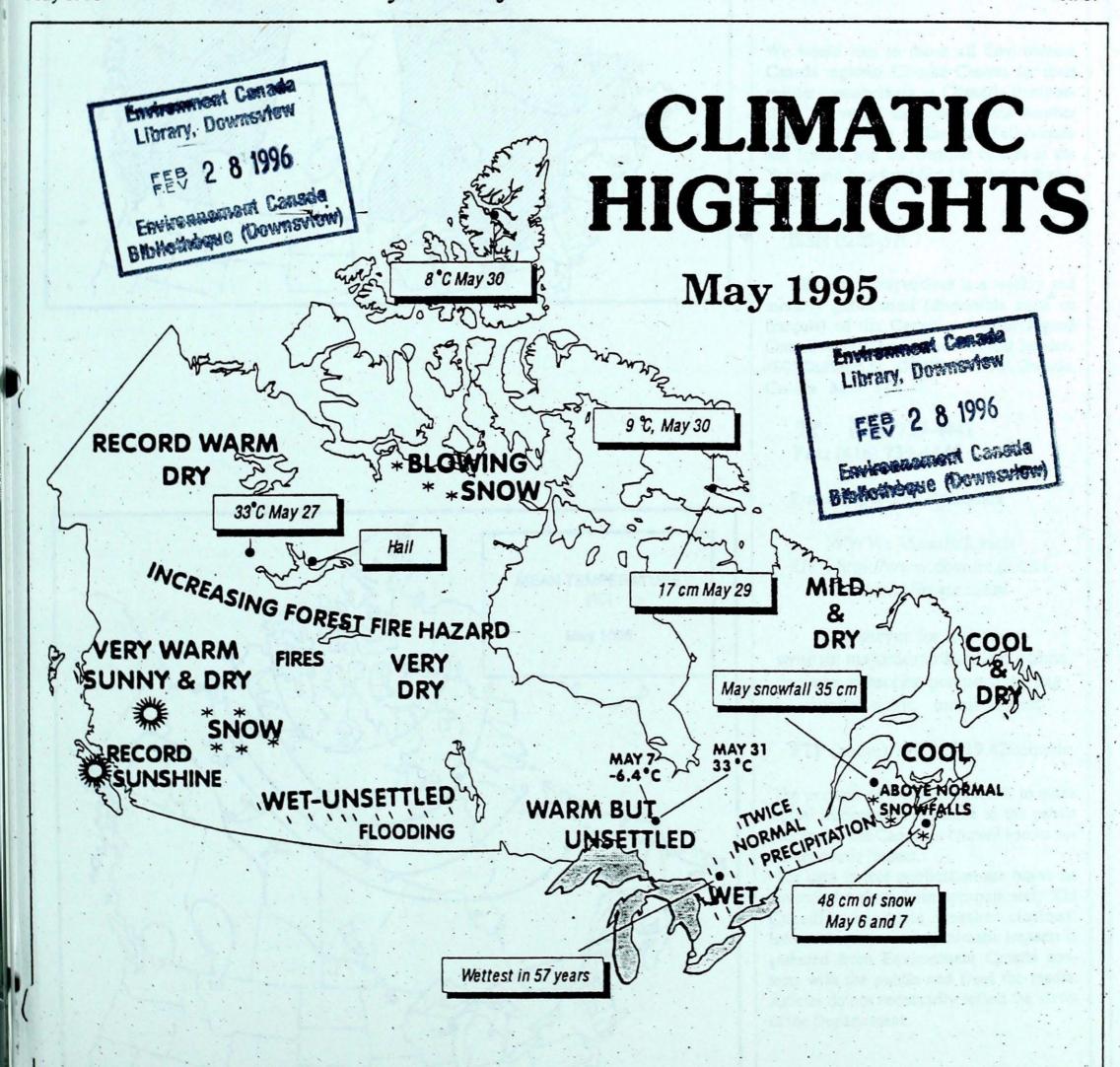


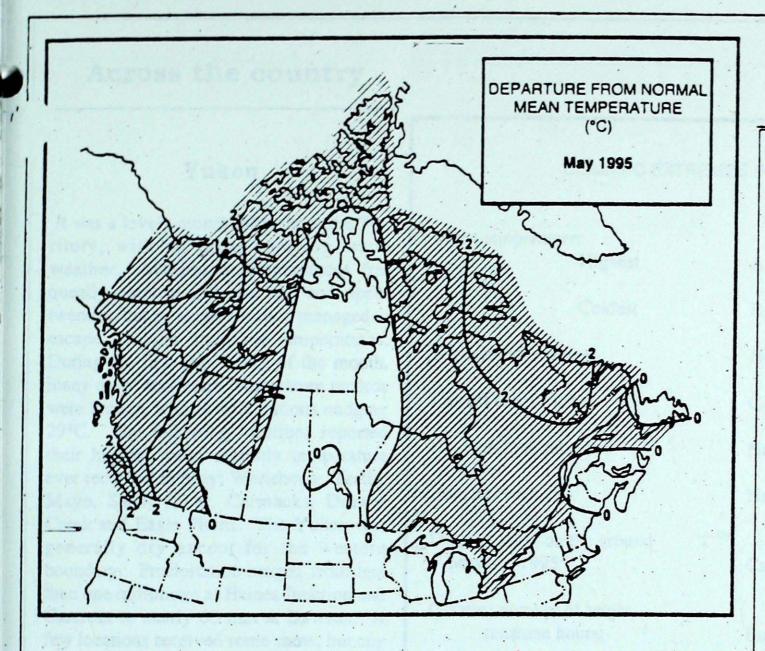
Climatic Perspectives

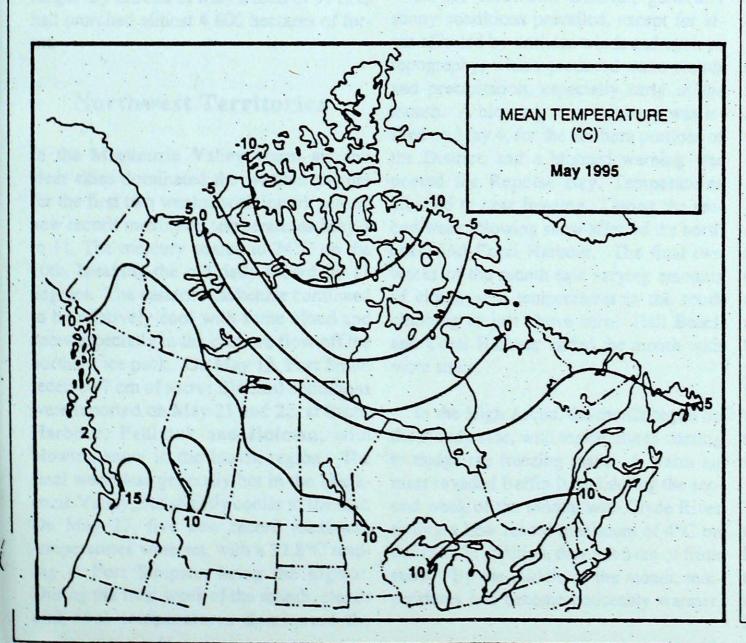
May 1995

Monthly review of Canadian climate and water

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CLIMATIC PERSPECTIVES VOLUME 17

We would like to thank all Environment Canada regional Climate Centres for their regular contributions to Climatic Perspectives. We would also like to thank weather offices in British Columbia, Yellowknife and Iqaluit, and the weather centres in the Yukon and Newfoundland for their submissions.

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The purpose of the publication is to make topical information available to the public concerning the Canadian climate and its socio-economic impact.

The data in this publication are based on unverified reports from approximately 225 Canadian synoptic weather stations. Information concerning climatic impacts is gathered from Environment Canada contacts with the public and from the media. Articles do not necessarily reflect the views of the Departement.

Across the country

Yukon

It was a lovely month throughout the Territory, with all areas enjoying warm weather. Maximum temperatures frequently climbed into the mid and upper twenties, but no single location managed to escape freezing nighttime temperatures. During the first two weeks of the month, many daily maximum temperature records were broken, with several stations nudging 29°C. The following locations reported their highest mean monthly temperature ever recorded in May: Whitehorse, Teslin, Mayo, Swift River, Carmacks, Drawer Creek and Eagle Plains. The Yukon was generally dry except for the western boundary. Precipitation ranged from less than one millimetre at Haines Junction and Carcross to nearly 60 mm at Dawson. A few locations received some snow, but any snow that was on the ground at the beginning of the month was gone by the end of he period. The warm, dry weather during he first half of the month, resulted in the forest fire hazard climbing to the extreme range. By the end of May a total of 31 fires had scorched almost 4,600 hectares of forest.

Northwest Territories

In the Mackenzie Valley warm air and clear skies dominated the weather picture for the first two weeks, with Inuvik setting new record maximum temperatures May 7 to 11. The mercury soared to 24°C on the 10th, breaking the old daily record by 11 degrees. The eastern Mackenzie continued to be relatively cool with some cloud and snow especially in the onshore flow off the northern ice pack. On May 18, Fort Smith received 7 cm of snow. Blizzard conditions were reported on May 21 and 22, at Sachs Harbour, Paulatuk and Holman, with blowing snow in the Inuvik region. The final week was generally hot in the Mackenzie Valley, but slightly cooler to the east. On May 27, five new record maximum emperatures were set, with a 32.8°C reading at Fort Simpson being the highest. During the final week of the month, clouds and cool temperatures dominated the

CLIMATIC EXTREME	S IN CANADA - MAY 1995	
Mean temperature:		idea one depre
Highest	Agassiz, B.C.	15.9°C
Coldest	Resolute, N.W.T.	-10.9°C
Highest temperature:	Nipawin, Sask.	34.2°C
Lowest temperature:	Cambridge Bay, N.W.T.	-23.4°C
Heaviest precipitation:	North Bay, Ont.	195.0 mm
Heaviest snowfall:	Nappan, N.S.	48.0 cm
Deepest snow on the ground May 31, 1995:	Cambridge Bay, N.W.T.	44 cm
Greatest number of bright sunshine hours:	Eureka, N.W.T.	488 hours

Mackenzie Delta. Yellowknife had a thunderstorm with some hail on the 30th.

In the Keewatin District, generally sunny conditions prevailed, except for areas affected by onshore winds and upslope topography, which produced more clouds and precipitation, especially early in the month. A blowing snow advisory was issued on May 4, for the northern portions of the District, and a blizzard warning was posted for Repulse Bay. Temperatures climbed to near freezing. During the second week, blowing snow affected the north coast and Coral Harbour. The final two weeks of the month saw varying amounts of cloud, with temperatures in the south climbing to just above zero. Hall Beach and Coral Harbour ended the month with more snow.

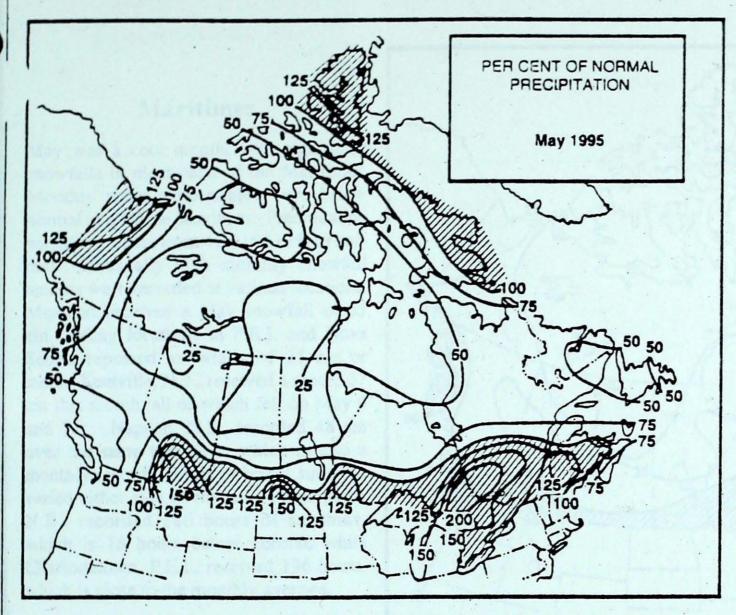
In the High Arctic, the month began on the cloudy side, with temperatures starting to nudge the freezing mark. A warm air mass invaded Baffin Island during the second week of the month, with Clyde River setting a new record maximum of 4°C on the 15th; in addition, they got 6 cm of fresh snow. By the middle of the month, temperatures had become noticeably warmer.

On the 19th, the temperature at Iqaluit reached a record 9°C. On the 20th, Resolute Bay reported a temperature of 10°C. Cloudy skies were common through the fourth week. On May 29, Iqaluit received 17 cm of new snow. Warm air dominated the eastern Arctic during the final week of the month. On the 30th, Eureka and Pond Inlet reached a mild 8°C and 9°C, respectively.

British Columbia

Although May started out like a typical spring month, the weather soon became summer-like, with little rain and an abundance of sunshine. By the middle of the month, the forest fire hazard had climbed to unusually high values for this time of year, and by the end of the month many fires were reported burning. Because of the high forest fire hazard, logging operations had to be severely curtailed, or in some cases, shut down completely.

Temperatures averaged well-above normal this month, with Nanaimo and Merry Island establishing new record mean temperatures for the month. Precipitation was below normal in all areas, with coastal locations receiving less than half their nor-



mal allotment. All areas received an abundance of sunshine. In fact, fourteen sunhine records were broken across the province, many by a significant margin.

Alberta

May was a particularly wet month in the south, but dry in the northeast and in central areas. Unsettled weather prevailed during the first week, with some wet snow even being reported. As much as 50 mm of rain fell on the southwest foothills on May 6, with an additional 20mm on the 7th. A brief dry spell until the 10th saw temperature climb to record values in the mid to upper twenties. An upper disturbance produced showers and thunderstorms in the south and west-central foothills on May 11, followed by heavy rain and snow in the south on the 12th. Eventual clearing, with the passage of a cold front, saw nighttime frost form in many localities. For the most part, the middle of the month was pleasantly warm and sunny. On May 20, an intense system gave 10 to 20 centimetres of snow to the central foothills and periods of rain to much of central and southern Alperta. After many weeks of threatening frost, the final week of the month saw temperatures climb into the thirties, increasing the forest fire hazard in all areas. By the end of the month, large forest fires were threatening many communities in the Fort McMurray region, with smaller fires consuming pastures in central Alberta.

Saskatchewan and Manitoba

Generally May was a cool and dry month across the Prairies, with a few exceptions. Southwestern Manitoba and southeastern Saskatchewan were wetter than normal, thanks in part, to soaking rains which came early in the month and again on the Victoria Day weekend. The unseasonably wet weather caused flooding in these parts of Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and caused delays in planting crops. The central and northern portions of the three prairie provinces were extremely dry. Some areas received less than one quarter of their normal monthly precipitation. This, combined with the already low moisture supply because of the dry winter, left the forested areas primed for a rapid start to the forest fire season. Hot conditions during the last week of the month were beneficial to the agriculture community that needed the warmth, but also increased the forest fire hazard in the central portions of the Prairie Provinces.

Ontario

It was a relatively pleasant month, with temperatures generally within one degree of the long-term average. A comparison to other recent Mays reveals that May 1995 was actually the warmest since 1991 at many locations. It was definitely a large improvement over the cool and overcast conditions experienced in April. Northern Ontario that featured the hottest daytime temperature, with Kapuskasing's 32.6°C reading on May 31. This is only 0.3°C of a degree below their all-time maximum for May since 1937. Incidently, Kapuskasing also recorded the coldest temperature in Ontario this month, with a -6.4°C reading on May 7. Rainfall tended to be above normal across most of the province. North Bay received 195 mm of rain, compared to a normal of 80 mm, making this the wettest May in 57 years of record. Other wet spots included: Sudbury 134 mm; Windsor, 130 mm; Muskoka, 113 mm; Peterborough, 107 mm; and London, 104 mm. Most of the remainder of Ontario received 70 to 90 millimetres, which is 10 to 30 percent above normal. Snowfall occurred only in extreme northern Ontario, with amounts being less than 2 cm, except in the Red and Pickle Lake areas, where 27 cm of snow fell - the most since 1967. Sunshine was 30 to 50 hours less than normal across the province, with the exception of southeastern Ontario and the districts around Lake Ontario. Burlington was the sunniest location with 253 hours - 10 hours above average. In contrast, Red Lake, in northwestern Ontario, recorded 196 hours of sun, 63 hours fewer than the average.

Quebec

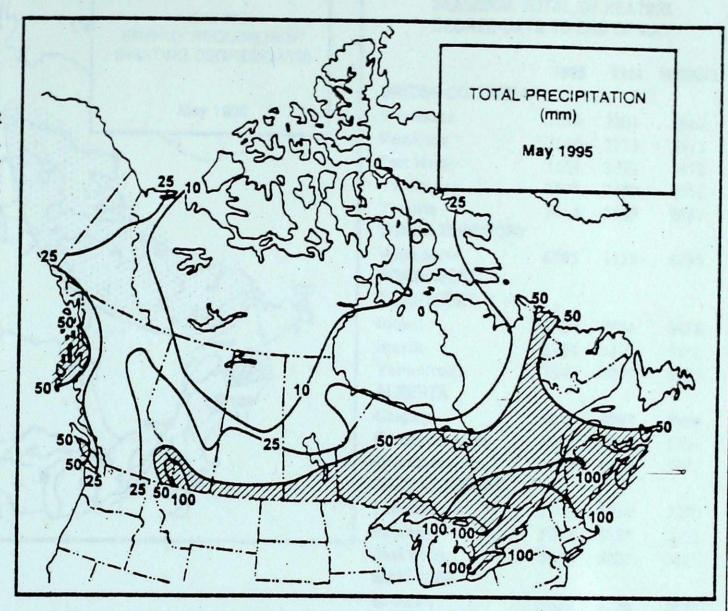
Monthly mean temperatures were above normal across the whole province, with the exception of the extreme southeast. As far as precipitation goes, most of the province received monthly totals that were less than normal. The exception was in southwestern Quebec, where May precipitation values were, in some cases, twice the monthly average. Both Val-d Or and Maniwaki received more than 100 mm of rain, while Quebec City recorded 156 mm.

Maritimes

May was a cool month, with significant snowfalls in most parts of the Maritimes. Monthly mean temperatures were below normal in all three provinces. Precipitation varied anywhere from 41% to 119% of normal. Unusually high monthly snowfall amouts were recorded at various locations. Moncton received a May snowfall of 35 cm. Many locations in P.E.I. and Nova Scotia reported snowfalls of 25 cm or more. Kentville, N.S., received a record 37 cm this month, all of which fell on May 6 and 7. Nappan, N.S., recorded 48 cm over the same two days, which is also a monthly record. Hours of bright sunshine varied either side of normal. Fredericton, N.B., recorded 186 hours of sunshine. which is 16 hours below normal, while Charlottetown, P.E.I., received 196 hours, which is close to the monthly average.

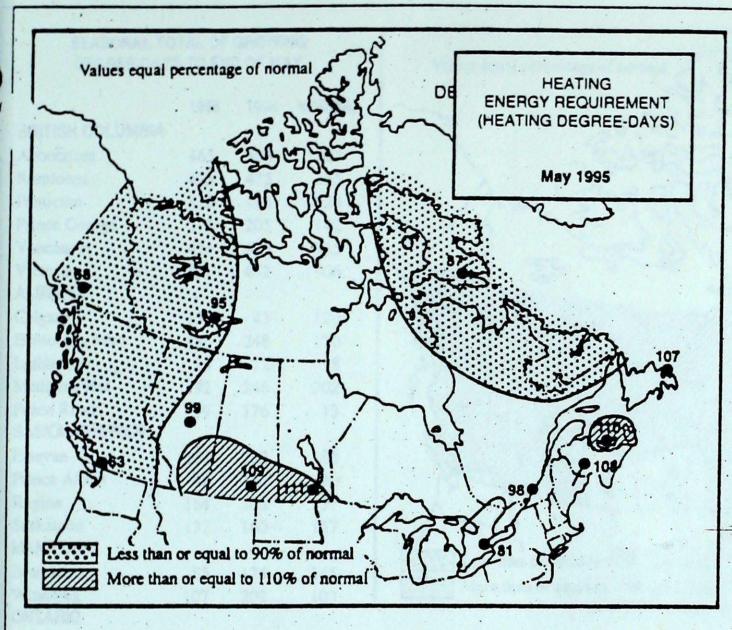
Newfoundland and Labrador

The Island was generally cool this month. femperatures averaged below normal except in the southwest portions of the province. There was some snow in the eastern areas but amounts were generally minimal. In fact, precipitation across the whole Island was significantly below normal, with



some locations receiving half their normal values. For the most part, hours of bright sunshine were above normal in western Newfoundland and below normal in the east.

In Labrador, temperatures averaged near normal in the south coastal areas, but were above normal elsewhere. In almost all areas, precipitation and total snowfall were below normal. The exception was Nain, where the total snowfall amount was 11 cm above normal.

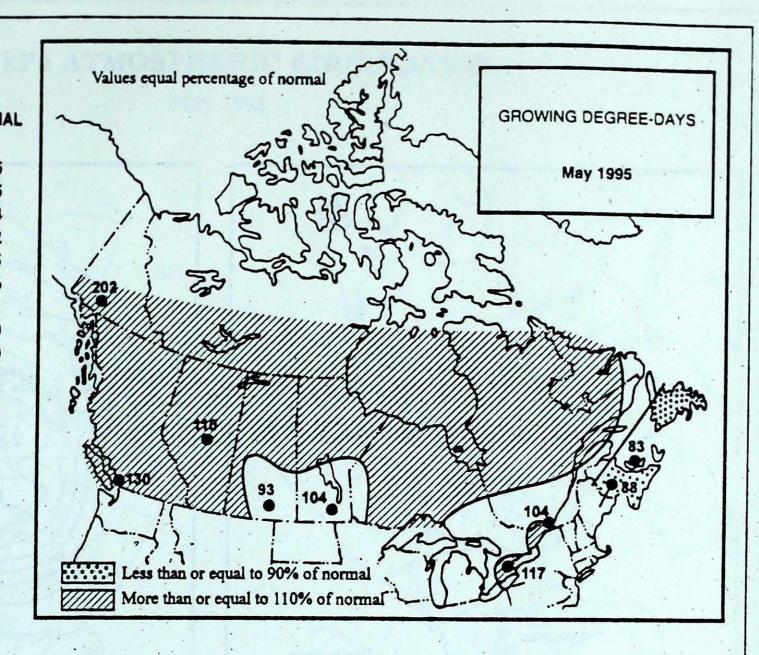


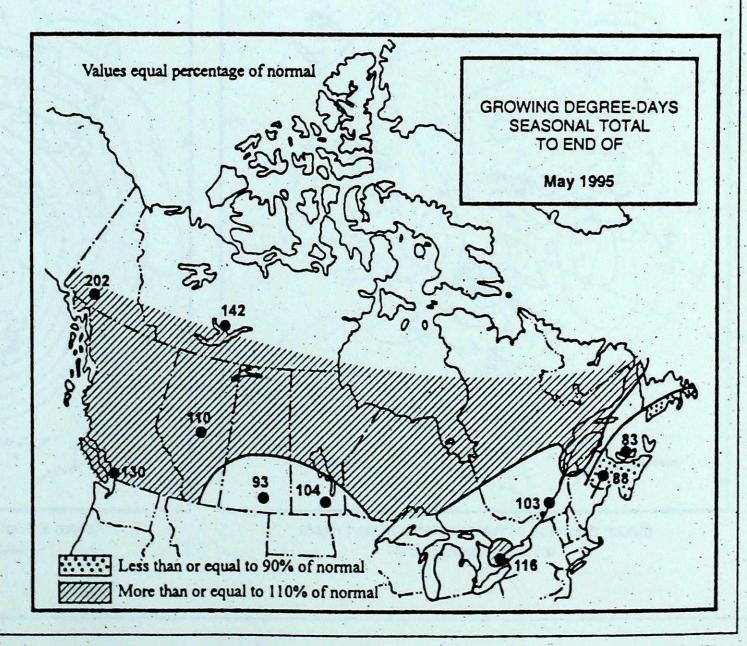
SEASONAL TOTAL OF HEATING DEGREE-DAYS TO END OF MAY

	1995	1994	NORMAL
BRITISH COLUMBIA			*
Kamloops	3280	3201	3663
Penticton	3148	3113	3412
Port Hardy	3154	3092	3492
Vancouver	2577	2600	2912
Victoria	2615	2669	2987
YUKON TERRITORY			
Whitehorse	6293	6153	6793
NORTHWEST			
TERRITORIES			
Iqaluit	9304	9836	9478
Inuvik	8854	9106	9856
Yellowknife	7549	8290	, 8335
ALBERTA		in the Y	
Calgary	4815	4889	5186
Edmonton Mun.	4995	6047	5324
Grande Prairie	•	5590	5977
SASKATCHEWAN			
Estevan	5206	5744	5350
Regina	5227	5725	5710
Saskatoon	5608	6031	5895
MANITOBA			
Brandon	5732	6196	5959
Churchill	8210	9411	8805
Dauphin	5752	6096	5978
Winnipeg	5451	5900	5764
ONTARIO			
Kapuskasing	5711	6612	6232
London	3726	4286	4009
Ottawa	4177	4907	4574
Sudbury Thunder Bay	4896	5724	5282
Toronto Toronto	5144	5967	5580
Windsor	3674	4310	4022
QUEBEC	3234	3758	3530
Baie Comeau	5626	6134	5820
Montréal	4174	4794	4432
Québec	4758	5392	5028
Sept-Îles	5923	6436	5953
Sherbrooke	4693	5219	5082
Val-d'Or	5677	6545	5975
NEW BRUNSWICK	3077		3713
Fredericton	4520	4828	4595
Moncton	4611	4886	4601
NOVA SCOTIA			
Yarmouth	3747	3969	3910
PRINCE EDWARD			
ISLAND			
Charlottetown	4541	4755	4513
NEWFOUNDLAND			
AND LABRADOR			
	4985	5255	4842
	4651	4823	4579

SEASONAL TOTAL OF GROWING DEGREE-DAYS TO END OF MAY

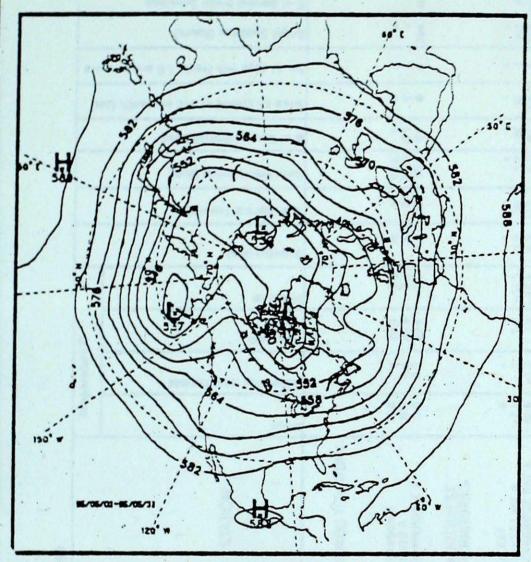
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	ADDECU COLUMBIA	1995	1994	NORM
	ARITISH COLUMBIA		***	200
	Abbotsford	465	506	325
	Kamloops Penticton	423	475	355
		412	496	324
	Prince George	213	205	142
	Vancouver Victoria	434	475	335
	ALBERTA	401	452	306
		127	42	120
	Calgary Edmonton Mun.	137	43	170
	Lethbridge	186.	248 72	8
	Medicine Hat	13	246	202
	Peace River	192	176	13
	SASKATCHEWAN	19	1/0	13.
	Estevan	169	202	185
	Prince Albert	96	130	96
	Regina	164	202	157
	Saskatoon	137	160	157
	MANITOBA	137	100	137
	Brandon	85	174	145
	Winnipeg	107	202	103
	ONTARIO	107	202	103
	London	243	156	223
*	North Bay	134	69	135
	Ottawa	274	199	248
	Thunder Bay	55	96	24
	Poronto	264	199	228
	Trenton	244	194	235
	Windsor	325	266	313
	QUEBEC	323	200 .	313
	Baie Comeau	55	6	61
4	Montréal	261	218	252
	Québec	146	97	137
	Sept-Îles	25	•	22
	Sherbrooke	132	102	134
	NEW BRUNSWICK	132	102	134
	Fredericton	116	*	132
	Moncton	89	44	103
	NOVA SCOTIA	0,		
	Yarmouth	94	90	95
	PRINCE EDWARD			
	ISLAND			
	Charlottetown	37	48	44
	NEWFOUNDLAND			
-	AND LABRADOR			
	Gander		8 .	
	St. John's		7	
No.	Stephenville	20	.8	22
		20	.0	22.



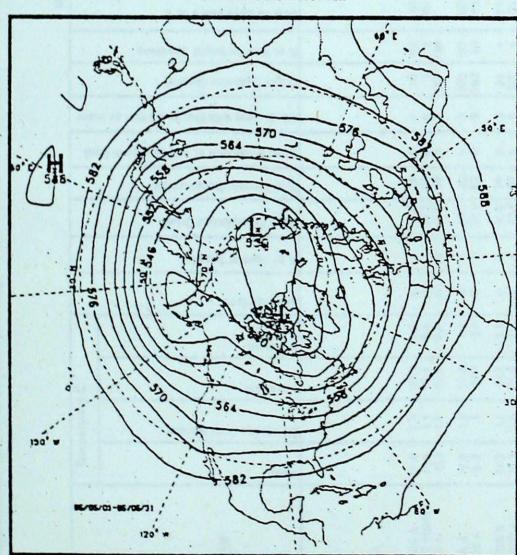


50-kPa ATMOSPHERIC CIRCULATION

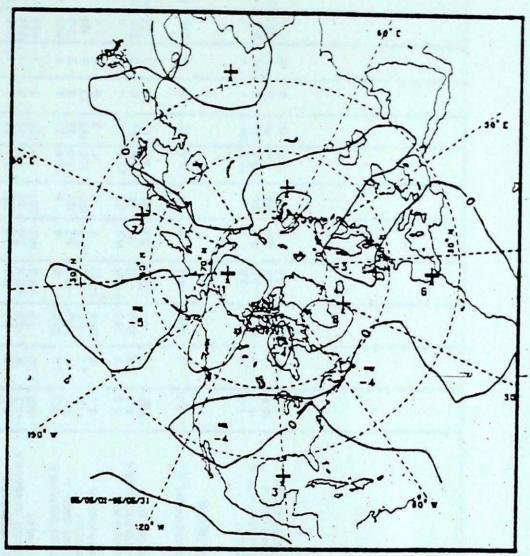
May 1995



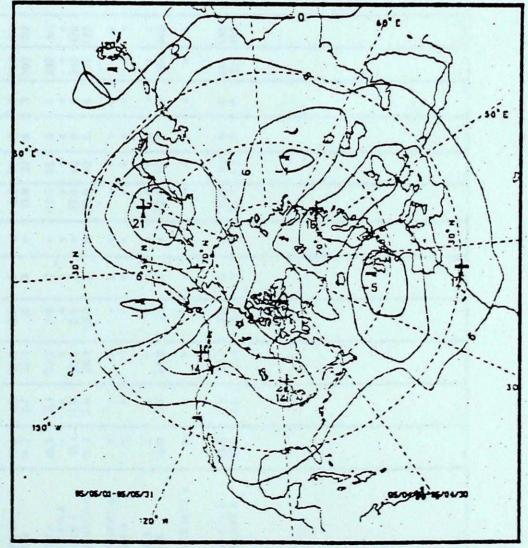
Mean geopotential heights 6-decametre interval



Normal geopotential heights for the month 6-decametre interval



Mean geopotential height anomaly 6-decametre interval



Mean height difference w/r to previous month 6-decametre interval

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CLIMATIC PERSPECTIVES (MONTHLY REVIEW)

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