



Frank Waldemar Benum (1914 - 2009) was a career meteorologist. Born in Wisconsin, raised in Winnipeg of Norwegian ancestry he graduated B.A.(Hons.) from the University of Manitoba in 1936 and joined the Meteorological Service as an observer.

He obtained a M.A. in meteorology from the University of Toronto returning to Winnipeg as a forecaster in July 1939, then moving to Lethbridge as part of the aviation weather team the following year. In 1947 he moved to Toronto serving in positions of increasing responsibility. Promoted to head the forecast division in 1958 he retired as Director-General for Weather Services in which role he was active in the World Meteorological Organization.

He joined the Canadian Branch of the Royal Meteorological Society on moving to Toronto in 1948, first serving as acting Secretary, then Secretary in 1949 -1950, and President in 1951 - 1952. His first presidential address, *Meteorology and Aviation in Canada*, reviewed the history of aviation meteorology and suggested changes needed, including a greater orientation to marketing weather services for operational meteorology.

In his second address, *The Canadian Branch-RMS*, which followed a plateauing of membership after rapid growth in 1949 and 1950, he reviewed the situation of the Branch and made ten suggestions which he felt would allow the Branch to prosper.

Frank Benum died in Barrie, Ontario on 6 December 2009.