

WATER SPOUT ON GEORGIAN BAY.

THE Collingwood *Enterprise* says that on Wednesday last about 11 o'clock, our town was visited with a very unusual phenomenon—a waterspout. The whirlwind gathered up the water about six miles out in the lake, the wind blowing from the north-west, lightning and dark ominous clouds overhead. It first appeared as a small bright speck in the black cloud, something in the shape of a cone turned upside down, but quickly increased in volume and length until it had the appearance of an immense jet rising several hundred feet in the air. When reaching Nottawassaga Island the column of water was divided, the larger portion taking a direct westerly course across the southern portion of the island picked up a sail boat which was moored at the wharf belonging to Captain Collins, and lifted it bodily, turning it upside down, depositing it across the dock, without any further injury. A son of Captain Collins had a very narrow escape from being carried into the lake; it required all his energy in holding on to a stump to prevent the wind carrying him away. Crossing the island it proceeded to the shore, where it lifted up large trees, hurled them along with it as so many chips. While the larger body was thus tearing along in a westerly direction, the smaller body swept along towards the town,

lifting the water when it came near the shore in an immense mass about 60 or 100 feet square and about 20 feet high, boiling and seething as if in a cauldron. It struck Hotchkiss & Peckham's lumber yard about the center, lifting the boards from several of the piles and hurling them about 150 feet through a board fence belonging to the house occupied as a boarding house for the mill. Here the boards were deposited broken into small pieces, at the same time tearing a portion of the verandah from its position. Passing along it levelled fences, sent shingles flying in every direction, carried away boards, &c., until it crossed Hurontario street, a little above Kelly's Hotel, where it rose and appeared to have lost some of its force. There was no serious damage done. It was rather amusing to see the people, however, running to escape its fury. The tug George Watson had a narrow escape from injury, as it took every particle of power in her machinery to escape being caught in the whirlpool, having only a few feet to spare when it changed its course and left her clear of danger. Immediately after the passing of the waterspout there was a very heavy rain and hail storm, which lasted about twenty minutes. The rain fell in torrents.

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