail address will be removed. If you are a business, all your information will remain public. If you apply to become an intervenor, all information will be public.

This hearing will be held under section 36 of the Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998, S.O. 1998 c.15 (Schedule B).



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