



Environment  
Canada

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Canada

# zephyr

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ATMOSPHERIC ENVIRONMENT SERVICE NEWSLETTER

## Students take weather into their own hands

Yvonne Bilan-Wallace

When the Arctic Weather Centre, N.W.T. Science Institute, and N.W.T. Board of Education sat around a table to discuss the weather, they didn't just exchange formal pleasantries but rather made it possible for science students in remote areas across N.W.T. to become volunteer weather observers right in their own communities. They developed "Weather Project" — a hands-on program that teaches students about the weather and environment.

Today volunteer weather-watching is part of the regular curriculum, bringing the real "weather world" into the classroom. With a help of a grant from the Department of Industry, ten schools have been equipped with weather stations. Many are in communities where "traditional weather observations" are often unavailable to the Arctic Weather Centre. Each day, students gather and record weather in-



Northern News Services Ltd./Cam Lockerbie

Here staff of the N.W.T. Science Institute install weather equipment at a local school that is set to become a weather station.

formation which will soon be relayed back to the Arctic Weather Centre in Edmonton.

In the end, the partnership is mutually beneficial. While students

become more involved in their communities, the data they collect is an invaluable tool for assisting the Arctic Weather Centre to provide the areas with an enhanced warning service.

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Service through science





On September 2, the inauguration of an Environment Canada atmospheric issues unit in Charlottetown was announced.

Peter Lewis, who heads up the unit, provides the business, government, and academic communities with specialized advice and information on a variety of atmospheric issues such as climate change, ozone depletion, acid rain, and the long distance movement of toxic pollutants.

### New P.E.I. unit caters to clients' needs

By providing more client-centred services, the unit can help Islanders plan the economic future of their province. From advising on the more effective use of climate information by the agricultural sector, to evaluating the potential impacts of climate change on tourism operators, the unit caters specifically to the needs of its clients.

Environment Canada has similar atmospheric issues units in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland.

### UV RESEARCH DRAWS INTERNATIONAL ACCLAIM

Jim Kerr and Tom McElroy, AES research scientists in Downsview, have gained international attention with their ground-breaking UV research.

They have completed the first long-term study which conclusively links the thinning of the ozone layer to the recent increases seen in ultraviolet (UV) levels. Their findings, published in the research journal *Science* on November 12, immediately received extensive international media coverage.

Previous scientific studies attempting to link ozone loss with UV increases were inconclusive and controversial. "AES succeeded because of our long record of high quality measurements, taken with a Brewer Ozone Spectrophotometer," said Jim Kerr. This AES-designed instrument provides detailed, highly accurate data on both ozone and UV. Measurements were carried out on a daily basis in Toronto from 1989 to 1993.

"I'm very impressed with the measurements," said John Deluisi, a NOAA researcher in Boulder, Colorado. "Now we have good data", added Sherwood Rowland, the renowned American scientist who first proposed that CFCs would erode the ozone layer.

The study showed that during the summer, sunburning UV levels over Toronto have increased by approximately eight per cent since 1989.

During the winter, when ozone depletion is at its maximum, there has been a 15 per cent increase in UV since 1989. Similar results would be expected throughout southern Canada.

Representatives from health agencies, medical organizations,

Health Canada and private industry were on hand on October 22 to review the UV Index program and hear updates on the scientific aspects of UV over Canada and the health effects

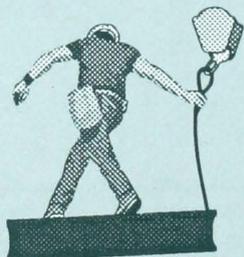
### National UV Stakeholders Meeting

of UV. Representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration were also present to learn from the Canadian experience to aid in the development of their own UV program.

### Construction begins on new research laboratory in Downsview

Construction is underway for a new \$7.5 million research laboratory to be located adjacent to AES Headquarters in Downsview. The building, set for a 1995 completion date, will house the existing atmospheric chemistry research labs in Downsview, as well as labs temporarily located at York University.

The decision to construct the laboratory was based on the health



and safety of employees and the need to conform with revised building codes for laboratory operations.

The facility will contain 5,240 square metres of lab space and will accommodate about 55 research staff. The space made available in the Headquarters building will be used to accommodate the collocation of Environment Canada staff from the Ontario regional office.

## HAPPENING ACROSS THE COUNTRY

### New Environmental Services Centre

On December 2, Environment Canada opened a new Environmental Services Centre in Saskatoon. The new Centre will ensure Saskatchewan residents have access to the most accurate and up-to-date weather and environmental information available.

Meteorological and other professionals at the Centre will use the latest innovations in science and technology to provide weather forecasts, timely warnings of severe weather, and to assist in responding to environmental emergencies. New services will also be developed to meet the special needs of agricultural, business, and leisure activities, and to promote sustainable development.

### GETTING THE SIGNAL

Glen Vickers

With the help of a local amateur radio group, the Alberta Weather Centre has installed a radio in the Centre to act as the base operations for the region's severe weather radio network, better known as "ALTAWATCH".

Now when the Centre issues a watch, a member of the Edmonton radio society is called into the Centre to operate the central control station.

From this post, reports on the location and severity of severe weather is received from the area's amateur radio operators.

This winter, "phantom" severe weather events will be staged to test the network. It is hoped that by next spring the network will be fully operational, making it the second of its kind in Canada (the other is CANWARN in Ontario).

### WHO'S GOT THAT MANUAL AGAIN?

Reinhold Winterer

The Atmospheric and Science Issues Branch from Prairie and Northern Region has put an end to that question by converting their regional Environmental Emergency Manuals from the time-honoured paper version to a soft copy format.

The new format works just like the "HELP" function under Windows. Accessing the manuals is as easy as double clicking on the icon programmed on the user's PC. The beauty of the concept is that the manuals are kept on the network server and all regional staff members can access the original copies.

Any file can be converted into this format and updating is easy — just call the coordinator who updates the information and recompiles the file on the network, and presto — the user has the most up-to-date information. No more outdated paper lists...and think of all the happy trees!!!

### Lights, camera, action!

The Alberta Weather Centre was in the camera's focus in August, as a crew from ACCESS network was on hand to film the day to day operations of the Centre. The Network is producing a 15 minute segment on weather, one in a series of shows currently being developed for Grade 10 science classes. The spot is being done as a drama, with various staff from Prairie and Northern playing bit parts.

### Environment Canada trademarks

While Weatheradio, Radiométéo, Weathercopy, and Météocopie have long been associated as trademarks of Environment Canada's weather warning network, the terms have become trademarks of their own — in the literal sense.

Recently, Environment Canada officially obtained a set of trademarks for the terms, granting Environment Canada exclusive use of the names.

### PEERING INTO THE FUTURE:

#### New centre offers single window to services

Providing Canadians with a single window access to environmental services was further set in motion with the opening of the Environment Network of Collingwood, a new community resource centre serving the southern Georgian Bay and Huronia area. Not only does the Centre provide weather and climate information, but offers a window to the programs and services of the entire Department.

The initiative is a joint venture of Environment Canada and the Collingwood Harbour Remedial Action Plan Public Advisory Committee, a partnership which includes the sharing of premises and mutual support staff. With everything under one roof, the Centre's goal is also to locally promote the environmental, social, and economic ties needed to foster sustainable community development.

# CHANGE:

## a watchword for the '90s



As you know, we are currently experiencing considerable changes within Environment Canada as restructuring and integration exercises forge ahead.

How can we best cope with increasing pressures and changes?

The following article may offer you some helpful suggestions.

V. Shuster

Change is a way of life, especially in today's world. No organization is exempt from the forward movement of technology and the shifting requirements of the marketplace.

Remaining competitive in today's world economy means being open to change and willing to meet new demands. The ability to cope with change and the stress that usually accompanies it is a necessary skill for the '90s and beyond.

"Success will ultimately come to those who see change as an opportunity for their organizations — and themselves — to become more effective," says Steve Kay, of Roberts & Kay, Inc., a management consulting firm in Lexington, Kentucky.

"Some people thrive on change, exuding a calm confidence that gives other people courage and hope," Kay notes. "Others crave stability and constancy, and when things change, they feel a sense of loss and fear."

The process can be unsettling even for those who typically welcome change. Kay offers the following suggestions to help you cope:

- **Accept the fact that things are changing.** "Instead of wishing things would go back to the way they used to be, spend your time and energy reorganizing your thoughts and preparing for the new way of doing things," Kay says.

- **Consider the value of distractions.** Turn your attention for a short while to things not related to the change. Fish, read a novel, or take an exercise class. You'll return to your change-related work with renewed vigour and a brighter outlook.

- **Reassure yourself by focusing on things that remain the same.** We all like a certain degree of constancy in our daily lives. Once you've analyzed the situation, you're likely to find that, overall, there is more stability than drastic change in your environment.

- **Minimize additional sources of change.** The fewer changes you introduce in your personal life at a time when you are encountering changes at work, the less disruptive, frightening, and overwhelming they will be.

- **Consider the ramifications of proposed changes.** What are the benefits of change? Is there anything negative that might happen if you (or the organization) don't change? This will help put the situation in perspective.

- **Keep active.** "Action builds attitude," Kay points out. "Doing something, even as simple as reorganizing desk drawers, can get you going and give you more energy, so you're ready to take on a larger task." Taking a proactive stance also gives you a feeling of being in control.

- **Make change easier on others.** Create an atmosphere of calm, optimism, and good humour. This way, you can help yourself and others weather the change without trauma.

- **Prepare to implement your part of the change.** Remember that change creates new opportunities. Share any ideas you have that might help the organization meet its overall goals. Seize new opportunities to learn and grow. Decide that you want to be a part of the action, rather than watch as it passes you by.

### Some suggested reading material:

#### The Joy of Stress

Hanson, Peter G., M.D.

#### You Can Excel in Times of Change

by Helmstetter, S.

#### Managing Personal Change: Self-management Skills for Work and Life Transitions

by Scott, C. and Jaffe, T.

### Employee Assistance Program

The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is a confidential counselling and referral service available to Environment Canada employees across the country. If you wish to discuss any personal concerns or receive help with personal problems you are experiencing, the program is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

### HOW CAN I GET HELP?

If you are an Environment Canada employee in Ontario call Warren Shepell Consultants at 1-800-387-4765.

In other parts of the country call 1-800-268-7708

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## TAKING MATTERS INTO THEIR OWN HANDS

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### "Clean air machines" sell out in hours



Downsview staffers, Merlyn Persaud and Don McKay, pick out their own clean-air machines

Plants, plants, and more plants. That was the order of the day as Working Group Four of the NWSD Focus Group hosted a plant sale for staff at AES Downsview on October 27. In a recent employee questionnaire distributed by the Group, air quality was targeted as needing some improvement and plants were identified as an effective, affordable, and environmentally-friendly solution to:

- improving the attractiveness of offices,
- absorbing VOCs (volatile organocompounds) in the air originating from sources such as copier toner etc., and
- helping increase the humidity levels during dry winter months.

Priced at \$2, \$5, & \$10 the "clean air machines" were swept up by staff in a matter of hours! As one organizer exclaimed, "We thought 300 plants, sell 100 per day, equals a three day sale!" Although the sale was cut short by the overwhelming response, the Group's main objective was achieved — improving the air quality and helping staff breathe a little easier. Congratulations on a successful venture!

Empowering staff to take an active stance in improving their branch's morale is what the National Weather Services Directorate (NWSD) Focus Group is all about. Formed in February 1992, the Group is an independent team of 22 employees who, in addition to their work schedules, volunteer their time and efforts to put morale-boosting initiatives into action.

The Focus Group is subdivided into four working groups, each dedicated to a specific morale issue. Their goal? To create a work environment that places a high value on integrity, trust, and mutual respect in working relationships. So far, the Group has made considerable progress towards that end.

Listed below are a number of the Group's priorities — issues whose significance span all places of employment.

#### **Working Together (Working Group One)**

- improve the downward flow of information from managers to employees
- hold frequent discussions and meetings with employees
- remind people they've done a good job
- foster a friendly, team-spirited environment
- nurture a sense of belonging and openness in the workplace

#### **Direction (Working Group Two)**

- establish a public bulletin board to serve as a conduit for employee queries and their management responses
- exchange ideas and tips on how to streamline certain tasks
- question routine tasks to determine their value and effectiveness

#### **Development (Working Group Three)**

- establish a career development centre

#### **Physical Environment (Working Group Four)**

- take an Environmental Citizenship stance on air quality issues by reducing the number of copies you print and photocopy, turning off computer equipment at the end of the day, and organizing a plant sale to help improve the air quality in work areas.
- using an employee questionnaire, put together a proposal for cafeteria services about increasing their client base by implementing some of the suggestions made — a potential win/win situation.

In recent years, pressures have been mounting for the federal government to find innovative ways to reduce costs to the taxpayer, while at the same time, maintaining a high level of services. AES, like all government agencies, is under pressure to use decreasing resources more effectively. In order to do so, we need to pursue a more businesslike approach to the provision of environmental services.

This means major challenges for all of us. More than ever, we must focus on results and the needs of our clients. While basic environmental and weather services are not at issue, taxpayers (that's all of us!) should not have to bear the cost for customized services from which some clients derive specific benefit. Cost recovery is an attempt to return a fair share of the investment to the taxpayer by reducing the tax burden.

Support for cost recovery of value-added services will allow flexibility for AES management in many areas. For instance, cost recovered services will help to maintain staff levels and offer opportunities for employees to broaden the focus of their jobs. Some examples of project initiatives

## COMMERCIAL SERVICES PURSUES INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO BETTER SERVE OUR CLIENTS

### Chantal Hunter

where AES staff are working to meet clients' needs include:

- The preparation of a "watering index" for Edmonton and other cities in Alberta.
- The licensing of the AES' Forecast Production Assistant (FPA) software to companies in the ocean-routing business. This capability has the potential to greatly enhance these companies' ability to advise vessels of the safest navigation routes around the world.

Other initiatives which have recently been implemented include the following:

- A thunderstorm presence and movements graphics service, developed by Quebec Region, has been sold to three clients on a monthly basis, with other potential clients being sought.
- The South Western Saskatchewan District Office provided briefing services, on a cost recovered basis, to the Ca-

nadian Soaring Championship in Swift Current this past summer. Information retrieved from the Region's Bulletin Board System (BBS) was used to tailor the briefings to the event's unique requirements.

- The BBS is now available in the Atlantic Region. The first client, a Halifax Engineering Company, was provided with a BBS account on October 21.
- The commercial sponsorship of automatic telephone answering devices (ATADS) is continuing across the country. Revenue generated from the ATADS is helping to improve AES' service with the installation of extra phone lines at various weather offices.
- The Insurance Corporation of British Columbia has contracted the Pacific Weather Centre to produce a "Road Sense Index" to inform motorists of the possible risk of collision during rush-hour traffic (see inset).

AES' employees are its greatest strength and the success of the Commercial Services initiative depends on everyone getting involved. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact Chantal Hunter/Nancy Bresolin (AWDG/M) at (613) 947-2004.

## New index scales risky road conditions



Many of us would never consider

bungee jumping from a cliff or skydiving from a plane because it appears too risky. But what we may not realize, however, is that we engage in a risk-attached venture practically every day of the year — driving through rush-hour traffic!

Now motorists in the B.C. Lower Mainland will be able to check out the hazards of trekking to and from work with the "Road Sense Index". Developed by the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia, in cooperation with the Pacific

Weather Centre, the new index ranks, on a scale from 1 to 10, the number of possible crashes and fatalities that could occur during peak driving periods.

For example, Level 1 indicates that 4 crashes in which 2 people might be injured or killed could occur during rush-hour in the Lower Mainland, level 5 is a forecast of up to 28 fatalities with 10 possible injuries or deaths, and Level 10 indicates up to 83 crashes with 30 possible fatalities.

In developing the index, ICBC calculated the correlation between the level of crashes and environmental conditions. So, for instance, weather conditions (cloudiness, precipitation, wind, barometric pressure, visibility and temperature) along with other factors such as the day

of the week, time, month and light intensity are all taken into account in preparing the index.

According to ICBC, November is ranked as the worst month for crashes, Friday is the worst day, and most accidents occur between the prime driving periods of 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. The time switch is also known to cause more rush-hour smashes as drivers adjust to night-like driving conditions.

Each morning and afternoon, the Pacific Weather Centre inserts its weather data into ICBC's formula to generate a rating which is then passed along to media outlets. The "Road Sense Index" is heard on most commercial radio traffic reports and is also carried by some daily newspapers.

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## Messages Program continues to form partnerships with Canadian media

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Andrée Mongeon



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## Hot off the press

### Environmental Citizenship Primers now available!

The Environmental Citizenship Learning Program has just published a series of educational primers. The purpose of these primers is to outline some of the basic knowledge, skills, and values that an environmental citizen might need in Canada. The "Environmental Citizenship Series" now includes the following titles:

- A Primer on Environmental Citizenship
- A Primer on Fresh Water
- A Matter of Degrees: A Primer on Global Warming
- A Primer on Ozone Depletion
- The Nature of Canada: A Primer on Spaces and Species
- A Primer on Waste Management

To obtain a copy of one of the primers, contact your regional environmental citizenship representatives or the Enquiry Centre at (819) 997-2800.

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The Environmental Citizenship Messages Program is nine months old this November. An initiative of the Environmental Citizenship Learning Program, the Messages Program sends out daily environmental education messages through our Weather Offices. The consistent and creative delivery of messages by the Weather Offices has been instrumental in establishing and maintaining important partnerships with media across Canada.

Media response remains most enthusiastic in small and mid-size communities, but some larger cities such as

Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Ottawa, and Montréal are also picking up the program. The total media outlets on board include:

- 146 radio stations,
- 12 television stations,
- 23 cable TV stations, and
- 27 daily and 54 weekly newspapers.

Some new partnerships have also been formed with CFCN-TV (a CTV affiliate) and Cable TV 12 in Lethbridge, Alberta; Rogers Channel 50 in Ontario's Kitchener-Waterloo area (165,000 homes); CHTV Radio in Charlottetown, P.E.I.; and the Whitehorse Star in Whitehorse, Yukon.

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## Lethbridge Success Story

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Ron Harrison, Officer-in-Charge of the Lethbridge Weather Office, has taken the initiative to have CFCN-TV's participation in the Messages Program and environmental education officially recognized by Environment Canada. MP Blaine Thacker recently presented the station with an Environmental Citizenship Award, which is proudly displayed in the station's busy studio to help profile their environmental activities.

The Messages Program also continues to encourage non-media participation. For example, there has been an increase from 22 to 63 weather radios which broadcast messages daily. And Environment Canada and Parks Canada employees continue to receive the environmental citi-

zenship messages every week via DOTS.

You will notice that the Program is also adapting its message content to seasonal themes. For example, a five-week series of Holiday Season messages will be the focus of the Program starting December 6. So look for them!

Your comments and questions on the Messages Program are received regularly and are being taken into consideration in developing future material. We continue to encourage staff to provide feedback to Julliana Ajaka at (613) 943-3633 or by DOTS at AJAKAJ. Please keep in mind, however, that the Messages Program is aimed at electronic and print media and your suggestions should be tailored to that consideration.

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**New book from  
AES' senior climatologist  
hits the shelves**

David Phillips, AES' senior climatologist, has done it again! Canada's most popular weather guru has put his thoughts to paper, with a look at the highs and lows of Canadian weather in his latest book, "The Day Niagara Falls Ran Dry."

The book recaptures memorable meteorological moments in Canadian weather history and delves into weather folklore from across the coun-

try. From El Nino and bergy bits and growlers, to the weather's role in the maple syrup harvest, the book is both humorous and informative. It's the ultimate compendium for weather buffs!

David has written the "Weather-wise" column for Canadian Geographic magazine for six years. He is the originator of the Weather Trivia Calendar and author of "The Climates of Canada". You can also catch David

on The Weather Network's "Ask the Expert" program.

The title of his new book refers to the unforgettable night of March 29, 1848, when Niagara Falls fell silent. A giant ice jam at the entrance to the river cut off the flow of water for 30 hours.

"The Day Niagara Falls Ran Dry" is available in major bookstores throughout Canada, just in time for Christmas!

## TRUE or FALSE

Test your weather lore

Based on David Phillips new book, "The Day Niagara Falls Ran Dry".

Give yourself one point for each correct answer.

**1.** The major Canadian city with the greatest number of sunny hours per year is Calgary.

TRUE/FALSE \_\_\_\_\_

**2.** Rainbows always appear in the same side of the sky as the sun.

TRUE/FALSE \_\_\_\_\_

**3.** A well known weather saying: "A rainbow in the morning, is the shepherd's warning  
A rainbow at night is the shepherd's delight"

is reliable about 65% of the time.

TRUE/FALSE \_\_\_\_\_

**4.** The North Pole is the best place to view the aurora borealis.

TRUE/FALSE \_\_\_\_\_

**5.** Pets outside do not feel the wind chill.

TRUE/FALSE \_\_\_\_\_

**6.** Farmers provide the most volunteer weather observations.

TRUE/FALSE \_\_\_\_\_

### How do you rank?

**6:** Bravo! You could give David Phillips some serious competition!

**4-5:** Good, you're well on your way to becoming a weather guru yourself.

**2-3:** Keep an eye out for the forecast, you'll still need it.

**0-1:** Better read the book!

Answers: 1. True - 2,395 hours 2. False. To see a rainbow, you must face the rain with the sun at your back.  
3. True. In Canada, weather normally moves from the west to east. In the morning, the sun is in the east, meaning the rainbow (and the storm) is in the west and moving towards you. In the evening the sun is in the west, the rainbow in the east, and the storm moving away. 4. False. The best view in Canada can be found in most of the Yukon, the southern NWT, the northern prairie provinces, and northern Ontario and Quebec.  
5. False 6. True

## Will your Christmas be white?

ASK THE EXPERT...

If anything, the holiday season is the one time Canadians will sing the praises of snow. For most of us, snow completes our holiday image of a "winter wonderland". So what are the chances you'll get snow come Christmas? We posed the question to David Phillips and by analyzing past climate data, he let us in on the scoop.

Here's the cross-country summary:

### Chances of a white Christmas (percentages)

St. John's	64	Charlottetown	85
Halifax	69	Fredericton	87
Quebec City	100	Montreal	83
Ottawa	84	Toronto	63
London	75	Winnipeg	100
Regina	94	Saskatoon	100
Calgary	63	Edmonton	98
Vancouver	6	Victoria	5
Whitehorse	100	Yellowknife	100

Sometimes the holiday season is just full of weather surprises! David Phillips provides us with some of the moments that went down in history. Do you remember any of these?

#### Vancouver

When it comes to the Pacific Coast, most holiday memories include a dose of heavy rains along with mudslides, washouts and floods. But not the Christmas of 1968! On December 31, the city recorded its greatest single day snowfall at 31 cm. Needless to say, residents and visitors were not amused nor prepared for the unexpected blast of snow. Many did not even own a snow shovel!

#### Alberta

Albertans can expect almost any type of weather during the holiday seasons. Back in 1989, a breezy chinook engulfed most of the province making it colder in Texas and Florida than in Alberta! Contrast this to last year, where  $-40^{\circ}$  C readings produced ice fog so thick you couldn't even see the sun!

#### Winnipeg

The chances of a white Christmas are almost a sure thing in Winnipeg. However, weather records show that in 1913 and

1939 Winnipeggers woke up Christmas morning to a city without snow. In 1939, residents managed to make the most of nature's prank. Local golfers played full rounds on city golf courses — apparently the first Christmas golf ever played in Winnipeg!

#### Toronto

Way back in 1872, Toronto got a white Christmas they wouldn't soon forget! A blizzard began at 4 am on December 25 and ended the next day at 11 pm. When it was over, the city lay buried under 58 cm of snow — Toronto's greatest snowfall ever! But that didn't stop Torontonians! Sleighing in the city was described as first rate and church services welcomed capacity crowds.

#### Ottawa

Ottawa residents will long remember the ice storm of 1986, that knocked out electricity for up to 24 hours — literally putting Christmas on ice. The freezing rain began at 9 pm on Christmas Eve and within an hour, everything was coated in ice. For

hundreds of Ottawa-area homes, holiday dinners consisted of cold leftovers and gas barbecued turkey by candlelight!

#### Montreal

You'd think living in the snowiest major city in the world would practically guarantee you a white Christmas. Not so! In two years out of ten, Montrealers wake up to a green Christmas. But surely the most memorable Christmas was the one of 1969. The snow began on Boxing Day and three days later over 70 cm of snow had fallen to the ground! Never has so much snow fallen in so short a period in Montreal.

#### Atlantic Region

In most years, winter's first major blast in the Atlantic Region doesn't usually come until January. Then it's not uncommon to get reports of monstrous snowfalls in the East. In 1987, a classic northeaster storm swept over New Brunswick with 25 cm of snow and strong winds at a time of high tides. The storm also managed to batter P.E.I. and Nova Scotia with freezing rain, wet snow and 90 km per hour winds!

• The STRATUS project, which uses artificial intelligence to assist aviation forecasters, won a Bronze Medal at the First Annual Federal Gala Dinner on September 3. The awards recognized Public Service teams and individuals who have demonstrated leadership in the use or development of information technology.

The STRATUS project involves Transport Canada, Department of National Defence, and AES, as well as private firms and universities. Within AES, both Climate and Atmospheric Research and Training Branch have participated in the project.

• Quebec region's Pierre Ducharme and Guy O'Bomsawin, authors of the successful video "Secrets of the St. Lawrence", were honoured with a certificate of excellence on October 15 at the "President of the Information Services Institute Awards".

This video was part of a Search and Rescue funded project that AES, specifically Quebec Region, undertook in 90/91. Its goal is to inform mariners of the weather hazards associated with the St. Lawrence and the necessary safety precautions that should be taken.

• The AES Air Quality Research Branch has recognized Bruce Thomson's contribution to the development of air quality services and research in Pacific and Yukon region and across Canada with the "All Seasons Research Award."

## Awards, awards

• John Hendricks, a former AES employee who worked for over thirty years in Regina and Winnipeg before retiring in 1984, received the Canada 125 Medal on October 19. The medal honours Canadians who have contributed to the betterment of our country and society.

John's career was meteorology but his hobby was mathematics. Since his retirement, John has actively pursued his passion. He has taught mathematics, published several articles on the subject, and became the founding president of the Duke of Edinburgh's Young Canadian Challenge in Manitoba.

Staff in Winnipeg and across the country wish to congratulate you on receiving this prestigious award! - Louis Legal

• On September 27, awards were presented to John Scott and Ron Ruff from King City Radar in recognition and appreciation for their development of CREATOR, a PC-based radar data processor that meets the specific operational requirements of Ontario Region.

The system was first developed to support the radar imagery processing requirements of ARMP (Cloud Physics) research activities. At the request of Ontario Region, the system was adapted to control the radar, acquire and process the data and subsequently transmit the radar image in a standardized format. Congratulations on a job well done! and the development of new sensors and techniques for atmospheric measurements. -R. Young

Published four times a year by the Communications Directorate of Environment Canada, Zephyr is a staff newsletter for the employees of the Atmospheric Environment Service, Environment Canada.

Our mission is to provide quality service through science for the sustainable development of Canadians and our environment.

Zephyr is your newsletter... and we would like to hear from you.

Please forward your submissions for the Fall issue by **February 29, 1994.** Visuals are more than welcome.

**Claudia Del Col/Editor**  
**ZEPHYR**

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## FAX BACK

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