Earthquake jolts Northeast

Richter Scale jumps to 5.2; no damage, injuries reported

BY HELEN MUNDELL
Journal Staff

A moderate earthquake shook parts of the Northeast and Canada at 6:19 a.m. this morning, but there were no reports of damage or injuries.

The quake, centered in Blue Mountain Lake, Hamilton County, registered 5.2 on the Richter scale, according to Frank Baldwin of the National Earthquake Information Center in Golden, Colo.

The earthquake was felt throughout the Finger Lakes Region.

Blue Mountain Lake is a village of about 1,000 people about 85 miles north of Albany and about 30 miles southwest of Lake Placid.

The quake was the biggest in the Northeast in at least 12 years, Cornell University geology professor Jack Oliver said today.

Although the quake sent the seismograph pens off the paper, making it impossible for Cornell geologists to tell the magnitude of the quake, the tremor apparently caused no damage here. People reported nothing more serious than shaking furniture and clattering dishes.

Oliver said it isn't too surprising that the quake was centered in Blue Mountain Lake. "Back in 1971 a couple of earthquakes occurred at Blue Mountain Lake -- but not as large as the one today."

He said the 1971 quake was followed by a series of aftershocks that went on for several years. He suspects today's tremor is "a reactivation of that activity."

Oliver said he expects there will be aftershocks. "We've already recorded one, much smaller. I would expect aftershock activity continuing for years."

But he added, since the aftershocks are expected to be small: "There's no need for a lot of fear."

An Adirondack earthquake is different from one in California or Japan, Oliver said. There, earthquakes occur where plates making up the earth's crust "move around and jostle one another."

In the Adirondacks, an earthquake

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The sudden jump in lines on a Cornell University seismograph indicate when the earthquake struck this morning.
Unusually Strong Earthquake Tiptoes Through Some Areas

From Staff and Wire Reports

For some people, it came and left as silently as Carl Sandburg's fog on little cat feet. Others noticed rattling windows, creaking walls and quivering waterbeds.

The early morning visitor yesterday was an earthquake, centered in the Adirondack region of New York State, measuring 5.2 on the Richter scale, according to the National Earthquake Information Service in Golden, Colo.

"I wasn't sure if it was the guns from Fort Devens or what, but it kept going so I didn't think it was. I kind of assumed it might have been an earthquake," he said yesterday.

At Holy Cross College, a school official originally said that a power outage at the college around 7:30 a.m. might have been caused by the quake. But the official, Richard M. Herdnek, director of physical plant, later said that was unlikely. He said power was restored around 9 p.m. The problem involved one of the main power lines, and the exact cause wasn't known until the line was dug up.

The outage affected about 75 percent of the campus but caused no significant problems, he said.

Ebel of the observatory invited members of the public to see the observatory and its equipment. He said the effects they noticed. He said such descriptions will be valuable in allowing scientists to gauge the magnitude of other earthquakes because they can compare the personal experiences generated by this quake with those for quakes of many years ago.

The technology that permits sophisticated seismic measurements has been available for just decades, he said.

But earthquakes have been the subject of writings for centuries. In fact, the first English publication to claim credit for predicting yesterday's quake was the Old Farmer's Almanac of Dublin, N.H., said that Oct. 7 fell within a "two-day earthquake period."

This report was written by Peter Robins of the Almanac.

Northeast jiggled by earthquake

By Henry W. Pierce

Pittsburgh, Pa. (AP) - Earthquakes in western Pennsylvania and eastern Pennsylvania, New York and New England at 6:19 a.m. Tuesday caused people to rattle, chandeliers to swing and beds to tremble over an area that reached from Montreal to Erie.

The region that was hit is in an "area of quake; a few microearthquakes." explained geophysicist Walter Pilant.

"But there never been an earthquake recorded within 50 miles of Pittsburgh," Pilant said.

No one knows why.

Professor at the University of Pittsburgh, is considered one of Western Pennsylvania's foremost authorities on earthquakes.

The shake was described by many people as "sad" and "sadly," and by others as "a big wind." Indeed, in Fitchburg, the quake was the prime topic of conversation at Dib's Quick Check on Main Street, according to Ferro Berroda, owner.

Another Fitchburg resident, James Conley of Hemlock Drive said: "It woke me up. My dog ran downstairs, and I thought it was him that made the lamp shake, but it kept on shaking."

In Clinton, Walter D. Brandt of 38 Auburn St. said: "I was laying in bed, and the whole house was shaking."

Did you feel the earth move?

By JONATHAN ROBBINS

New Englanders were shaken this morning by an earthquake measuring between 4.5 and 5.2 on the Richter scale, located in the Adirondack Mountains in New York State. The 6:19 a.m. tremor caused no damage locally but triggered reports of a "big wind" or "sadly," according to calls to area police departments and news media.

Ebel, assistant director of the Western Observatory in Newton, said it was centered in the Blue Mountain Lake, 38 miles north of Albany and felt throughout New England and as far away as Montreal.

"I wasn't sure if it was the guns from Fort Devens or what, but it kept going so I didn't think it was. I kind of assumed it might have been an earthquake," he said yesterday.

Ebel said the observatory recorded earthquakes at 6:26 a.m. and 6:59 p.m.

Ebel said New York gets three measurable quakes a month but only one or two more than three months can be felt. He said New England is riddled with faults.

Peter K. Parkman, a Boston College graduate student was working at the Western Observatory when he noticed from people wanting to know if it was an earthquake or if it was just their imagination.

Nancy Street of Acton said she was awakened out of a sound sleep.

"I was in an earthquake in Florida," Ms. Street said. "I was always afraid it was going to happen again." Ms. Street reported to the quake wake up and "I realized what it was, and didn't scare me the second time.

Wayland police reported 10 calls and Sudbury police said "several" people called in for information on the tremor.

A low-level alert was declared at the Vermont Yankee nuclear residents and knocked out telephone service to parts of the state.
Quake hits near Ottawa

By Christina Spencer and Doug Kelly
Citizen staff writers

The earth moved again this morning — and this time the action was closer to home.

A tremor that measured 4.2 on the Richter Scale and was believed centered about 25 kilometres south of Ottawa undulated beneath the area at 12:10 a.m. It was the second quake to hit the area in four days.

Federal seismologist Bob Halliday said the quake’s epicentre was believed to be near North Gower. The tremor lasted about 10 seconds and was felt in most of Eastern Ontario and parts of West Quebec, according to police reports.

Last week’s quake was centred in northern New York State. Ontario Provincial Police reported no major damage from the morning’s quake in either North Gower or the rest of the area. But the vibrations shook people awake, knocked pictures off walls and rattled chinaware.

“It felt like a very strong quake,” said Richard Head, 44, a resident of North Gower. “I was in a basement apartment at the time I felt it. I’m just wondering what the next one will be.”

Halliday, of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, said it’s impossible to predict whether there will be further tremors or aftershocks.

“We’re along a fault line here and every so many years we get small tremors.”

Eastern Canada has two major active earthquake zones — the area of Cornwall, Montreal and the Ottawa Valley, and a smaller zone near Quebec City known as the Charlevoix zone.

Police throughout the Ottawa Valley, from Kingston to Aparriort, were flooded with calls from worried residents who felt the quake this morning. Ottawa Police reported about 200 calls within five minutes of the tremor.

Brian Kelly, a Manotick resident, was 10 km north of the morning’s epicentre.

“We were in a sound sleep — it woke up everyone in the house. The shaking may have been as bad as the last quake, but the rumbling was much worse.”

Kelly said he felt two aftershocks within 12 minutes of the first rumbling, each lasting two or three seconds.

In Guelph, N.B., a police officer said the tremor also shook the St. Lawrence Valley region of uptown New York shortly after midnight.

“It didn’t shake the building like (a quake felt) across the northeast Friday ... but it lasted longer,” said Al Omara.

In Ontario, Michael Anderson of Blackburn Hamlet Taxi said the walls of his office sustained four cracks of about two centimetres in width, a sign fell off the wall and glassware rattled, but nothing was broken.

Janet Boulet of Woodfield Drive in Nepean said she spent the minutes just before the quake trying to calm her two budgies who were frantically flapping around their cage.

“It was as if they felt something. They’ve never done that before and it took some time to get them quiet.”

Then I went to bed. I felt the quake. My bed shook and the pictures rattled on the wall. My little girl called for me and the birds started again.”

Brian Glabb, 31, of McClellan Road, in Nepean said the quake “went right through the floor” of his second-storey apartment.

Glabb said he didn’t even feel Friday’s quake, “so this one must have been a lot stronger.”

“If we were expecting any more, I want to get my family down from the second floor to the first, where it might be a bit safer.”

Alex White of Woodridge Crescent in Nepean said today’s tremor was much worse than Friday’s aftershock.

Third earthquake in a week shakes up parts of Ontario

OTTAWA, Oct. 10 — The third earthquake in a week to shake people out of their beds shook parts of Ontario today but no damages or injuries were reported.

The tremor, measuring 4.2 on the Richter scale, rumbled for about 30 seconds in several communities around Ottawa.

The epicentre was reported by an official at the U.S. National Earthquake Information Centre at Golden, Colo., to be about 18 kilometres (12 miles) south of the capital.

Ottawa police Insp. Jerry

Earthquake rattles Santa Barbara, Calif.

OTTAWA (AP) — An earthquake ratted the Ottawa area and parts of upstate New York early today, waking people and shaking windows and dishes but causing no serious damage, seismologists said.

The earthquake, which measured 4.2 on the Richter scale, was centered about 15 miles south of Ottawa and occurred about 10 minutes past midnight, said Anne Stevens of Canada’s Department of Energy, Mines and Resources.

In Guelph, N.B., a police officer said the tremor also shook the St. Lawrence Valley region of upstate New York.
Anomalie gravimétrique ou géomagnétique?

Le séisme reste sans explication?

Quand la terre tremble...

Le Dr Anne Stevens, sismologue d’Énergie, Mines et Ressources du Canada, montre l’enregistrement au sismographe du tremblement de terre de mardi dont l’épicentre se trouvait à North Gower.

(photos LE DROIT par Francoline Roy)

Récit de l’historien de la météo

Le Dr Stevens, qui est l’auteur du livre "La Terre en mouvement", a expliqué que l’activité sismique est liée à la géologie sous-jacente. "Les tremblements de terre sont le résultat de mouvements de la croûte terrestre", a-t-il dit. "Ce phénomène est normal et il est important de comprendre comment il se produit.

Il est difficile de prédire exactement quand et où un tremblement de terre se produira, mais nous pouvons suivre les indications sismiques pour tenter de deviner les zones à risque.

Ce qu’il faut retenir, c’est que les tremblements de terre sont une partie naturelle de notre planète. Il est important de se préparer à ce qui peut venir et de savoir comment réagir lorsqu’un tremblement de terre se produit.

En conclusion, les tremblements de terre sont un phénomène naturel qui se produit à tout moment. Il est important de se préparer à ces moments de la vie et de savoir comment réagir lorsqu’ils se produisent.

Voulez-vous en savoir plus sur les tremblements de terre ? Explorez les informations sur la géologie et la météorologie qui s’y rapportent.

Le Dr Stevens a expliqué que les tremblements de terre sont causés par des mouvements de la croûte terrestre. "Ce phénomène est normal et il est important de comprendre comment il se produit.

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