

The Great New England Hurricane of 1938



Westhampton received the brunt of the storm. Only 26 out of 129 houses remained intact.

September 21st is the anniversary of the Great New England Hurricane of 1938. It was one of the most destructive storms to ever strike our region. The storm hit landfall near Bellport, NY with a 120-mph maximum sustained wind. Throughout New England there was an estimated 700 deaths; on Long Island alone there were 60 deaths and hundreds more injured. Thousands were left without homes due to a massive destruction of property. The storm created ten new Long Island inlets, including the Shinnecock Inlet. The hurricane ruined the local fishing industry and half of the year's apple crop. The severe damages resulting from the Great New England Hurricane make it one of the most critical storms of the twentieth century.



A derailed Long Island train near East Hampton during the storm.

Shorefront destruction at a shipyard in Greenport.



Photo and information credit: National Weather Service (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration)