Climatic Perspective

September 14 to 20, 1992 A weekly review of Canadian climate and water

Vol. 14 No. 38

Freeze-up begins in the Arctic

Ice conditions in the Canadian eastern Arctic remained heavier than normal throughout this year's shipping season, due to cooler than normal temperatures. In fact, the ice in some areas is currently near the maximum extent ever recorded for this time of year. This can be attributed to temperatures that, during the summer, have averaged as much as 2 °C below normal. Also, the slow decay of last winter's ice is raising concerns that the ice which has not melted this year, will harden and cause much greater difficulty for navigation next year.

The ice in Fox Basin, Hudson Bay and the approaches to Resolute has been heavier than normal this season, and first year ice in the high Arctic remains unusually thick. In Hudson Bay, the last remnants of last winter's ice finally disappeared in August - one month later than normal. In Fox Basin, resupply operations required ice breaker assistance, and this was the same case along the east coast of Baffin Island. In July, an ice breaker was damaged by ice, and in August, the bows of at least one freighter and tanker also succumbed to ice damage. Luckily, there was no petroleum spill, as the tanker was double hulled.

In August, the Canadian ice breaker C.C.G.S. Terry Fox had a difficult time escorting the passenger ship Frontier Spirit, and a smaller ice breaker C.C.G.S. Pearkes westwards through the Northwest Passage, due to consolidated first year ice in Queen Maud Gulf and Victoria Strait. The passenger ship was able to continue

its westward trek unassisted through the Beaufort Sea, where ice conditions have been more favourable this year. Both ice breakers have since returned to the east. The powerful ice-strengthened ship, the M.V. Arctic navigated through heavy ice to the oil depot on Cameron Island, located northwest of Resolute, in mid-August and again during the second week of September. The M.V. Arctic, an oil-bulkore carrier, is scheduled to arrive at Little Cornwallis Island later this month, with its final Arctic trip to Nanisivik, on northern Baffin Island, slated in mid-October.

In early September, the annual resupply convoy to Eureka encountered very heavy ice in Norwegian Bay. A cargo ship, accompanying a Canadian and a passenger-carrying Russian ice breaker, was unable to make headway and eventually had to be escorted back south. The cargo was eventually delivered by ice breaker to Eureka.

In July and August, ice islands, some 100 km² in size, were observed drifting southwards along the Labrador coast. Some were spotted as far south as Newfoundland and in the Strait of Belle Isle, causing a serious hazard to navigation. These flows of solid ice are believed to have originated from the east side of Ellesmere Island near Kane Basin.

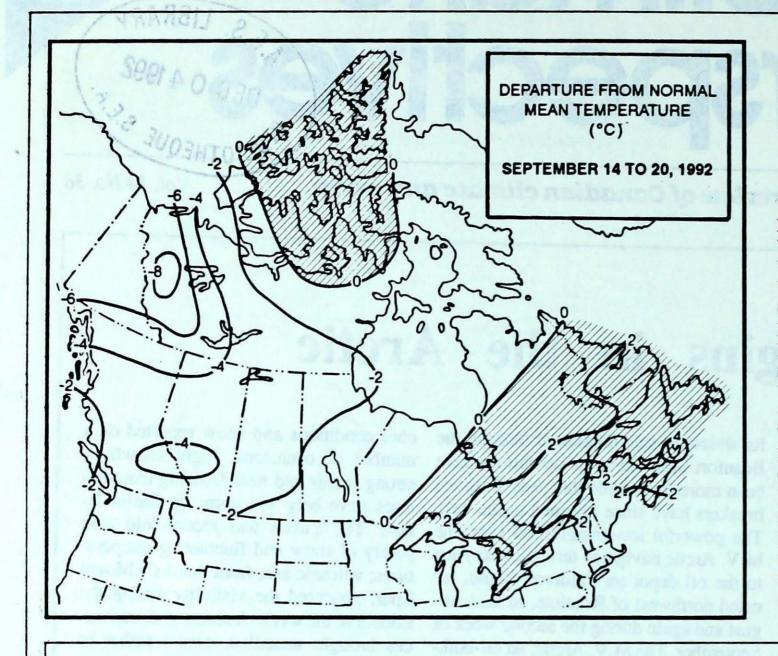
Elsewhere...

The weather across the Mackenzie Valley has been early winter-like, with cloudy,

cool conditions and snow reported on a number of occasions. Light snowfalls, strong winds and near-freezing temperatures have been the norm on Baffin Island. The Yukon was record-cold with plenty of snow and fluctuating temperatures; volcanic ash, from Alaska's Mount Spur, obscured the visibility during the middle of the week. A series of disturbances brought unsettled, cool weather to British Columbia, with widespread frost in the southern valleys. Heavy thunderstorms were reported in central B.C. and heavy snowfalls in the north. Recordcold, wet weather affected the Prairies until the weekend; a mix of snow and rain was common to many districts. The southern half of Ontario was warm hazy and humid; rain was heavy across the entire province. The Maritimes enjoyed sunny, record-warm and relatively dry harvest weather. Warm conditions in Newfoundland gave way to cloudy, cool weather. Heavy thunderstorms produced hail in central Labrador; winds to 110 km/h blew over Ungava Bay.

A Look Ahead...

For the week of September 28, mild temperatures will cover most of Canada except below normal conditions will occur west of Alberta. Significant precipitation will fall west of Saskatchewan and east of the Great Lakes. For long range forecast information contact Aaron Gergye at (416) 739-4442.



Weekly normal temperatures ('C)

	max.	min.
Whitehorse A	12.7	3.0
Iqaluit A	4.7	-0.3
Yellowknife A	10.3	3.7
Vancouver Int'l A	18.1	10.0
Victoria Int'l A	18.8	8.7
Calgary Int'l A	16.6	3.7
Edmonton Int'l A	16.2	2.6
Regina A	17.9	4.2
Saskatoon A	17.2	4.2
Winnipeg Int'l A	18.1	6.0
Ottawa Int'l A	18.9	8.3
Toronto (Pearson Int'l A)	20.7	9.2
Montréal Int'l A	19.2	9.0
Québec A	17.5	6.4
Fredericton A	19.0	5.8
Saint John A	17.1	6.8
Halifax (Shearwater)	18.3	9.5
Charlottetown A	17.4	8.2
Goose A	13.6	3.8
St John's A	15.1	6.9
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Weekly temperature and precipitation extremes

translates in the course of the Personal name of th	Maximum temperature (Minimum temperature (*0	C)	Heaviest precipitation (mr	n)
British Columbia	Kamloops A	27	Dease Lake	-8	Prince Rupert A	111
Yukon Territory		15	Beaver Creek		Teslin	30
Northwest Territories		10	Eureka	-16	Hay River A	26
Alberta	The state of the s	26	Edson A	-6	Medicine Hat A	21
Saskatchewan	Estevan A	26	North Battleford A	-7	Cree Lake	31
Manitoba	Gretna (aut)	25	Thompson A	-4	Churchill A	38
Ontario	Toronto Int'l A	29	Armstrong (aut)	0	North Bay A	83
Quebec	. Montréal Int'l A	28	Schefferville A	-2	Kuujjuarapik A	58
New Brunswick	Fredericton A	28	Fredericton A	0	Miscou Island (aut)	31
Nova Scotia	Greenwood A	28	Greenwood A	2	Sable Island	14
Prince Edward Island	. Charlottetown A	24	Charlottetown A	8	East Point (aut)	3
Newfoundland	Deer Lake A	25	Wabush Lake A	-2	Wabush Lake A	28
Across The Country.	elle ble. For mo.					
Highest Mean Temperature Lowest Mean Temperature	10.00	P	ort Weller (aut) (Ont.) Eureka (N.W.T.)	20 -8		
92/09/14-92/09/20					a smaller too presider L.	

CLIMATIC PERSPECTIVES VOLUME 14

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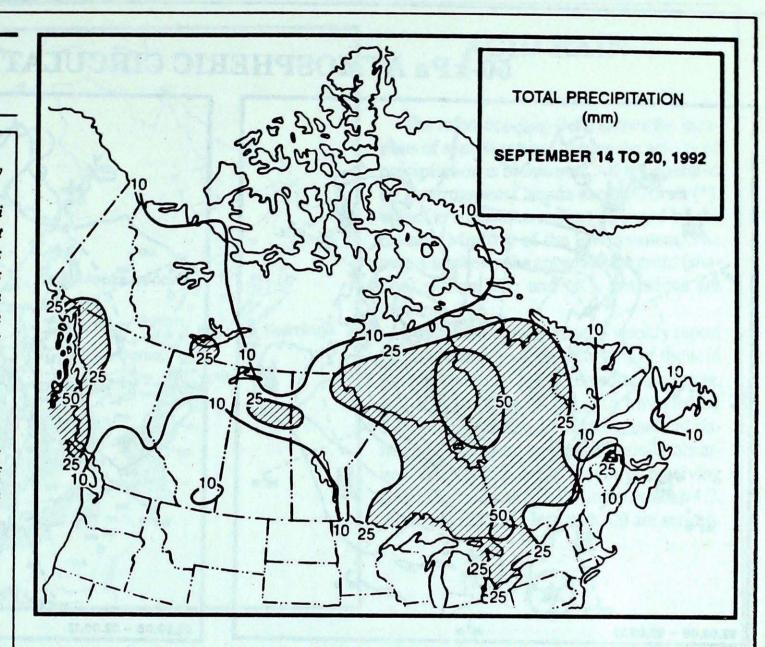
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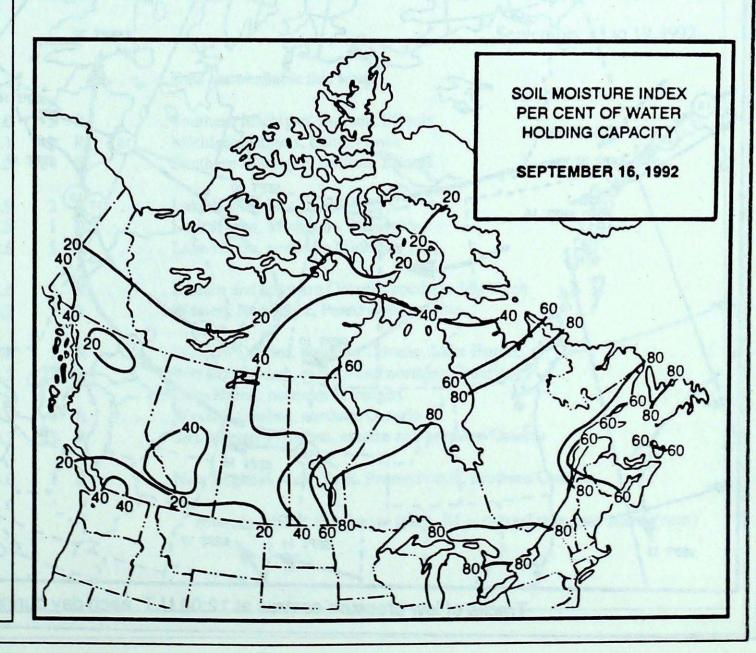
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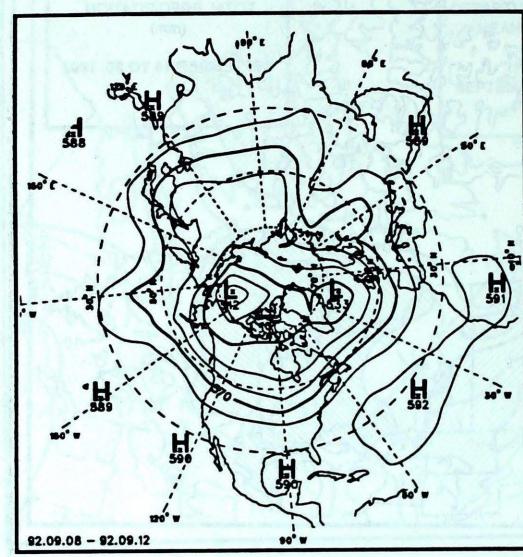
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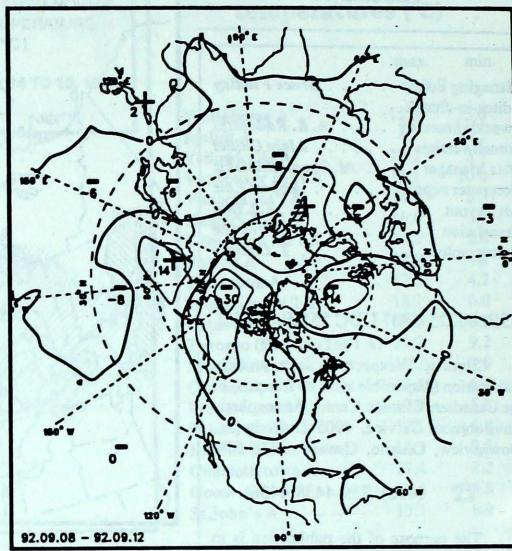




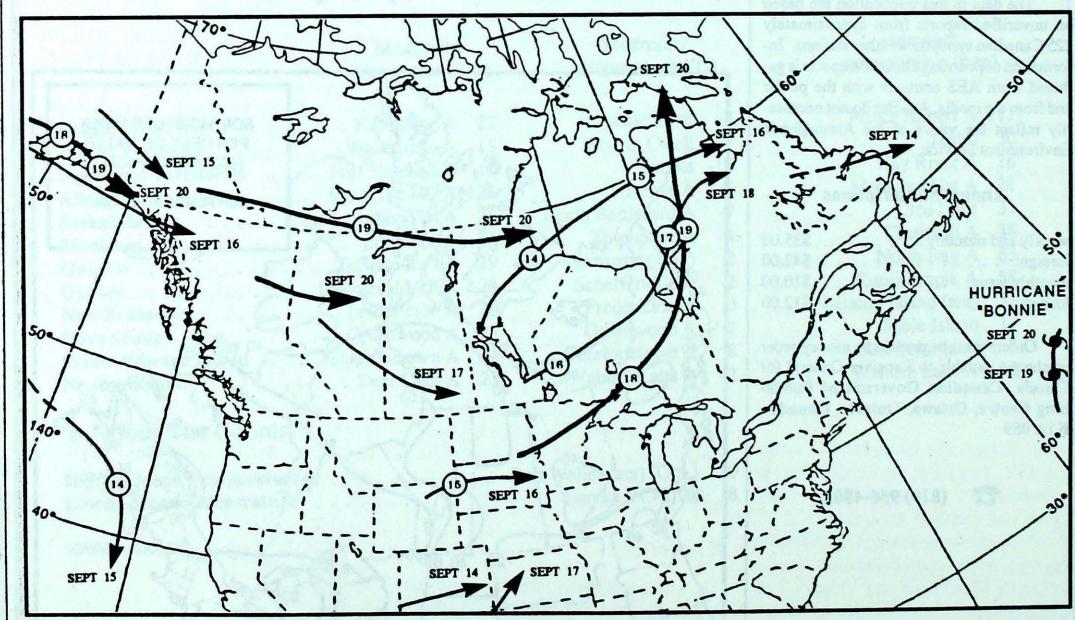
50-kPa ATMOSPHERIC CIRCULATION



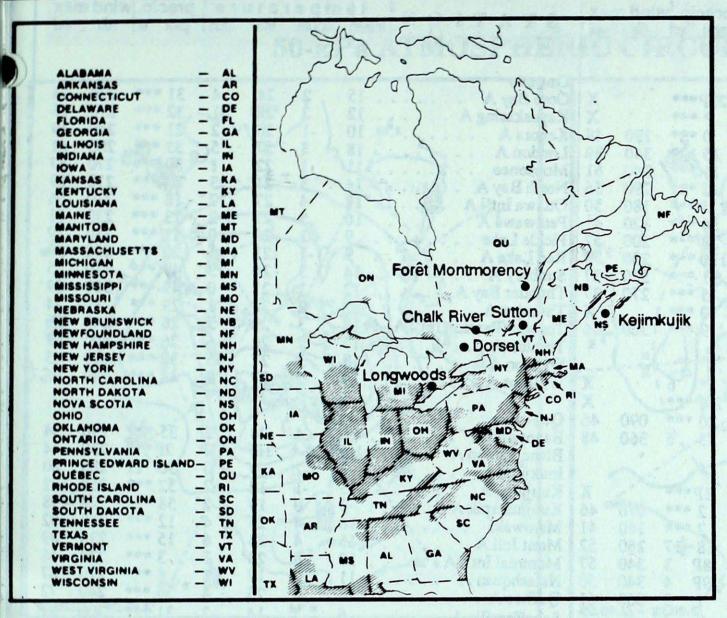
Mean geopotential height 50-kPa level (10 decametre intervals)



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.



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 SO₂ and NO_x emissions are greatest.

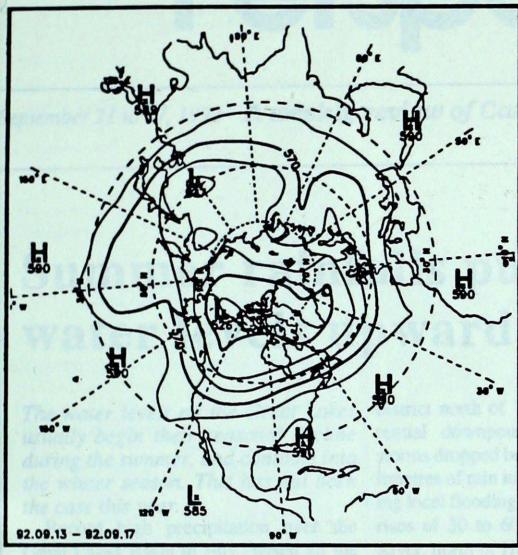
The table below gives the weekly report summarizing the acidity (or pH) of the acid rain or snow that fell at the collection sites, and a description of the path travelled by the moisture laden air. Environmental damage to lakes and streams is usually observed in sensitive areas regularly receiving precipitation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



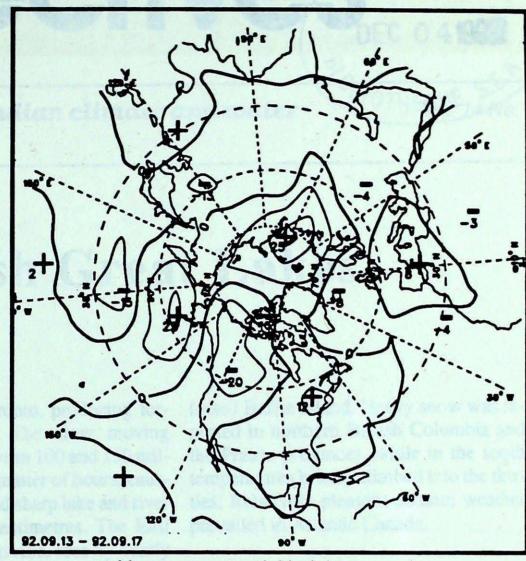
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Chalk River	16 17 18	3.9 4.3 4.6	1 R	Lake Huron, Michigan Lake Huron, Michigan, Wisconsin Lake Huron, southern Michigan
Sutton	17 18	3.6 4.2		Eastern and southern Ontario, southern Michigan Western New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio
Montmorency	15 16 17 18	3.6 4.2 3.9 4.1	23 R 4 R	Western Quebec, northern Ontario, Lake Huron Western Quebec, eastern and northern Ontario, Lake Huron, northern Michigan Western Quebec, northern Ontario Southwestern Quebec, eastern and northern Ontario
Kejimkujik	19	4.1		New England, New York, Pennsylvania, southern Ontario R= rain (mm), S = snow (cm), M = mixed rain and snow (mm)

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50-kPa ATMOSPHERIC CIRCULATION



Mean geopotential height 50 kPa level (10 decametre intervals)



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

