

Software that's hard to beat

When relocated north, southerners accustomed to big-city attractions sometimes don't know what to do with their spare time. As Richard Desjardins could tell you, all it takes is initiative and a little imagination.

During a recent stay in Iqaluit, Weather Service Specialist Desjardins amused himself in his off-hours with a modest project - creating two labour-saving weather software programs.

As most know, the preparation of monthly summaries is a time-consuming and tedious task. Then along came Richard and his computer programs, *Climaster* and *Translogger*. *Climaster* reads 75% of the NCCS data necessary to create monthly summaries. *Translogger*, a *Climaster* adaptation, translates rough data from CR-21X-type automated stations into data the other program can understand. *Climaster* then prepares statements in mere minutes, delivering them by 06:00 Universal Time on the first day of each month. The programs save data for over a year. The result is fewer computations and much happier staff.

For Richard, a self-taught computer whiz, creating two new programs involved great personal sacrifice. "I didn't see my wife for two years," he admits. Luckily, she understood his obsession with his "mistress with a microchip" and supported him

throughout. After countless hours of work, he finished the programs and generously gave them to Environment Canada.

The programs are used by all Quebec weather stations. Recently, Richard translated both programs into English so he hopes other weather stations will take advantage of them soon. Richard has recently been relocated to Mirabel but he vows the southern life and its



Hate doing those monthly summaries? Computer whiz Richard Desjardins (Quebec Region) can make life easier for you.

distractions will not keep him from his favourite hobby, computers.

For further information or a copy of the programs, contact:

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