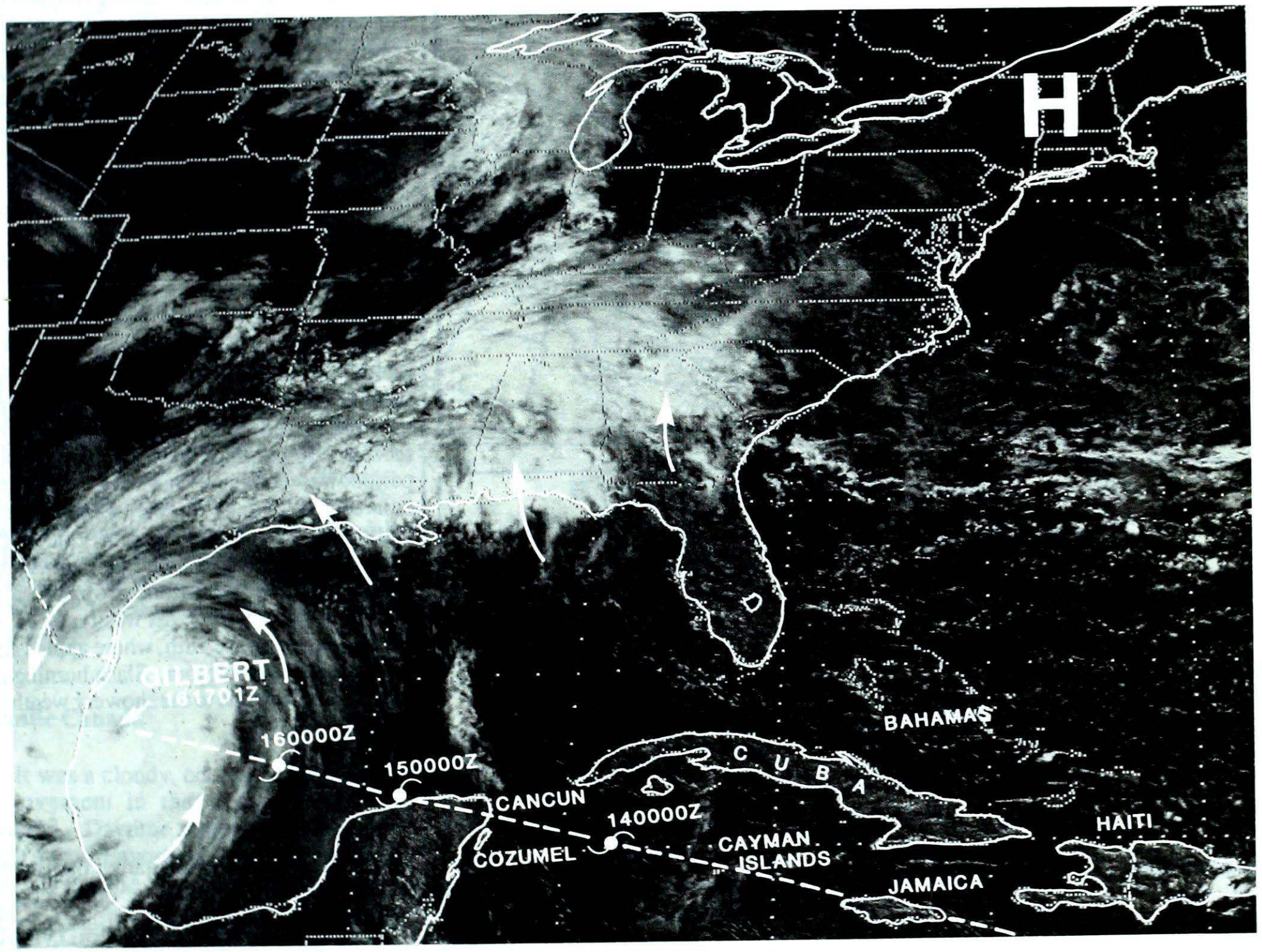
Environment Canada | Environnement Canada

# Climatic Perspectives



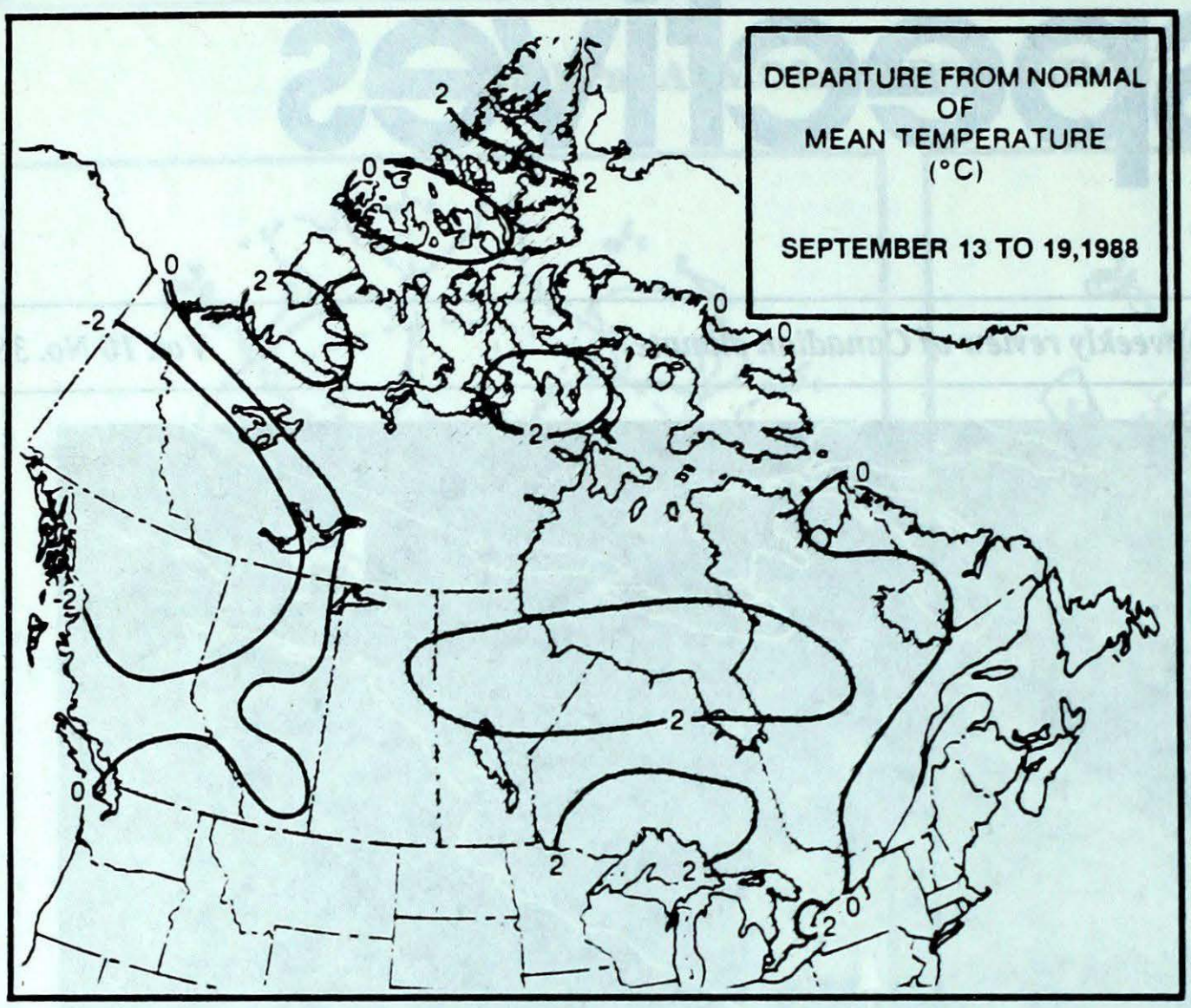
*September 13 to 19, 1988* | *A weekly review of Canadian climate* | *Vol. 10 No. 38*




This GOES satellite photograph of September 16, 1988 shows Gilbert approaching the Mexican coast for a second time after already taking a swipe at the Yucatan Peninsula, where it lost some of its furry. Note the spiral bands of cloud and squalls rotating around the storm. Moisture laden air is also beginning to push up the Mississippi Valley, eventually reaching the lower Great Lakes over the weekend. More information on page 3. Additional satellite photo on page 8.

- **Bumper harvest in the Maritimes**
- **Small tornado touches down in Toronto**

Canada




## Weekly Temperature Extreme (°C)

| Location | Maximum | | Minimum | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **British Columbia** . . . . . .Lytton | 33 | | Prince George | -5 |
| **Yukon Territory** . . . . . .Old Crow | 17 | | Beaver Creek | -10 |
| **Northwest Territories** . . . . .Fort Smith | 17 | | Alert | -18 |
| **Alberta** . . . . . .Medicine Hat | 30 | | Edson | -7 |
| **Saskatchewan** . . . . . Kindersley | 29 | | Wynyard | -5 |
| **Manitoba** . . . . . .The Pas | 26 | | Thompson | -1 |
| **Ontario** . . . . . .Windsor | 30 | | Moosonee | -1 |
| **Quebec** . . . . . .Montreal Int'l | 23 | | Sherbrooke | -2 |
| **New Brunswick** . . . . . Fredericton | 20 | | Chatham | 2 |
| **Nova Scotia** . . . . . Shearwater | 19 | | Truro | 2 |
| **Prince Edward Island** . . . .Charlottetown | 17 | | Summerside | 7 |
| **Newfoundland** . . . . . .Deer Lake | 19 | | Churchill Falls | -2 |
| Across The Country... | | | | |
| **Warmest Mean Temperature** . . . . . | | | Windsor (ONT) | 19 |
| **Coolest Mean Temperature** . . . . . | | | Alert (NWT) | -8 |

88/09/13 -88/09/19

## ACROSS THE COUNTRY . . .

### Yukon and Northwest Territories

Although freeze-up has begun in the high Arctic, the shipping routes in the southern areas remain wide open, but new ice has started forming along the shorelines. Canadian icebreakers are still plying the southern Arctic waters, where gales are becoming more frequent, assisting last minute resupply operations. The more northern outposts such as Eureka have all been resupplied several weeks earlier without incident. In the Yukon and the Northwest Territories, the week has been seasonable, with a mixture of sun, cloud and rain. Temperatures in the high Arctic failed to climb above the freezing mark.

### British Columbia

A ridge of high pressure produced pleasant sunny weather until Friday. In the southern interior, daytime readings rose to the thirties, setting a few daily temperature records. In contrast, the latter part of the period was cool and unsettled. In Vancouver the change in the weather was marked by heavy thunderstorms Friday evening, which produced hail. At Victoria on the 17th, the temperature dropped to a record low of 3.5°C. Frost was reported in the Okanagan on the 18th, where apples are beginning to show colour. Slash burning is behind schedule due to the showery weather of late.

### Prairie Provinces

In Alberta, the week started off sunny and warm, with a number of daily record high temperatures. Medicine Hat reached 30°C on the 15th. The next day, a cold Arctic outbreak covered the whole province. Clearing skies late Saturday, resulted in widespread frost early Sunday morning.

It was another soggy week in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, with ample rainfalls. The north received the heaviest amounts during the early part of the week, while the south got a soaking over the weekend. Temperatures were generally warmer in the west, with daily record highs set in Saskatchewan. By the end of the week this pattern had reversed, and minimums over much of the province dropped to near or below the freezing mark .

### Ontario

For the most part it was pleasant and sunny until the weekend, when an unseasonably warm and humid air mass moved into the province. Heavy thunderstorms accompanied the unstable air mass during the morning hours of the 17th. Late in the afternoon of the same day, a tornado touched down briefly in the northwest corner of Metro Toronto, near Pearson International Airport, damaging some industrial units and overturning a truck. A number of new daily high temperature records were set on September 18. Sarnia lead the way with a high of 31°C.

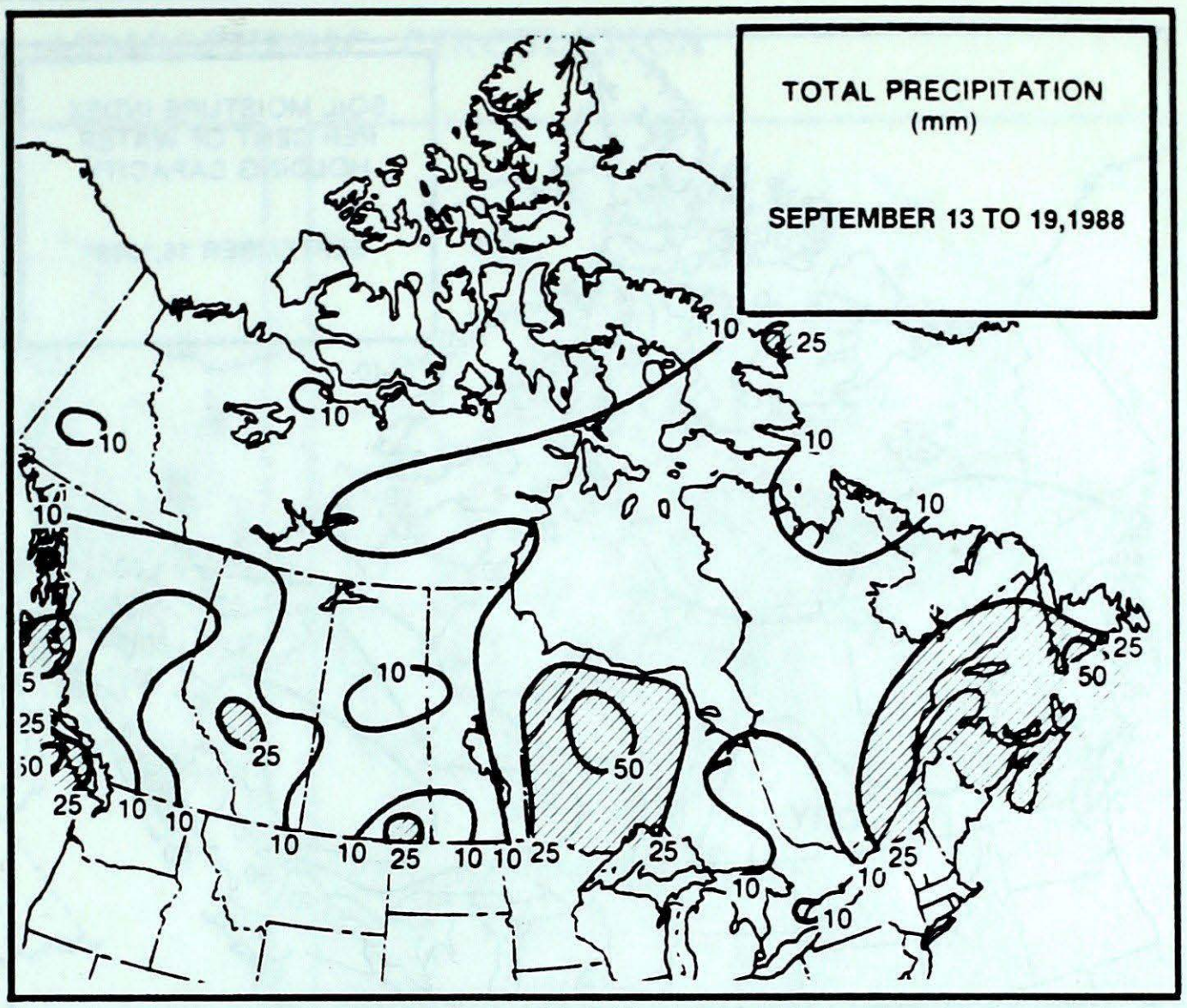
### Quebec

It was a typically changeable early autumn week, with widespread frost occurring in the southern areas on September 16 and 17. Temperatures fluctuated widely, with milder temperatures towards the weekend. The early and latter parts of the period were the wettest, with the heaviest precipitation occurring along the St. Lawrence Valley. As much as 45 mm fell at Bagotville. Thunderstorms with hail rolled across the Eastern Townships on September 14. It was unusually mild in northern Quebec.

### Atlantic Canada

It was a cloudy, cool week with some improvement in the weather over the weekend. Daytime temperatures hovered in the teens. Favorable weather conditions are attributed to a bumper apple harvest this year - the best and biggest in recent memory.Growers are expecting to harvest 3.6 million bushels this fall compared with 2.9 million bushels in 1987. Corn has also done very well this year, and the potato crop is the largest in more than a decade; in fact, all vegetable crops are showing better than average yields.

All of Newfoundland started off on a rainy note, as a deep low pressure system crossed the region. In Labrador, 5 cm of snow fell at Churchill Falls. A ridge of high pressure gave generally fair but cool weather after the middle of the week. Daytime readings in Labrador dropped to the single digits, with maximums on the Island of near 10°C.

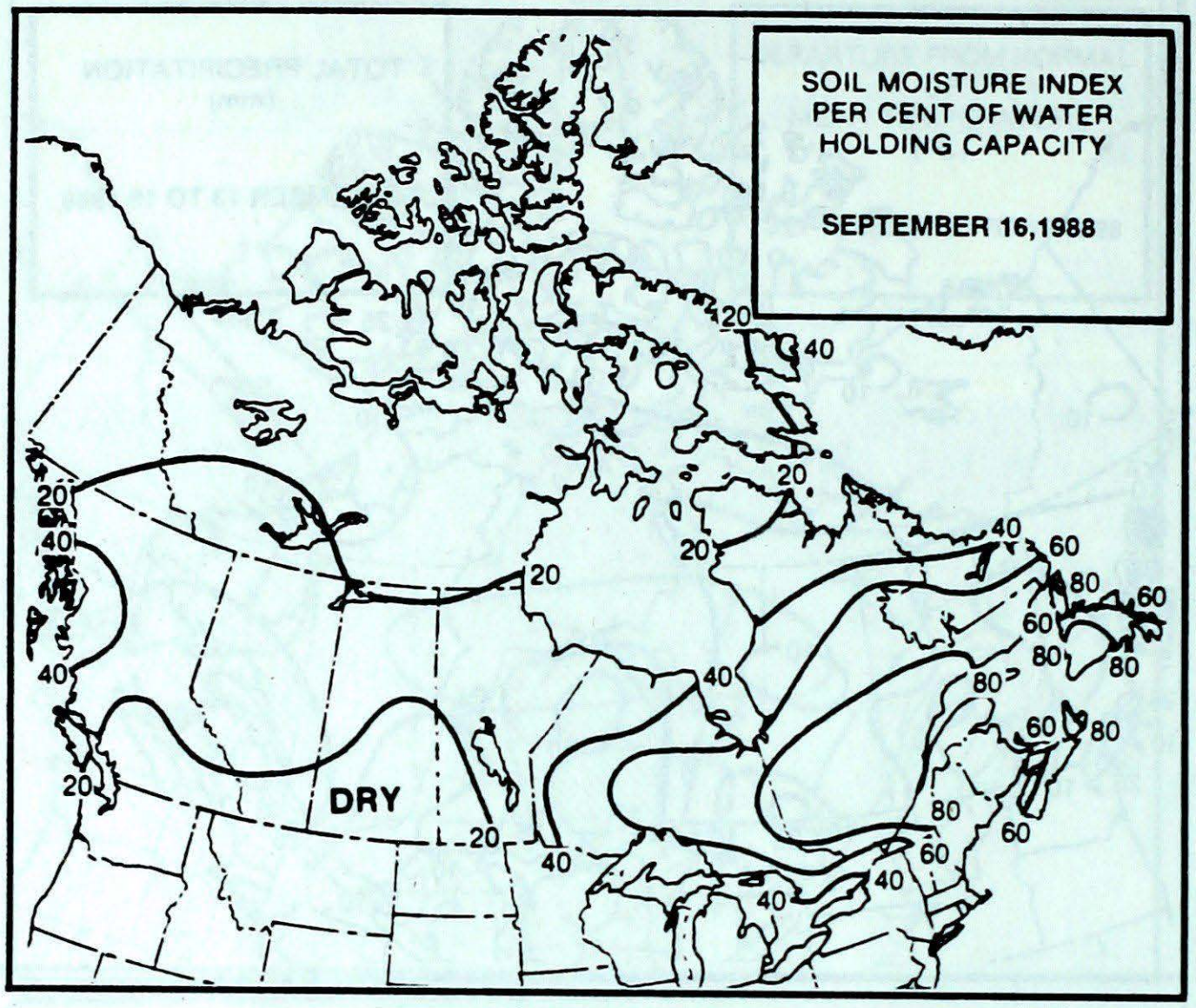


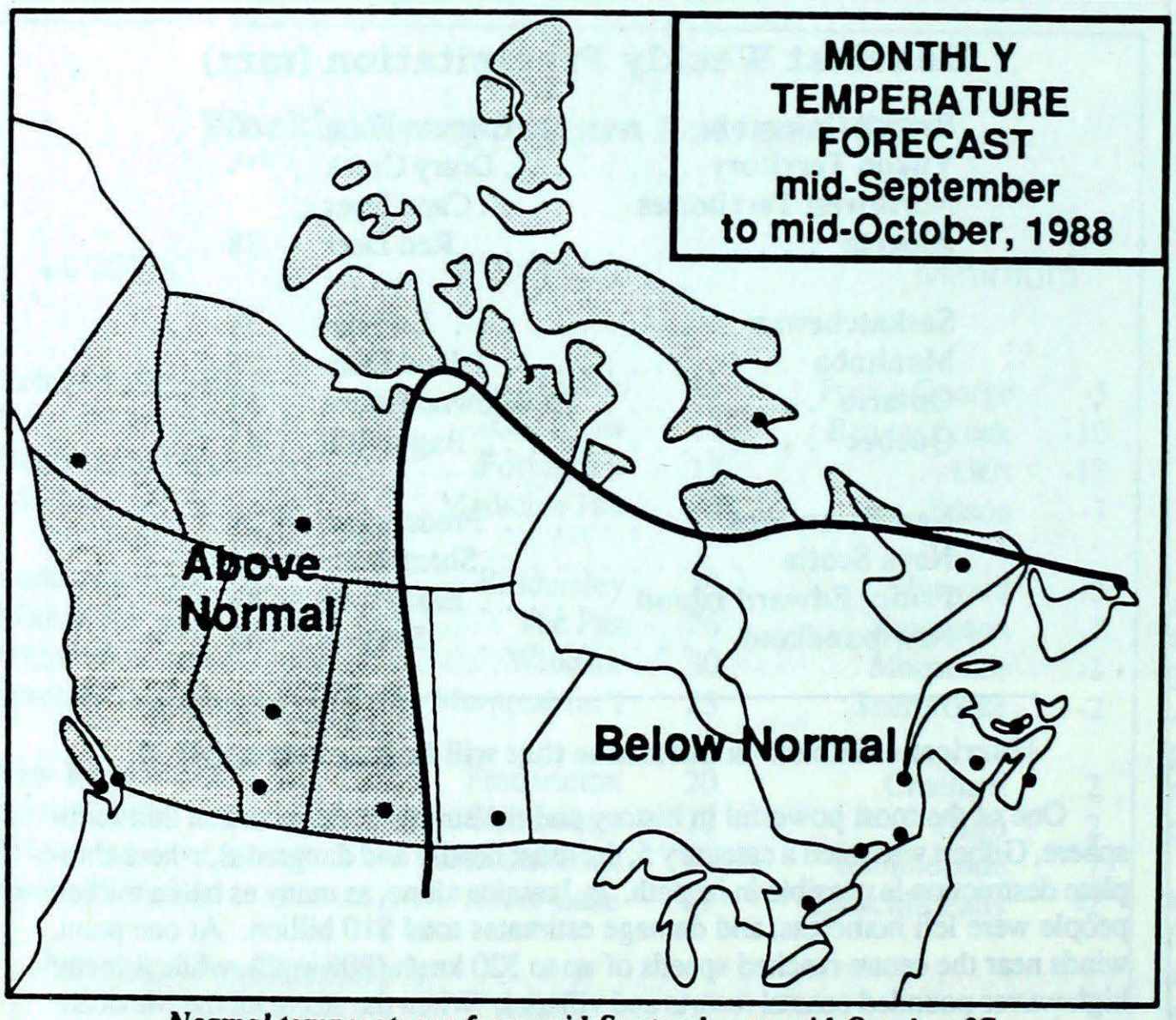

## Heaviest Weekly Precipitation (mm)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **British Columbia** | Estevan Point | 60 |
| **Yukon Territory** | Drury Creek | 14 |
| **Northwest Territories** | Cape Dyer | 40 |
| **Alberta** | Red Deer | 38 |
| **Saskatchewan** | Estevan | 38 |
| **Manitoba** | Island Lake | 26 |
| **Ontario** | Lansdowne House | 57 |
| **Quebec** | Bagotville | 45 |
| **New Brunswick** | Fredericton | 29 |
| **Nova Scotia** | Shearwater | 44 |
| **Prince Edward Island** | East Point | 42 |
| **Newfoundland** | Burgeo | 58 |

### Hurricane Gilbert - a hurricane that will be long remembered

One of the most powerful in history and the strongest on record in this hemisphere, Gilbert was rated a category 5, the most deadly and dangerous, where complete destruction is possible in its path. In Jamaica alone, as many as half a million people were left homeless, and damage estimates total $10 billion. At one point, winds near the centre reached speeds of up to 320 km/h (200 mph), while 8-metre high waves pounded coastal resorts and villages. When the storm hit the Mexican-Texas coastline Friday evening, torrential thunderstorms triggered flash floods and spawned dozens of tornadoes, adding to the destruction. In one week, Gilbert has caused the death of at least 225 people. The power of these storms is awesome. An average hurricane can drop 200 trillion tons of water a day, requiring the energy equivalent of 500,000 atomic bombs such as dropped on Nagasaki.




*Normal temperatures from mid-September to mid-October, °C*

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Whitehorse | 4 | Edmonton | 8 | Quebec | 10 |
| Yellowknife | 3 | Regina | 8 | Fredericton | 10 |
| Iqaluit | -1 | Winnipeg | 9 | Halifax | 12 |
| Vancouver | 12 | Toronto | 12 | Charlottetown | 11 |
| Victoria | 12 | Ottawa | 11 | Goose Bay | 6 |
| Calgary | 8 | Montreal | 12 | St. John's | 9 |

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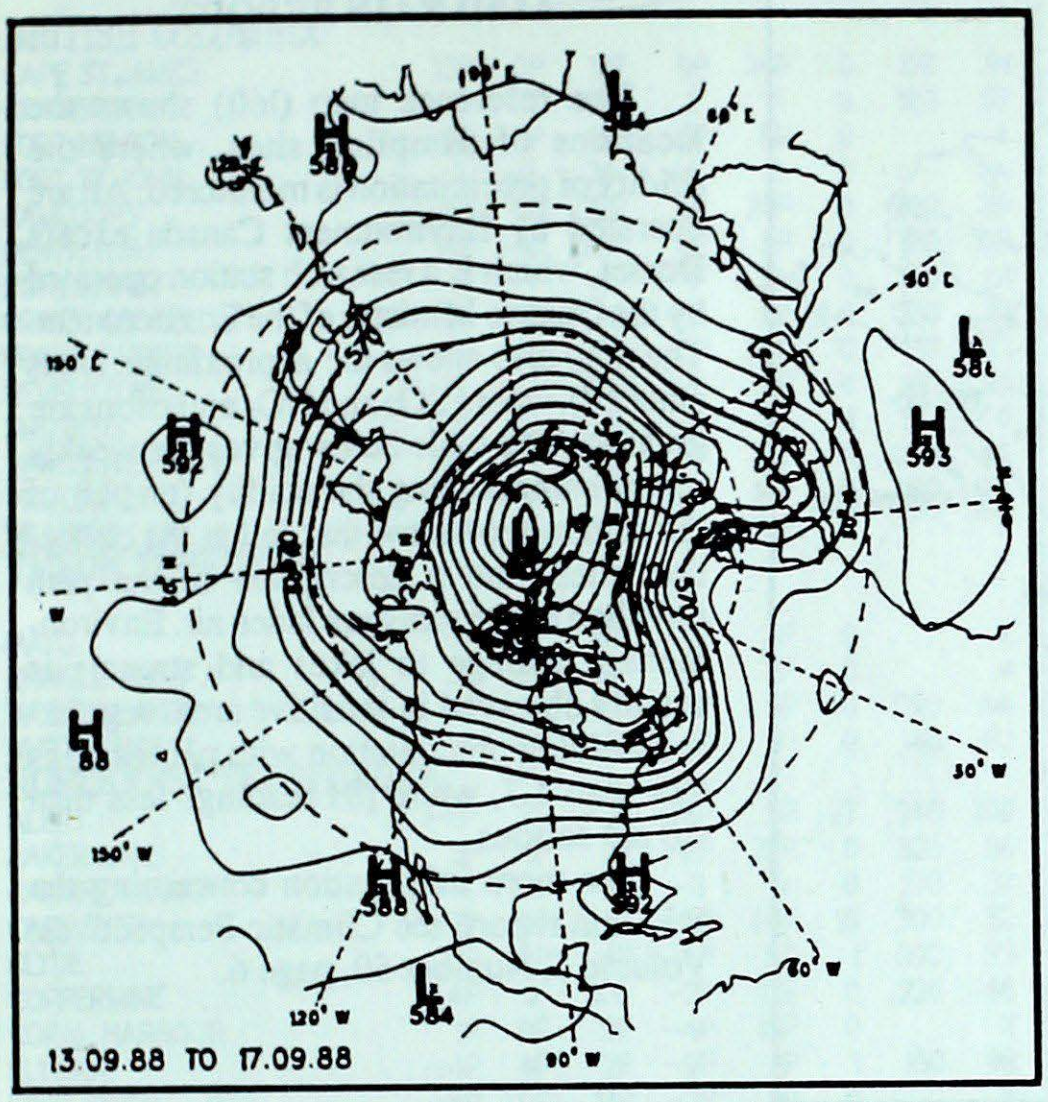
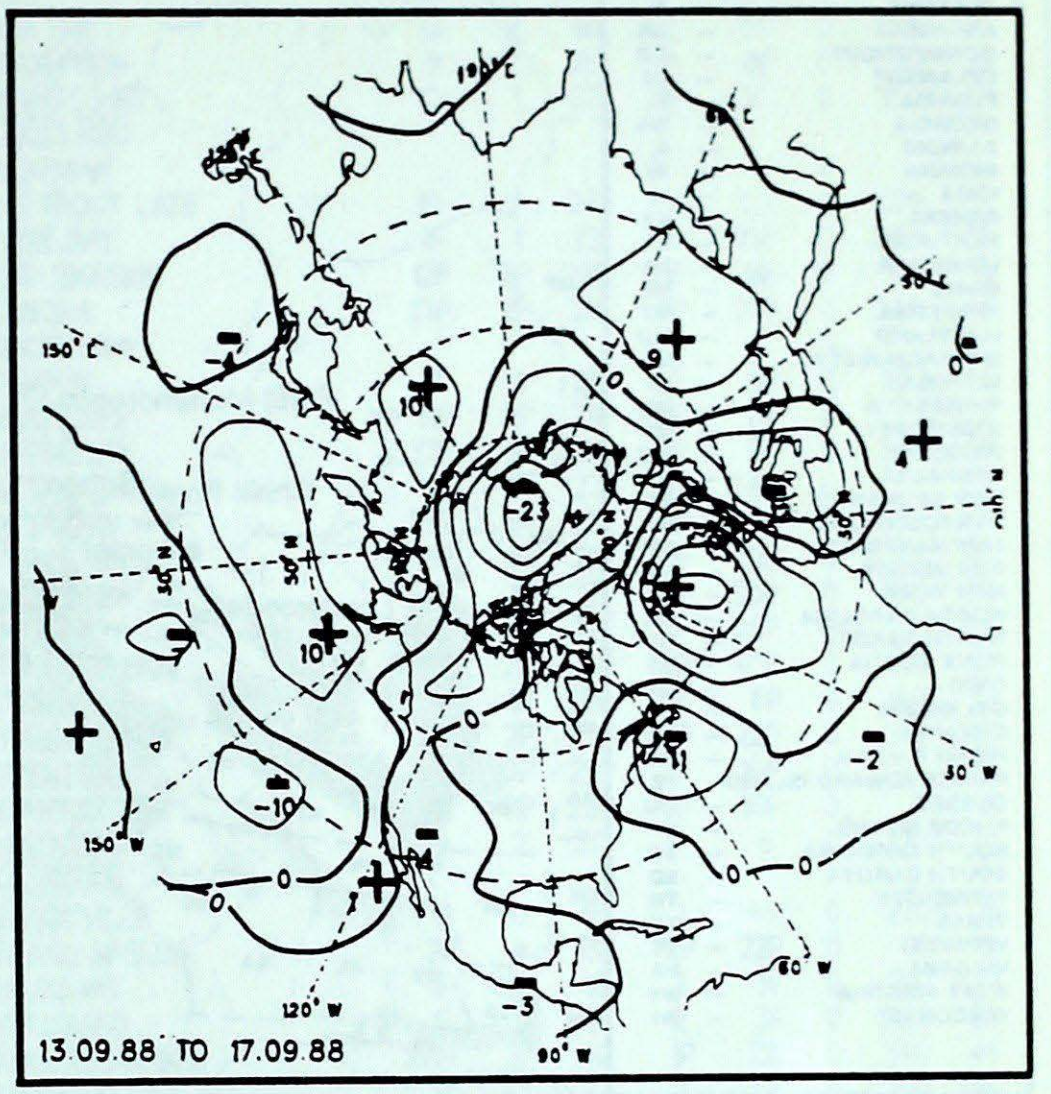
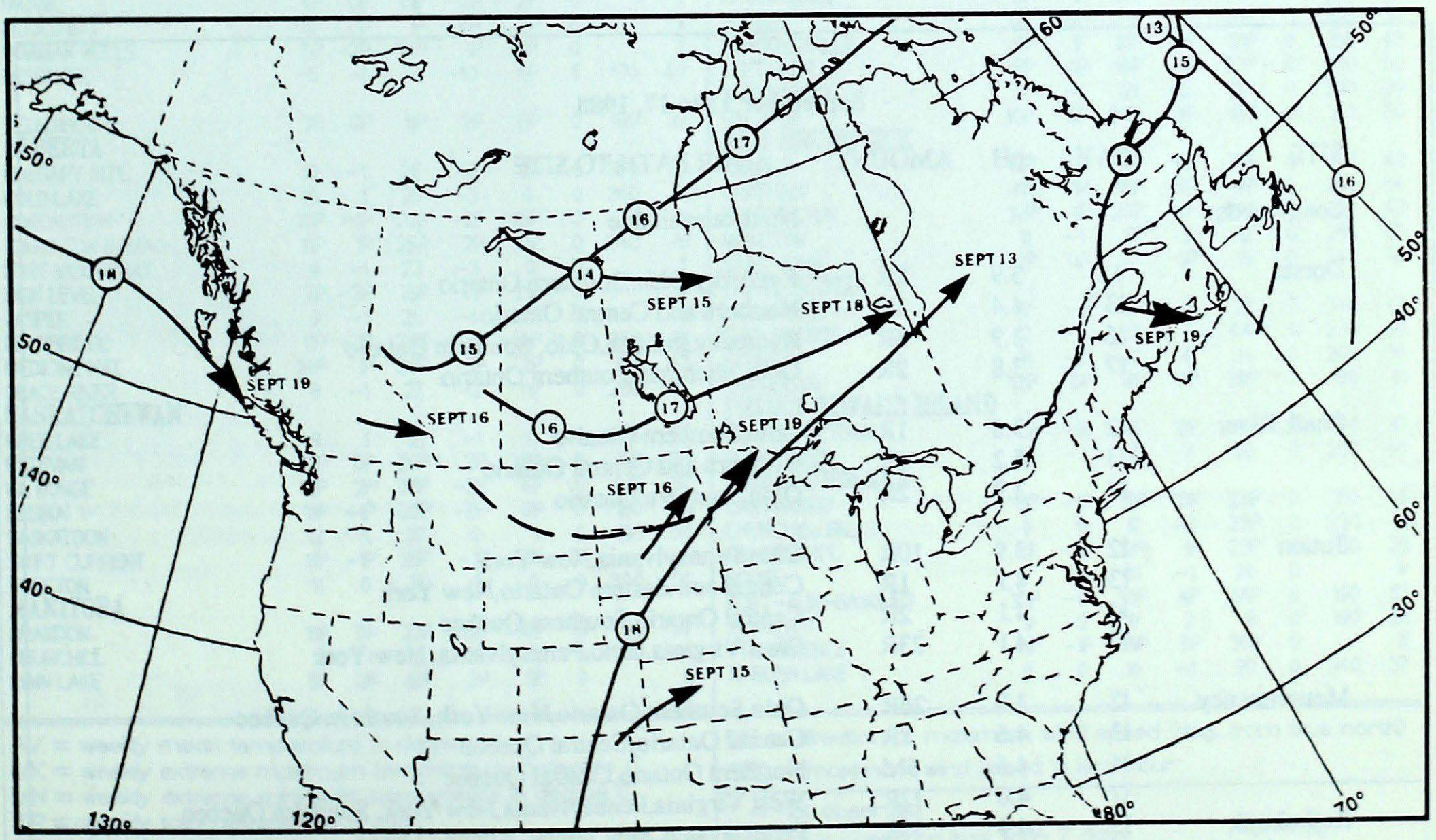
# 50 kPa ATMOSPHERIC CIRCULATION



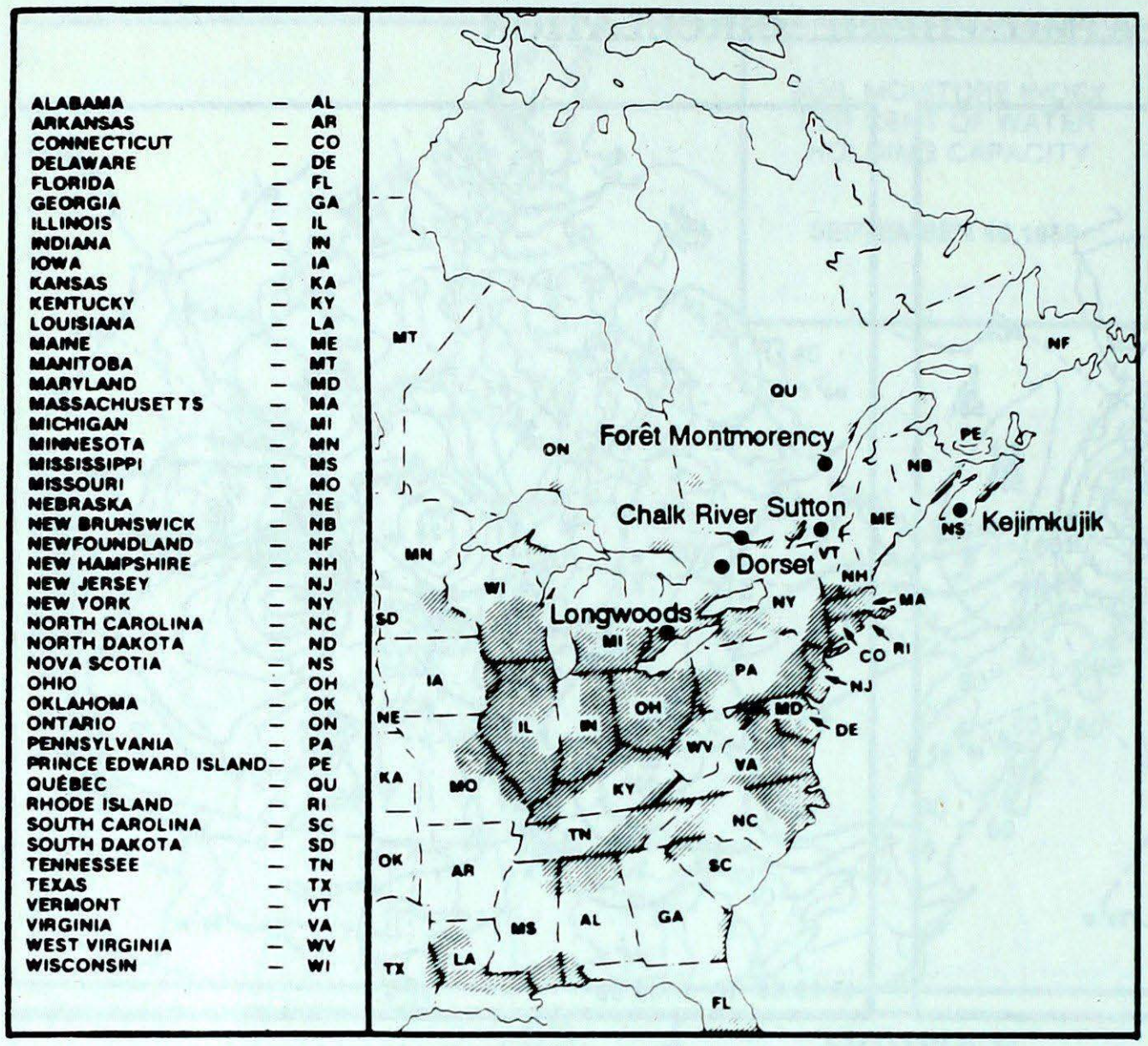

Mean geopotential height
50 kPa level (10 decameter intervals)




Mean geopotential height anomaly
50 kPa level (10 decameter intervals)




Storm track - Position of storm at 12 GMT during the period: September 13 TO 19, 1988




## ACID RAIN REPORT

The reference map (left) shows the locations of sampling sites, where the acidity of precipitation is monitored. All are operated by Environment Canada except Dorset, which is a research station operated by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment. The map also shows the approximate areas (shaded), where $SO_2$ and $NO_x$ emissions are greatest. The table below gives the weekly report summarizing the acidity (or pH) of the acid rain or snow that fell at the collection sites, and a description of the path travelled by the moisture laden air. Environmental damage to lakes and streams is usually observed in sensitive areas regularly receiving precipitation with pH readings less than 4.7, while pH readings less than 4.0 are serious.

For more information concerning the acid rain report, see Climatic Perspectives, Volume 5, Number 50, page 6.

**September 11 to 17, 1988**

| SITE | DAY | pH | AMOUNT | AIR PATH TO SITE |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Longwoods | | | | No data available |
| Dorset | 12 | 3.9 | 2R | Kentucky,Ohio,Southern Ontario |
| | 13 | 4.4 | 1R | Northern and Central Ontario |
| | 16 | 3.9 | 6R | Kentucky,Indiana,Ohio, Southern Ontario |
| | 17 | 3.8 | 2R | Ohio,Michigan,Southern Ontario |
| Chalk River | 12 | 3.8 | 1R | Ohio,Southern Ontario |
| | 13 | 4.2 | 1R | Northern and Central Ontario |
| | 17 | 3.9 | 2R | Ohio,Southern Ontario |
| Sutton | 12 | 3.9 | 10R | Ohio,Pennsylvania,New York |
| | 13 | 4.1 | 1R | Central and Eastern Ontario,New York |
| | 14 | 4.1 | 2R | Central Ontario,Southern Quebec |
| | 17 | 4.1 | 23R | West Virginia,Ohio,Pennsylvania, New York |
| Montmorency | 12 | 3.8 | 26R | Ohio,Southern Ontario,New York, Southern Quebec |
| | 13 | 4.6 | 1R | Central Ontario,Central Quebec |
| | 14 | 4.6 | 5M | Northern Ontario,Central Quebec |
| | 17 | 4.0 | 12R | West Virginia,Pennsylvania,New York, Southern Quebec |
| Kejimkujik | 13 | 4.4 | 16R | Pennsylvania,New Jersey, Atlantic Ocean |

*r = rain (mm), s = snow (cm), m = mixed rain and snow (mm)*

## STATISTICS FOR THE WEEK ENDING 0600 GMT September 20, 1988

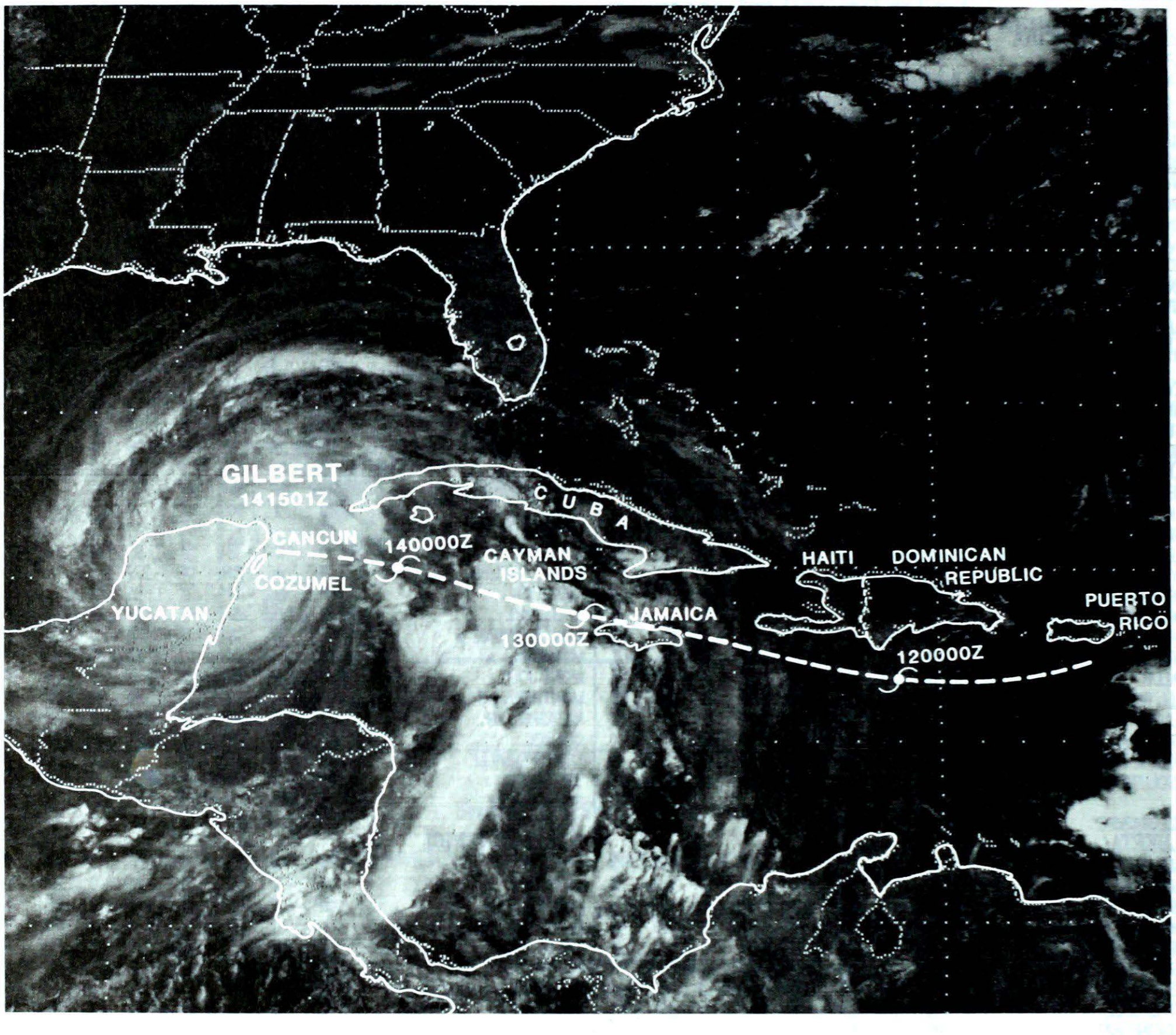
| STATION | TEMPERATURE | | | | PRECIP. | | WIND MX | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | AV | DP | MX | MN | TP | SOG | DIR | SPD |
| **BRITISH COLUMBIA** | | | | | | | | |
| CAPE ST.JAMES | 13P | 0P | 17P | 9P | 34P | 0 | 150 | 91 |
| CRANBROOK | 12 | 1 | 28 | 2 | 11 | 0 | 180 | 57 |
| FORT NELSON | 6P | -3P | 17P | -5P | 11P | 0 | | * |
| FORT ST.JOHN | 7 | -3 | 24 | -4 | 2 | 0 | | * |
| KAMLOOPS | 15P | 0P | 27P | 2P | 20P | 0 | 290 | 35 |
| PENTICTON | 14P | -1P | 29P | 0P | 6P | 0 | 190 | 63 |
| PORT HARDY | 11 | -1 | 17 | 4 | 21 | 0 | 320 | 61 |
| PRINCE GEORGE | 8 | -2 | 24 | -5 | 10 | 0 | 050 | 41 |
| PRINCE RUPERT | 10P | -1P | 15P | 3P | 28P | 0 | 170 | 37 |
| REVELSTOKE | 13 | 1 | 24 | 5 | 11P | * | 160 | 37 |
| SMITHERS | 8 | -2 | 21 | -4 | 9 | 0 | | * |
| VANCOUVER INT'L | 14 | -1 | 25 | 6 | 31 | 0 | 080 | 46 |
| VICTORIA INT'L | 12P | -2P | 24P | 2P | 14P | 0 | 250 | 35 |
| WILLIAMS LAKE | 9P | -2 | 26P | -2P | 14P | 0 | | X |
| **YUKON TERRITORY** | | | | | | | | |
| MAYO | 6P | -2P | 14P | -6P | 3P | 0 | | X |
| SHINGLE POINT A | 3P | 0P | 15P | -5P | 1P | 0 | | * |
| WATSON LAKE | 6P | -2P | 15P | -3P | 5P | 0 | 090 | 44 |
| WHITEHORSE | 5 | -3 | 13 | -5 | 7 | 0 | 140 | 63 |
| **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES** | | | | | | | | |
| ALERT | -8P | 3P | -2P | -18P | 5P | 27 | 240 | 109 |
| BAKER LAKE | 3P | 1P | 7P | -2P | 22P | 0 | 320 | 56 |
| CAMBRIDGE BAY | 1 | 1 | 6 | -3 | 3 | 0 | 270 | 37 |
| CAPE DYER | -2P | 0P | 2P | -3P | 40P | 16 | 300 | 52 |
| CLYDE | 0P | 0P | 4P | -4P | 2P | 1 | 090 | 33 |
| COPPERMINE | 4P | 2 | 10P | -2P | 17P | 0 | 220 | 46 |
| CORAL HARBOUR | 1P | 0P | 9P | -4P | 18P | 0 | | X |
| EUREKA | -4P | 4P | 2P | -9P | 1P | 1 | 160 | 98 |
| FORT SMITH | 8P | 0P | 17P | -2P | 9P | 0 | | X |
| IQALUIT | 2P | 0P | 7P | -2P | 17P | 0 | 140 | 44 |
| HALL BEACH | 1P | 1P | 5P | -3P | 2P | 0 | 350 | 52 |
| INUVIK | 4P | 0P | 15P | -3P | 2P | 0 | | X |
| MOULD BAY | -6P | 0P | 1P | -15P | 2P | 4 | | X |
| NORMAN WELLS | 5P | -2P | 14P | 1P | 1P | 0 | | X |
| RESOLUTE | -6 | -1 | -1 | -10 | 4P | 6 | 190 | 43 |
| YELLOWKNIFE | 7P | 0P | 11P | 2P | 8P | 0 | 180 | 37 |
| **ALBERTA** | | | | | | | | |
| CALGARY INT'L | 10 | -1 | 26 | -2 | 15 | 0 | 350 | 59 |
| COLD LAKE | 10 | 1 | 25 | -3 | 4 | 0 | 360 | 31 |
| CORONATION | 10P | -1P | 26P | -2P | 16P | 0 | | * |
| EDMONTON NAMAO | 11P | 1P | 25P | 2P | 17P | 0 | 340 | 41 |
| FORT MCMURRAY | 9 | -1 | 23 | -3 | 0 | 0 | | X |
| HIGH LEVEL | 7P | -3P | 18P | 0P | 21P | 0 | | * |
| JASPER | 9 | -1 | 26 | -4 | 15 | 0 | | X |
| LETHBRIDGE | 11P | -2P | 29P | 2P | 14P | 0 | 250 | 33 |
| MEDICINE HAT | 14P | 1P | 30P | 5P | 2P | 0 | 190 | 43 |
| PEACE RIVER | 8 | -1 | 27 | -2 | 11P | 0 | 280 | 37 |
| **SASKATCHEWAN** | | | | | | | | |
| CREE LAKE | 9 | 1 | 21 | -1 | 6 | 0 | 350 | 37 |
| ESTEVAN | 12P | 0P | 29P | 3P | 38P | 0 | 150 | 39 |
| LA RONGE | 12P | 2P | 26P | -2P | 6P | 0 | 010 | 37 |
| REGINA | 11P | -1P | 25P | -2P | 0P | 0 | 150 | 48 |
| SASKATOON | 12 | 1 | 27 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 190 | 56 |
| SWIFT CURRENT | 11P | -1P | 25P | -1P | 3P | 0 | | X |
| YORKTON | 11 | 0 | 25 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 300 | 65 |
| **MANITOBA** | | | | | | | | |
| BRANDON | 11P | 0P | 22P | 2P | 16P | 0 | 020 | 57 |
| CHURCHILL | 6 | 1 | 15 | 1 | 11P | 0 | 320 | 44 |
| LYNN LAKE | 8P | 2P | 18P | 2P | 5P | 0 | | * |

| STATION | TEMPERATURE | | | | PRECIP. | | WIND MX | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | AV | DP | MX | MN | TP | SOG | DIR | SPD |
| THE PAS | 12 | 2 | 26 | 2 | 19P | 0 | 360 | 50 |
| THOMPSON | 9 | 2 | 25 | -1 | 9P | 0 | 030 | 39 |
| WINNIPEG INT'L | 13 | 1 | 23 | 4 | 16 | 0 | 350 | 61 |
| **ONTARIO** | | | | | | | | |
| ATIKOKAN | | | | | | 0 | | |
| BIG TROUT LAKE | 10 | 2 | 24 | 3 | 53 | 0 | 070 | 63 |
| GORE BAY | 15 | 1 | 23 | 6 | 10P | 0 | 300 | 56 |
| KAPUSKASING | 12P | 3P | 23P | 3P | 11P | 0 | 170 | 39 |
| KENORA | 13P | 2P | 21P | 4P | 25P | 0 | 340 | 44 |
| KINGSTON | | | | | | 0 | | |
| LONDON | 17 | 1 | 25 | 6 | 5P | 0 | 180 | 48 |
| MOOSONEE | 11P | 2P | 21P | -1P | 11P | 0 | | * |
| NORTH BAY | 12P | 1P | 24P | 2P | 5P | 0 | 340 | 39 |
| OTTAWA INT'L | 13 | 0 | 23 | 4 | 34P | 0 | | X |
| PETAWAWA | 12P | 1P | 22P | 0P | 6P | 0 | | X |
| PICKLE LAKE | 11P | 1P | 21P | 4P | 29P | 0 | 020 | 46 |
| RED LAKE | 12 | 1 | 21 | 3 | 25P | 0 | 030 | 50 |
| SUDBURY | 13 | 1 | 23 | 3 | 20P | 0 | | X |
| THUNDER BAY | 13P | 2P | 22P | 3P | 40P | 0 | 100 | 37 |
| TIMMINS | 11P | 1P | 23P | 0P | 6P | 0 | 140 | 33 |
| TORONTO INT'L | 17P | 2P | 27P | 5P | 22P | 0 | 310 | 46 |
| TRENTON | 15P | 0P | 25P | 3P | 10P | 0 | | X |
| WIARTON | 14P | 0P | 23P | 4P | 10P | 0 | | X |
| WINDSOR | 19 | 2 | 30 | 9 | 5 | 0 | 250 | 76 |
| **QUEBEC** | | | | | | | | |
| BAGOTVILLE | 11 | 0 | 18 | 2 | 45 | 0 | 270 | 35 |
| BLANC SABLON | 7P | * | 15P | 0P | 22P | 0 | | X |
| INUKJUAK | 6 | 2 | 10 | 2 | 11 | 0 | 310 | 41 |
| KUUJJUAQ | 5 | 0 | 17 | -2 | 3P | 0 | 280 | 39 |
| KUUJJUARAPIK | 10P | 3P | 19 | 1P | 22 | 0 | 340 | 46 |
| MANIWAKI | 11 | -1 | 22 | 1 | 13 | 0 | 310 | 44 |
| MONT JOLI | 10P | -1P | 15P | 6P | 28P | 0 | 240 | 61 |
| MONTREAL INT'L | 13 | -1 | 23 | 3 | 24P | 0 | 240 | 43 |
| NATASHQUAN | 8P | -1P | 14P | 1P | 36P | 0 | 270 | 52 |
| QUEBEC | 12P | 0P | 22P | 2P | 26P | 0 | 320 | 39 |
| SCHEFFERVILLE | 6P | 1P | 16P | 0P | 18P | 0 | 350 | 48 |
| SEPT-ILES | 8P | -1P | 14P | 1P | 33P | 0 | 080 | 50 |
| SHERBROOKE | 11 | -1 | 21 | -2 | 37 | 0 | 290 | 39 |
| VAL D'OR | 10P | 0P | 20P | 3P | 19P | 0 | 310 | 50 |
| **NEW BRUNSWICK** | | | | | | | | |
| CHARLO | 10P | -1P | 17P | 4P | 25P | 0 | 270 | 43 |
| CHATHAM | 11P | -1P | 18P | 2P | 19P | 0 | 290 | 54 |
| FREDERICTON | 12P | -1P | 20P | 4P | 29P | 0 | 320 | 43 |
| MONCTON | 11 | -1 | 17 | 2 | 12 | 0 | 260 | 50 |
| SAINT JOHN | 12P | 0P | 20 | 6P | 19 | 0 | 340 | 41 |
| **NOVA SCOTIA** | | | | | | | | |
| GREENWOOD | 12 | -1 | 18 | 5 | 22 | 0 | 340 | 48 |
| SHEARWATER | 12 | -2 | 19 | 7 | 44 | 0 | 330 | 39 |
| SYDNEY | 11 | -2 | 17 | 4 | 34 | 0 | 200 | 56 |
| YARMOUTH | 13P | 0P | 17P | 9P | 39P | 0 | 180 | 41 |
| **PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND** | | | | | | | | |
| CHARLOTTETOWN | 12P | -1P | 17P | 8P | 36P | 0 | 150 | 37 |
| SUMMERSIDE | 12 | -1 | 16 | 7 | 20 | 0 | 250 | 46 |
| **NEWFOUNDLAND** | | | | | | | | |
| CARTWRIGHT | 8P | -1P | 17P | 0P | 23P | 0 | 150 | 46 |
| CHURCHILL FALLS | 6 | 0 | 17 | -2 | 23P | 0 | 330 | 41 |
| GANDER INT'L | 9P | -2P | 17P | 1P | 23P | 0 | 170 | 78 |
| GOOSE | 7 | -2 | 19 | -1 | 24 | 0 | | * |
| PORT-AUX-BASQUES | 10P | -1P | 14P | 4P | 46P | 0 | 190 | 52 |
| ST JOHN'S | 9 | -2 | 17 | 2 | 8 | 0 | 190 | 81 |
| ST LAWRENCE | 11P | -1P | 16P | 5P | 36P | 0 | | X |
| WABUSH LAKE | 6 | 0 | 16 | -1 | 20 | 0 | 340 | 37 |

AV = weekly mean temperature in degree C
MX = weekly extreme maximum temperature in degree C
MN = weekly extreme minimum temperature in degree C
TP = weekly total precipitation in mm
DP = departure of mean temperature from normal in degree C
SOG = snow depth on ground in cm, last day of the period

DIR = direction of maximum wind speed (deg. from true north)
SPD = maximum wind speed in km/hour

X = not observed
P = value based on less than 7 days
* = missing




Hurricane Gilbert as seen from the GOES satellite 35,800 km above the equator, September 14, 1988. After leaving a trail of damage and destruction because of winds and 200 mm rainfalls in St. Lucia, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, it caused more devastation in the Dominican Republic. The full force of this intensifying storm hit Jamaica, the Cayman Islands, Cancun and Cozumel. At the time this photo was taken, winds were reaching 300 km/h around the eye of the storm and the central pressure had dropped to 88.5 kPa or 885 millibars. The previous record was 89.2 kPa in a hurricane that struck the Florida Keys in 1935.