

# Climatic Perspectives



*ARCH. C.2.*

June 4 to 10, 1990

**A weekly review of Canadian climate and water**

Vol. 12 No. 23

## Persistent rains hamper agriculture and cause flooding in B.C.

*Five weeks ago there was concern about a drought. Now many reservoirs and rivers are overflowing due to record rainfalls.*

Heavy rains are causing washouts, mud slides and flooding in many parts of B.C. There have been record rainfalls in the Okanagan Valley in May and June, as well as in a number of other areas of the province. In the first ten days Kelowna has already set a new June precipitation record, and both May and June, 1990, are tied as the fourth wettest months ever. Lake Okanagan and other valley lakes have been rising 2 to 5 centimetres per day, and there is serious flooding around Lake Okanagan. The water level of Lake Okanagan is 61 cm higher now than it was two years ago, and the lake is expected to rise as much as another half-metre before it peaks within the next two weeks. Luckily, freezing levels have been relatively low, delaying melting of the high mountain snowpack. But at the same time, snow continues to accumulate above the 1500-metre level, and the snowpack is now at near-record levels.

The combination of a lack of sunshine, cool temperatures and soggy weather is taking its toll on local fruit crops, especially cherries. Spraying operations are being hampered. Farmers

are unable to harvest the lush hay crop the wet weather has produced, and in some cases pastures are under water.

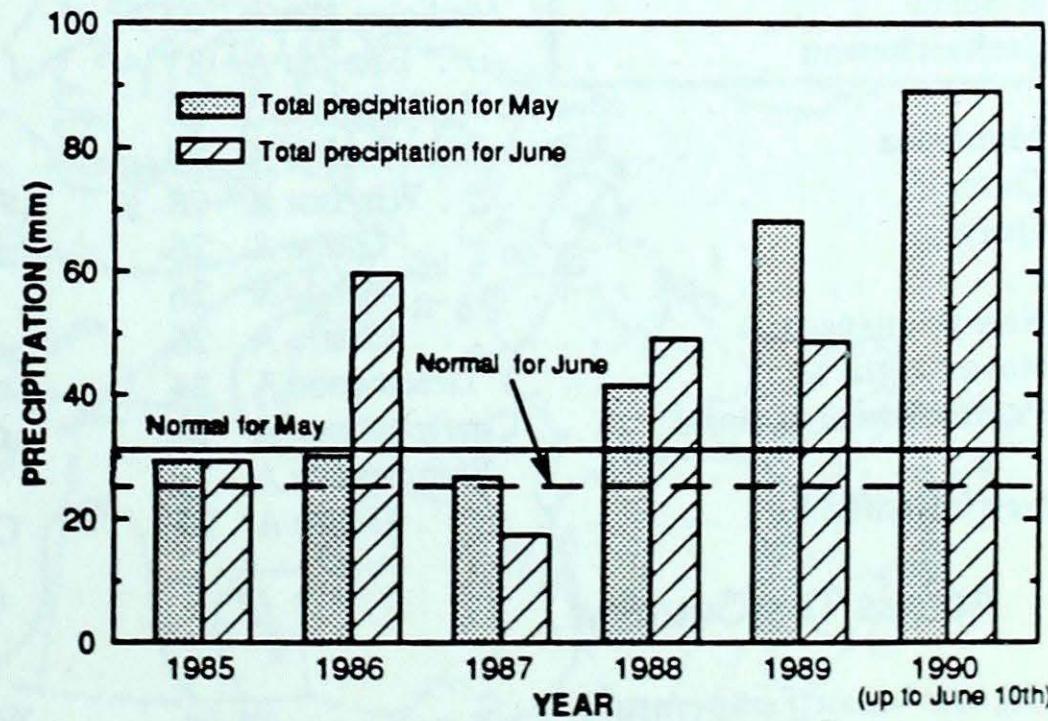
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### More severe weather

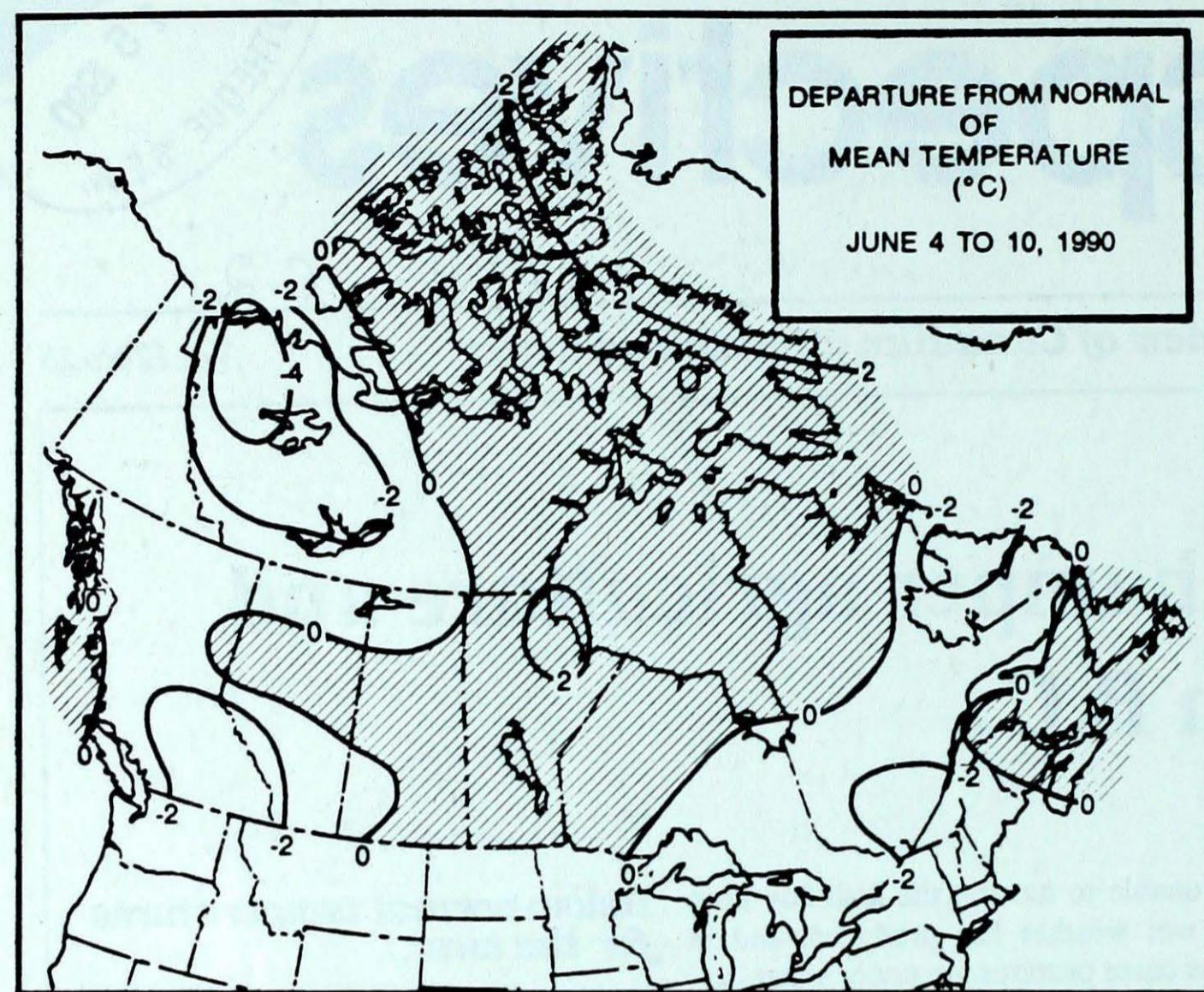
In Alberta a squall line formed west of Red Deer on June 10, with several sightings of funnel clouds in the Olds - Sylvan Lake areas. A tornado briefly touched down near Olds. On June 4 and 5, and again on June 9, heavy thunderstorms spawned funnel clouds and produced golf-ball size hail in a number of Saskatchewan and Manitoba locations. In Ontario, a line of thunderstorms, which developed in the southern Georgian Bay area on June 9, were associated with golf-ball size hail and strong winds. In the Lake Simcoe area, hail covered the ground and heavy downpours caused flooding.

### **Below-normal temperatures for the west...**

For the week of June 18, below-normal temperatures are forecast across most of British Columbia, the Prairies, Yukon and the Northwest Territories. Precipitation is likely for British Columbia, the Prairies and Nova Scotia. Ontario, the southern half of Quebec and the Atlantic provinces will experience above-normal temperatures. Newfoundland can expect temperatures 2 to 4 degrees above the normal.



Record amounts of rain have fallen at Kelowna during May and the first 10 days of June, 1990.



### Weekly normal temperatures (°C)

	max.	min.
Whitehorse A	18.3	4.7
Iqaluit A	4.5	-1.2
Yellowknife A	16.1	6.1
Vancouver Int'l A	18.8	10.4
Victoria Int'l A	18.8	9.0
Calgary Int'l A	19.2	6.2
Edmonton Int'l A	20.5	6.8
Regina A	21.9	8.5
Saskatoon A	21.5	8.4
Winnipeg Int'l A	22.1	9.7
Ottawa Int'l A	23.1	11.0
Toronto (Pearson Int'l A)	23.5	10.6
Montréal Int'l A	22.6	11.0
Québec A	20.7	8.5
Fredericton A	20.7	7.8
Saint John A	17.5	7.2
Halifax (Shearwater)	17.0	8.0
Charlottetown A	17.0	7.5
Goose A	14.8	3.8
St John's A	13.3	4.1

### Weekly temperature and precipitation extremes

	Maximum temperature (°C)	Minimum temperature (°C)	Heaviest precipitation (mm)
British Columbia . . . . .	Kamloops A 23	Smithers A 1	Estevan Point (aut) 88
Yukon Territory . . . . .	Whitehorse A 24	Komakuk Beach A -4	Watson Lake A 15
Northwest Territories . . . . .	Hay River A 27	MacKar Inlet -8	Fort Simpson A 31
Alberta . . . . .	Medicine Hat A 27	High Level A 0	Red Deer A 61
Saskatchewan . . . . .	Estevan A 33	Cree Lake 0	North Battleford A 32
. . . . .	Rockglen (aut) 33		
Manitoba . . . . .	Portage La Prairie A 30	Thompson A -2	Portage La Prairie A 55
Ontario . . . . .	Windsor A 28	Moosonee -2	Pickle Lake 41
Québec . . . . .	Gaspe A 26	La Grande Rivière -5	Sherbrooke A 64
. . . . .	Val-d'Or 26		
New Brunswick . . . . .	Charlo A 26	St Stephen (aut) 3	Miscou Island (aut) 27
Nova Scotia . . . . .	Greenwood A 24	Truro 5	Sable Island 45
Prince Edward Island . . . . .	Charlottetown A 23	Charlottetown A 6	Charlottetown A 11
. . . . .	Summerside A 23		
Newfoundland . . . . .	Goose A 25	Churchill Falls A -4	St Lawrence 81

Across The Country...

Highest Mean Temperature . . . . .	Windsor A(ONT) 18
Lowest Mean Temperature . . . . .	Resolute A(NWT) -3

**CLIMATIC PERSPECTIVES**  
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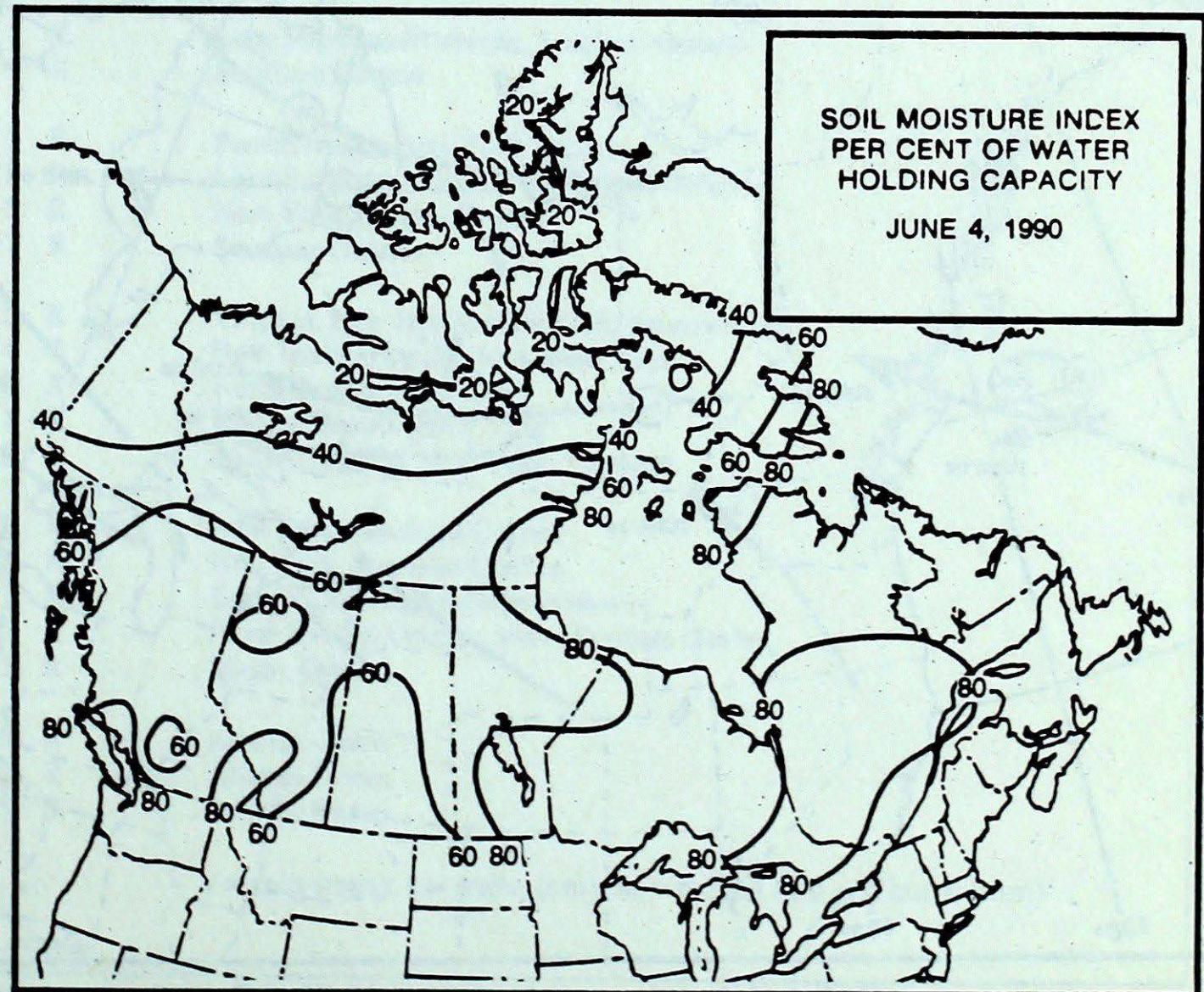
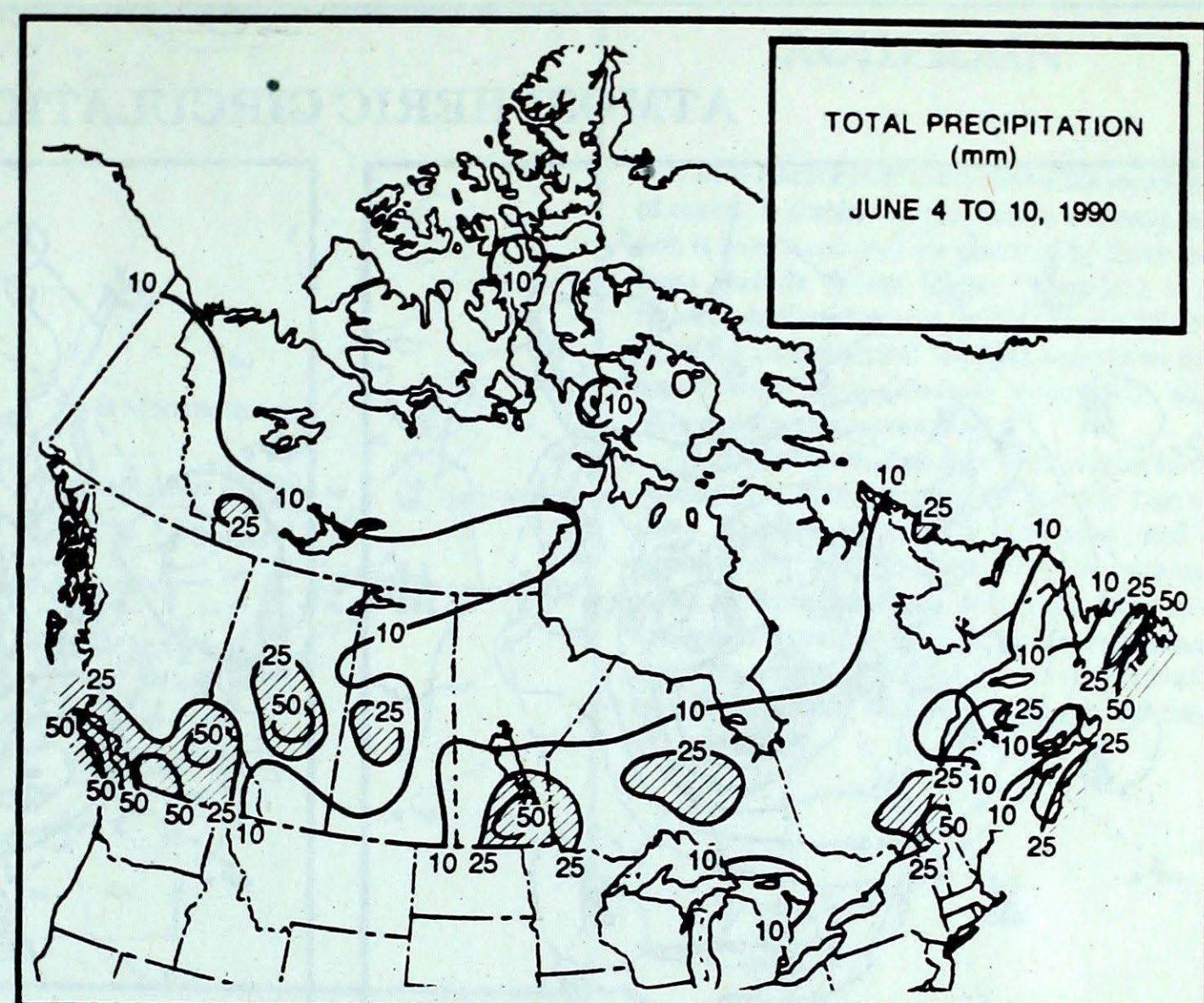
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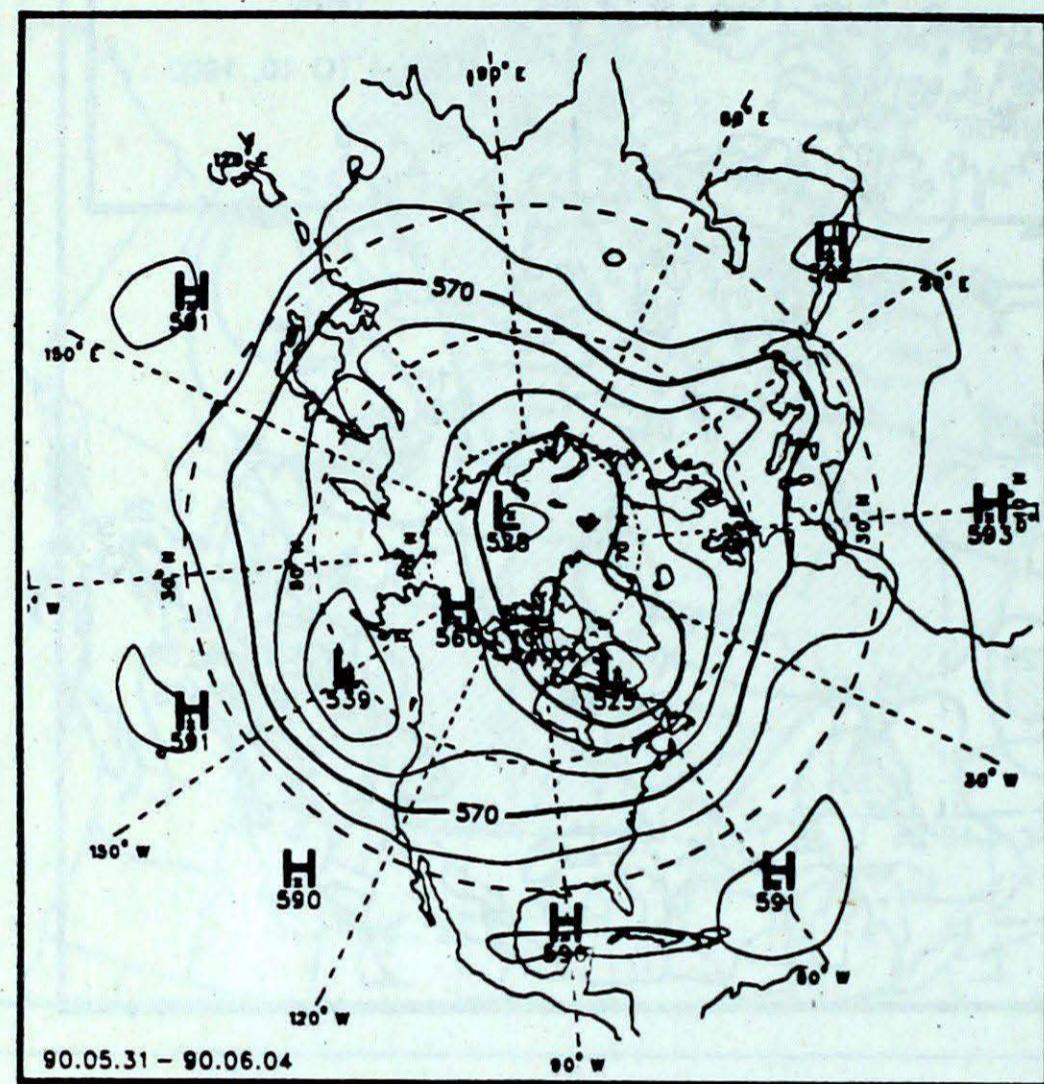
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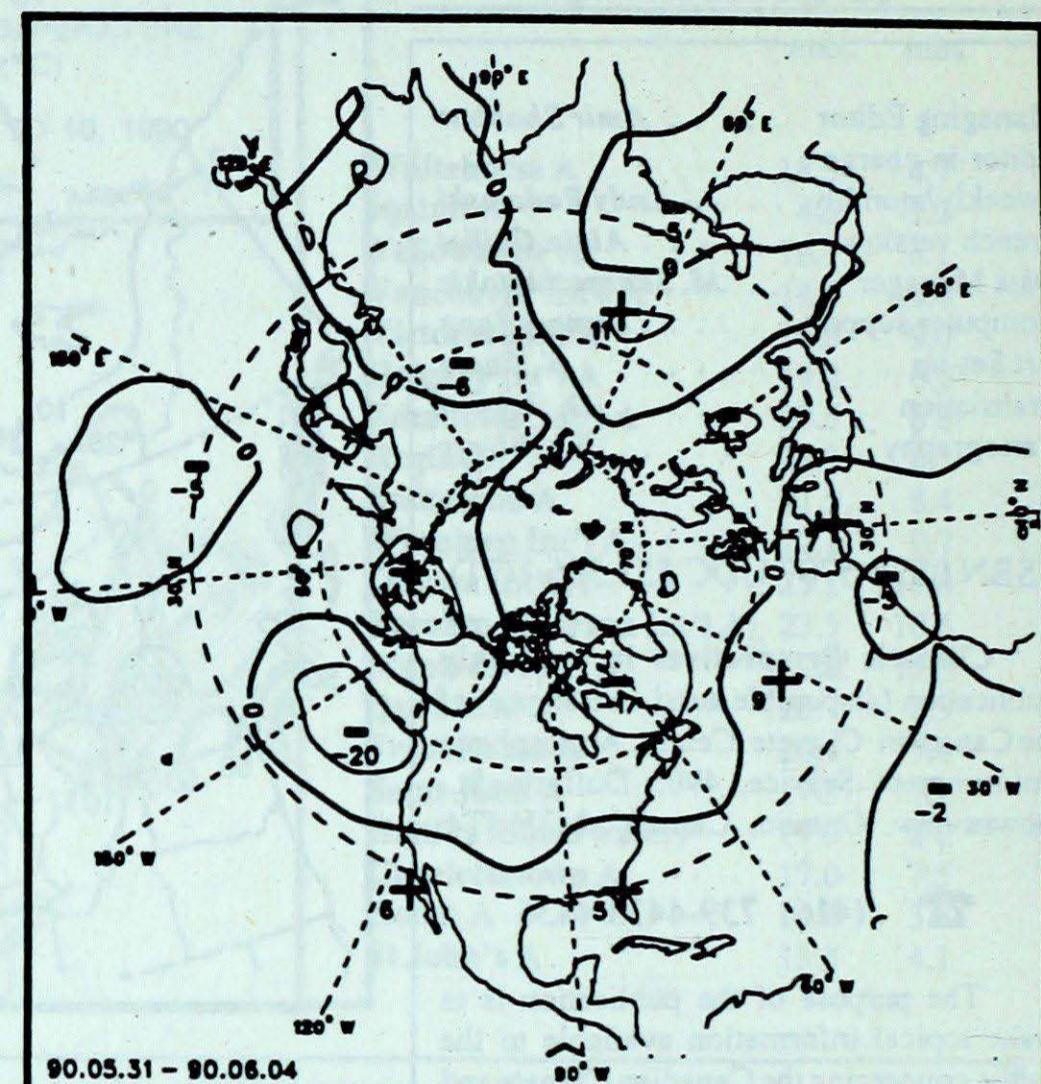
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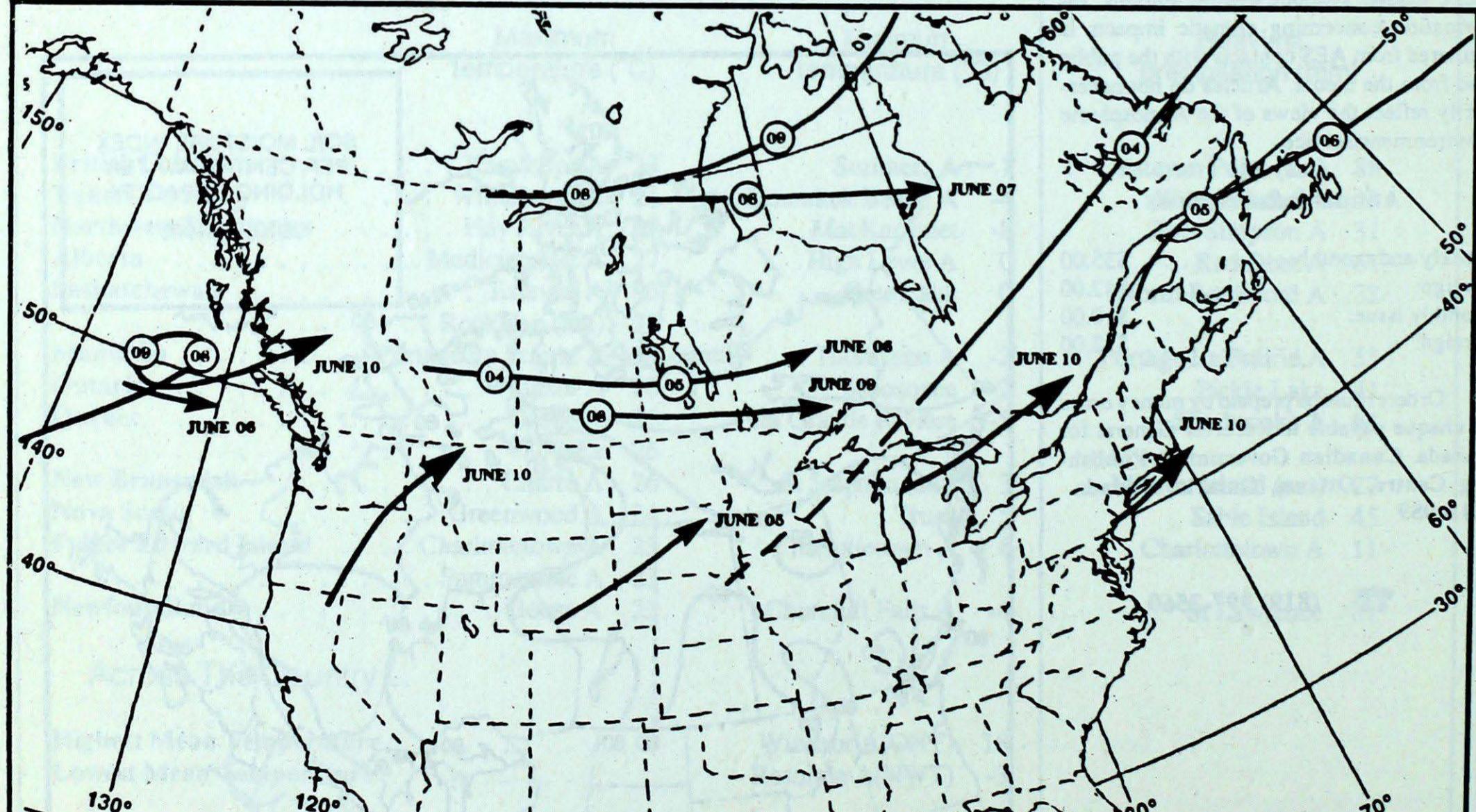
## ATMOSPHERIC CIRCULATION



Mean geopotential height  
50-kPa level (10-decametre intervals)



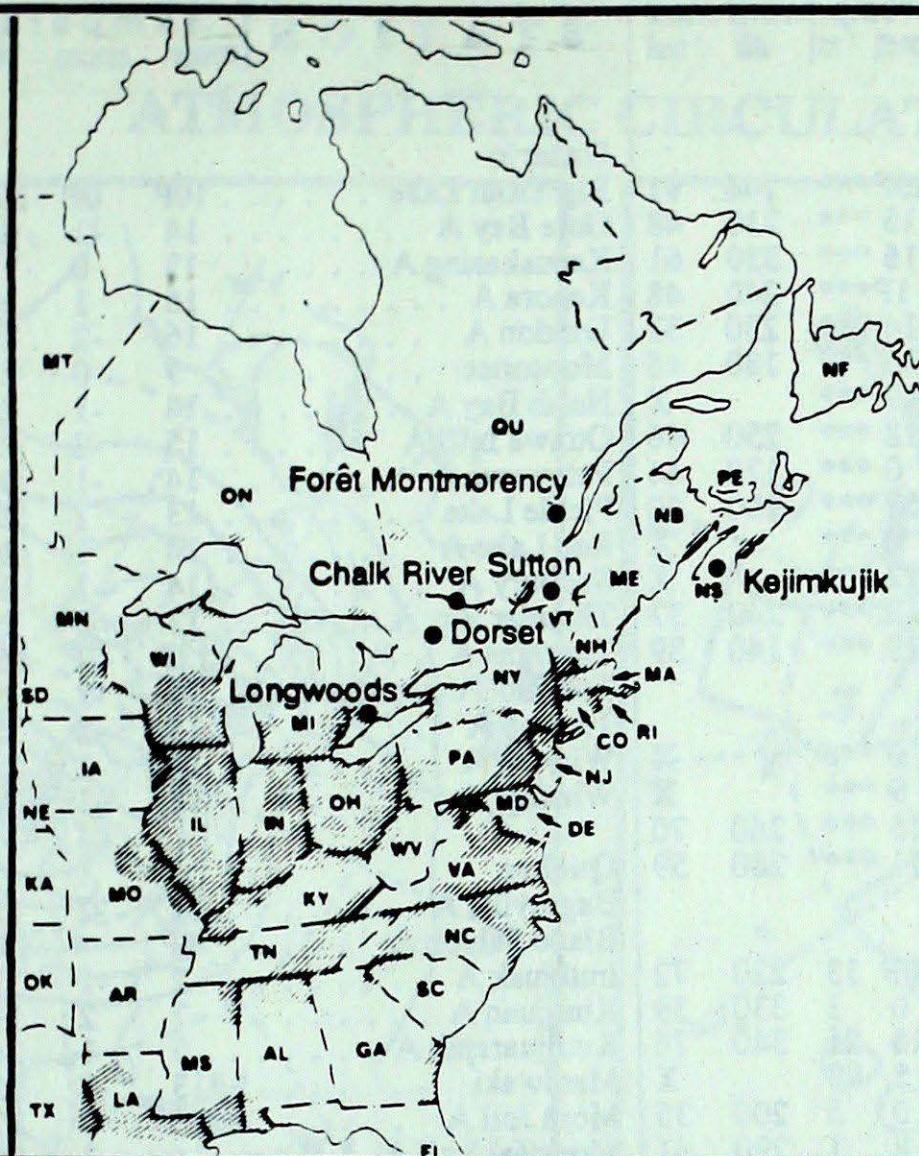
Mean geopotential height anomaly  
50-kPa level (10-decametre intervals)



Tracks of low pressure centres at 12:00 U.T. each day during the period.

ALABAMA  
ARKANSAS  
CONNECTICUT  
DELAWARE  
FLORIDA  
GEORGIA  
ILLINOIS  
INDIANA  
IOWA  
KANSAS  
KENTUCKY  
LOUISIANA  
MAINE  
MANITOBA  
MARYLAND  
MASSACHUSETTS  
MICHIGAN  
MINNESOTA  
MISSISSIPPI  
MISSOURI  
NEBRASKA  
NEW BRUNSWICK  
NEWFOUNDLAND  
NEW HAMPSHIRE  
NEW JERSEY  
NEW YORK  
NORTH CAROLINA  
NORTH DAKOTA  
NOVA SCOTIA  
OHIO  
OKLAHOMA  
ONTARIO  
PENNSYLVANIA  
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND  
QUEBEC  
RHODE ISLAND  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
SOUTH DAKOTA  
TENNESSEE  
TEXAS  
VERMONT  
VIRGINIA  
WEST VIRGINIA  
WISCONSIN

— AL  
— AR  
— CO  
— DE  
— FL  
— GA  
— IL  
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— OH  
— OK  
— ON  
— PA  
— PE  
— OU  
— RI  
— SC  
— SD  
— TN  
— TX  
— VT  
— VA  
— WV  
— WI



## ACID RAIN

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<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> emissions are greatest.

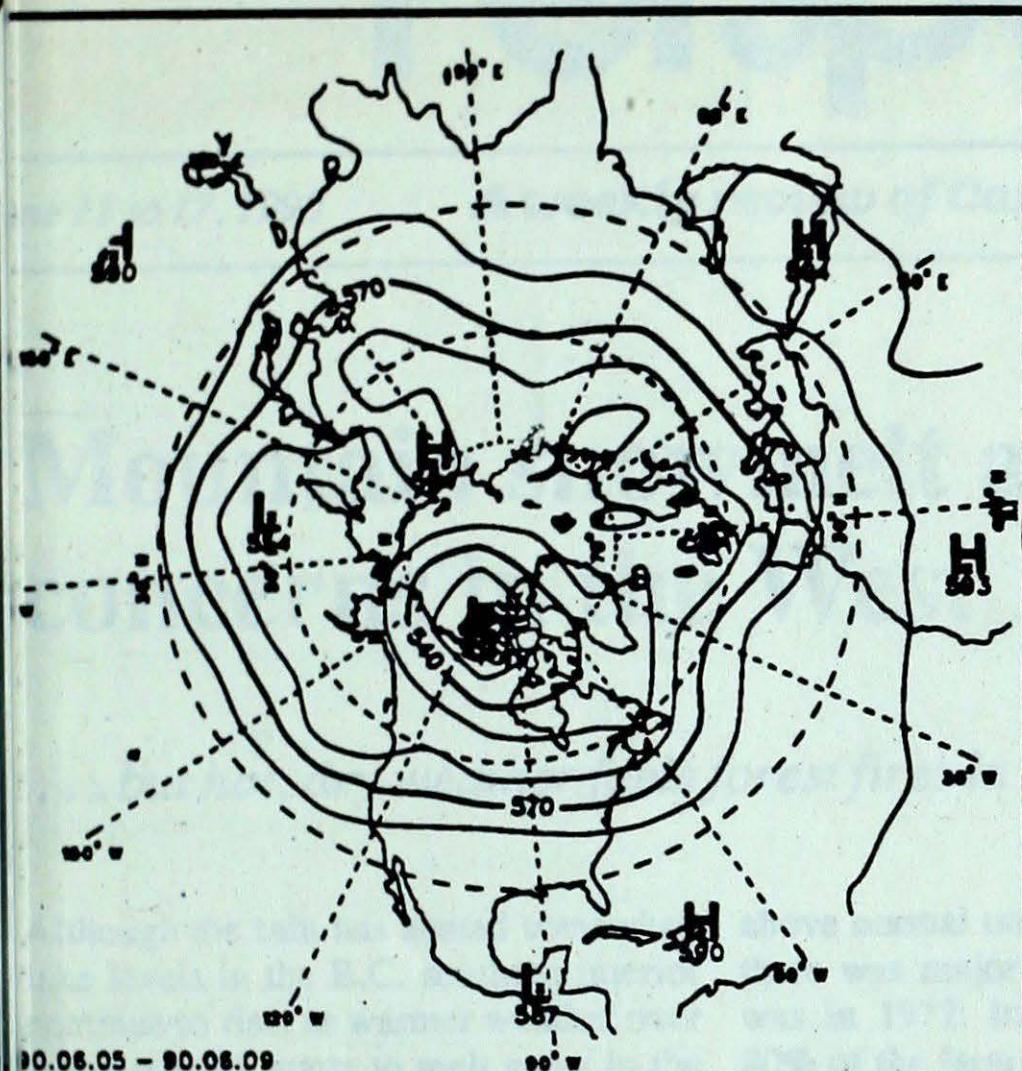
The table below gives the weekly report summarizing the acidity (or pH) of the acid rain or snow that fell at the collection sites, and a description of the path travelled by the moisture laden air. Environmental damage to lakes and streams is usually observed in sensitive areas regularly receiving precipitation with pH readings less than 4.7, while pH readings less than 4.0 are serious.

Site	day	pH	amount	air path to site	June 3 to 9, 1990
Longwoods	8	4.1	10 R	Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, Southern Ontario	
Dorset *	5	4.3	1 R	Lake Superior, Michigan, Southern Ontario	
	8	3.7	1 R	Southern Ontario	
Chalk River	3	5.9	1 R	Pennsylvania, New York, Ontario	
	5	4.9	2 R	Lake Superior, Lake Huron, Central Ontario	
	8	4.2	5 R	New York, Eastern Ontario	
	9	4.5	17 R	Southern Ontario	
Sutton	3	4.2	15 R	Virginia, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania	
	4	4.4	4 R	New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York	
	6	3.6	2 R	Pennsylvania, New York	
	8	3.9	1 R	Eastern Ontario, New York	
	9	4.1	3 R	Eastern Ontario, New York, Vermont	
Montmorency	3	4.1	8 R	New York, Southern Quebec	
	4	4.5	8 M	New York, Southern Quebec	
	6	3.8	1 R	Eastern Ontario, Southern Quebec	
	7	5.0	5 R	North Eastern Ontario, North Western Quebec	
	9	4.8	13 R	Maine, Quebec	
Kejimkujik	3	4.5	15 R	Atlantic Ocean	
	4	4.4	2 R	Atlantic Ocean	
	7	3.9	3 R	Atlantic Ocean	

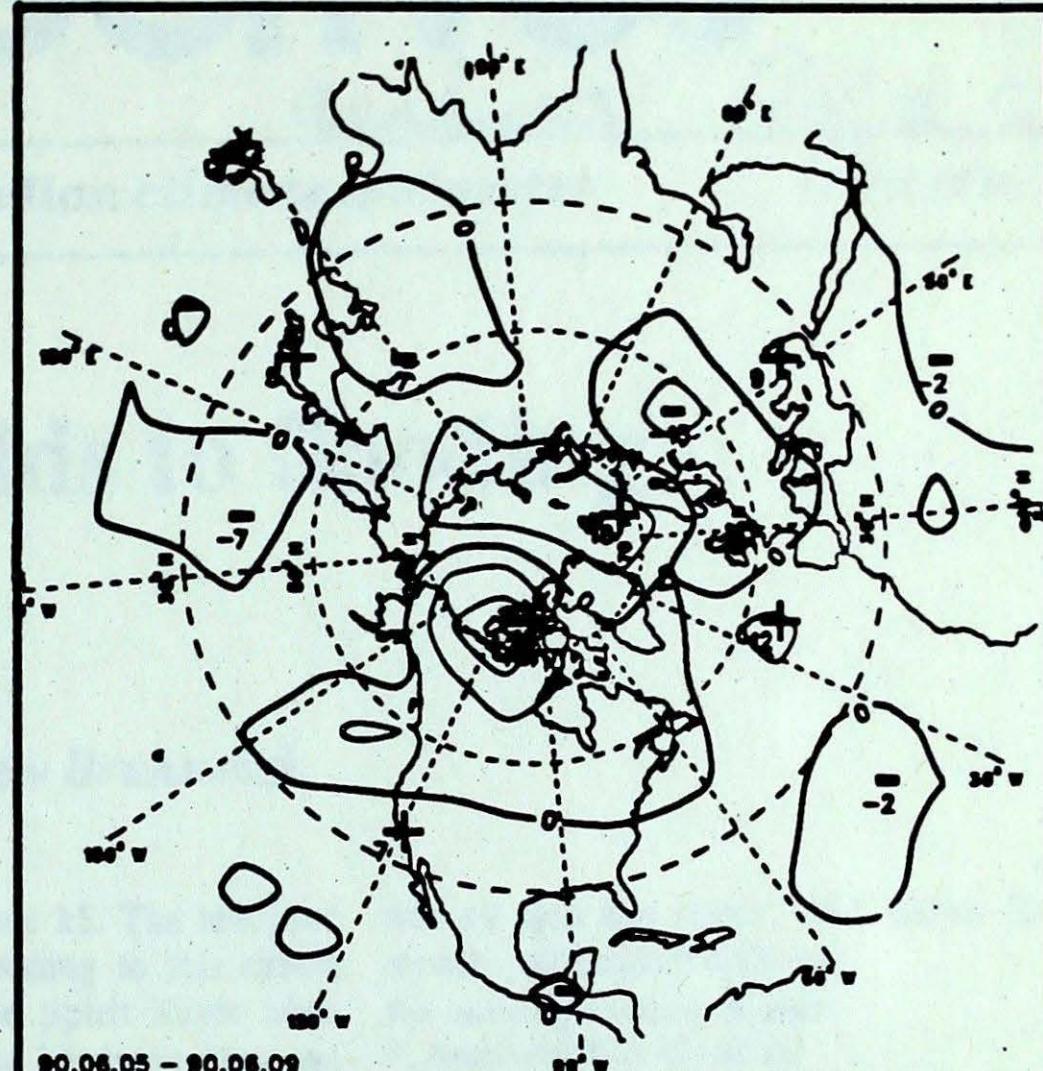
r = rain (mm), s = snow (cm), m = mixed rain and snow (mm)



## ATMOSPHERIC CIRCULATION

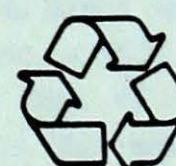


Mean geopotential height  
50-kPa level (10-decametre intervals)



Mean geopotential height anomaly  
50-kPa level (10-decametre intervals)

Think recycling



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