



Climatic Perspectives

Weekly

January 30 to February 5, 1995

A weekly review of Canadian climate and water

Vol. 17 No. 6

East Coast storm leaves Ontario cold

The brunt of the February 4-5 storm was felt in eastern Quebec and the Atlantic Provinces where winds to 161 km/h combined with heavy snowfalls. It drew bitterly cold air and gale-force winds into Ontario.

After slightly-above normal temperatures, Ontario completed the week with bone-chilling temperatures and wind. Temperatures fell to the -20's in the south and -30's in the north, February 5. Local snowfalls and blowing snow closed sections of major highways in central and southern Ontario. The cold was good news for ice fishermen as the larger lakes froze over. Ottawa's winter festival, Winterlude, was grateful for the cold (-25.4°C, February 5): the full 7.8 km length of the Rideau Canal skating rink was finally in shape to open on the weekend, after a winter including rain and mild temperatures.

From late on the 4th through the 5th, record snowfalls disrupted travel in the East. Winds exceeding 90 km/h piled snow as high as rooftops, on the Gaspé Peninsula. Gaspé recorded 63 cm of snow and Sept-Îles, 55 cm. Saguenay/Lac St. Jean recorded 34 cm and a record-low maximum of -22.9°C, February 5 (old record -22.8°C, 1972). In the Atlantic Provinces, northern and western New Brunswick recorded 30 cm of snow with this system while Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, recorded 36.3 mm of rain. Winds gusted to 161 km/h at Grand Étang, Nova Scotia. Power lines were damaged and trees downed. Powerful waves at

Peggy's Cove, Nova Scotia, swept two people off the rocks and only one survived. In most of Newfoundland, five to ten centimetres of snow fell but on the Avalon Peninsula, snow and freezing precipitation was recorded. Winds at Port aux Basques gusted to 155 km/h. Previous to the weekend storm, Stephenville, Newfoundland, received 17 cm of snow January 31 and the south coast and Avalon Peninsula received 10 to 15 cm of snow, February 2-3. A disturbance spread into Labrador, February 5, giving 22 cm of snow to Nain and 36 cm to Wabush.

Mild in the west and northwest

Mild weather continued along the B.C. coast. Record-daily maximums near 14°C, January 30/31, were recorded in Port Hardy and in Victoria where many trees are in bloom and flowers are weeks ahead of normal. With cloud for the last two days of January, Prince George recorded a total of only 7.6 hours of sunshine for the month of January (old record 21.7 hours, 1992). In contrast, February started with sunshine. Logging in the north intensified as the mild weather in the south brought trucks north, looking for work.

Pacific disturbances brought mild air to the southern Yukon midweek and again at the end of the week. After cold temperatures for most of the week, central and northern areas were also influenced by the mild Pacific air, at the end of the week. In the

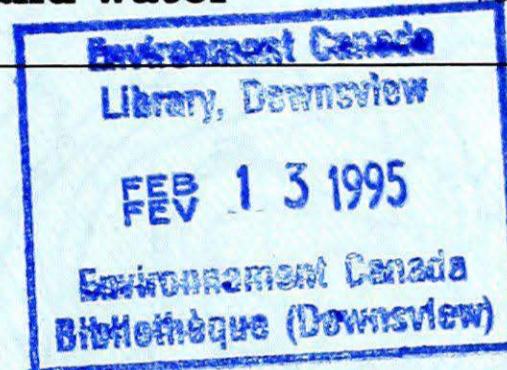
northeast, Rock River (along the Dempster Highway) recorded 6.1°C on the 5th. Throughout the Yukon, very little precipitation was reported.

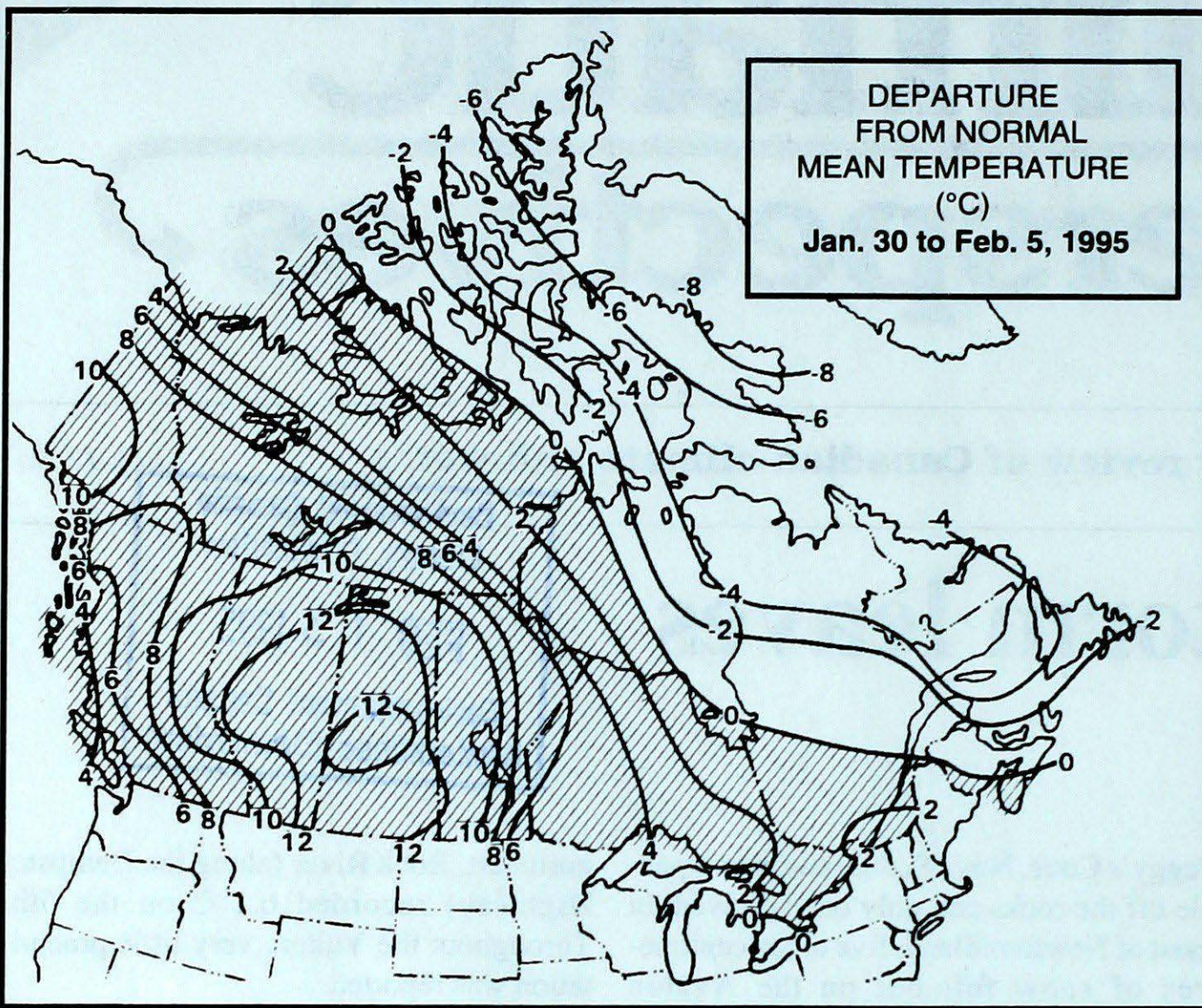
Mild temperatures continued to cover the Districts of Mackenzie and Keewatin. The southern Mackenzie was mainly cloudy while the north was clear. Inuvik warmed to -3.5°C, February 5, a far cry from southern Ontario where Toronto's maximum was -17.6°C. The High Arctic was mostly clear and cold - Eureka's average minimum temperature was -45.9°C.

Temperatures were up to 16 degrees above normal in the Prairie Provinces. On January 30-31, 10 to 20 cm of snow fell in northern Manitoba. Whereas the western Prairies stayed in the mild air all week, cold arctic air made its way into Manitoba and eastern Saskatchewan on the weekend.

A Look Ahead...

For the week of February 13, below-normal temperatures are expected for most of the country. Near- to above-normal values are forecast across the northern Yukon, Arctic islands and northern Quebec. Significant precipitation is expected for southern and northeastern B.C., the Yukon, western parts of the Northwest Territories, Alberta, Saskatchewan, in the vicinity of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Valley and over the Atlantic Provinces.





Weekly normal temperatures (°C)

	max.	min.
Whitehorse A	-11.8	-22.0
Iqaluit A	-22.8	-31.0
Yellowknife A	-22.9	-31.9
Vancouver Int'l A	6.8	0.7
Victoria Int'l A	7.3	0.8
Calgary Int'l A	-2.3	-14.5
Edmonton Int'l A	-8.9	-20.4
Regina A	-10.3	-21.0
Saskatoon A	-11.1	-21.8
Winnipeg Int'l A	-12.6	-23.2
Ottawa Int'l A	-7.2	-17.1
Toronto Int'l A	-3.5	-12.5
Montréal Int'l A	-6.7	-16.1
Québec A	-8.1	-17.9
Fredericton A	-4.3	-16.2
Saint John A	-3.7	-14.4
Halifax (Shearwater)	-1.5	-10.0
Charlottetown A	-4.4	-13.2
Goose A	-11.1	-21.4
St John's A	-1.4	-8.8

Weekly temperature and precipitation extremes

	Maximum temperature (°C)	Minimum temperature (°C)	Greatest precipitation (mm)
British Columbia	Prince Rupert A 15	Fort Nelson A -25	Prince Rupert A 78
Yukon Territory	Teslin (aut) 6	Shingle Point A -39	Haines Junction 4
Northwest Territories	Inuvik A -3	Eureka -49	Yellowknife A 9
Alberta	Medicine Hat A 13	Fort Chipewyan A -27	High Level A 6
Saskatchewan	Eastend Cypress (aut) 9	Cree Lake -28	Estevan A 10
Manitoba	Portage La Prairie A 5	Thompson A -41	Gillam A 18
Ontario	Windsor A 4	Sioux Lookout A -38	Warton A 21
Quebec	Montréal Int'l A 2	Schefferville A -40	Mont Joli A 70
New Brunswick	Saint John A 4	St Leonard A -27	St Leonard A 43
Nova Scotia	Sable Island 8	Amherst (aut) -24	Truro 49
Prince Edward Island	Charlottetown A 4	Charlottetown A -21	Charlottetown A 27
Newfoundland and Labrador	Stephenville A 3	Wabush Lake A -38	Wabush Lake A 30

Across The Country...

Highest Mean Temperature	Victoria Int'l A (B.C.)	9
Lowest Mean Temperature	Eureka (N.W.T.)	-44

95/01/30-95/02/05

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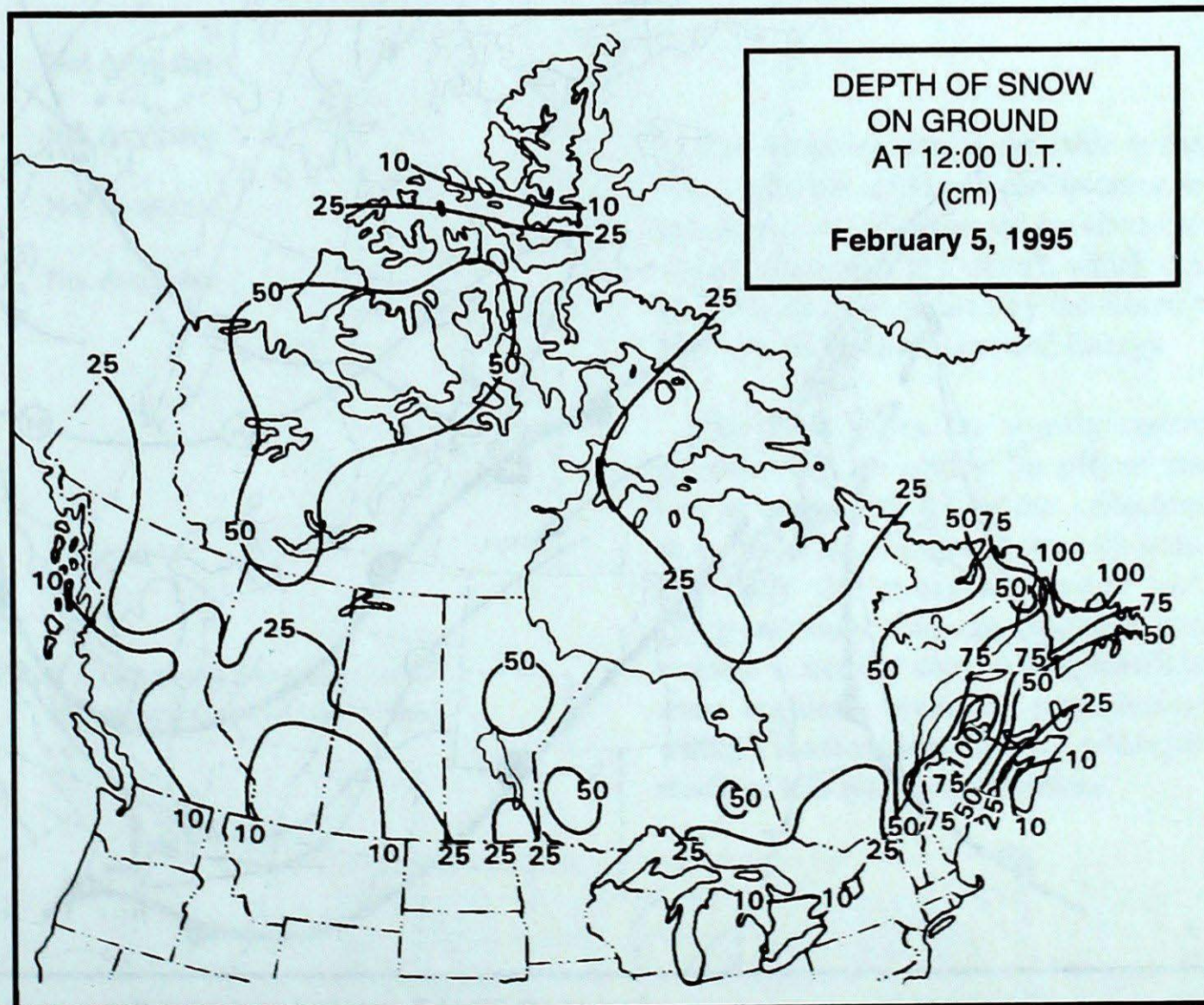
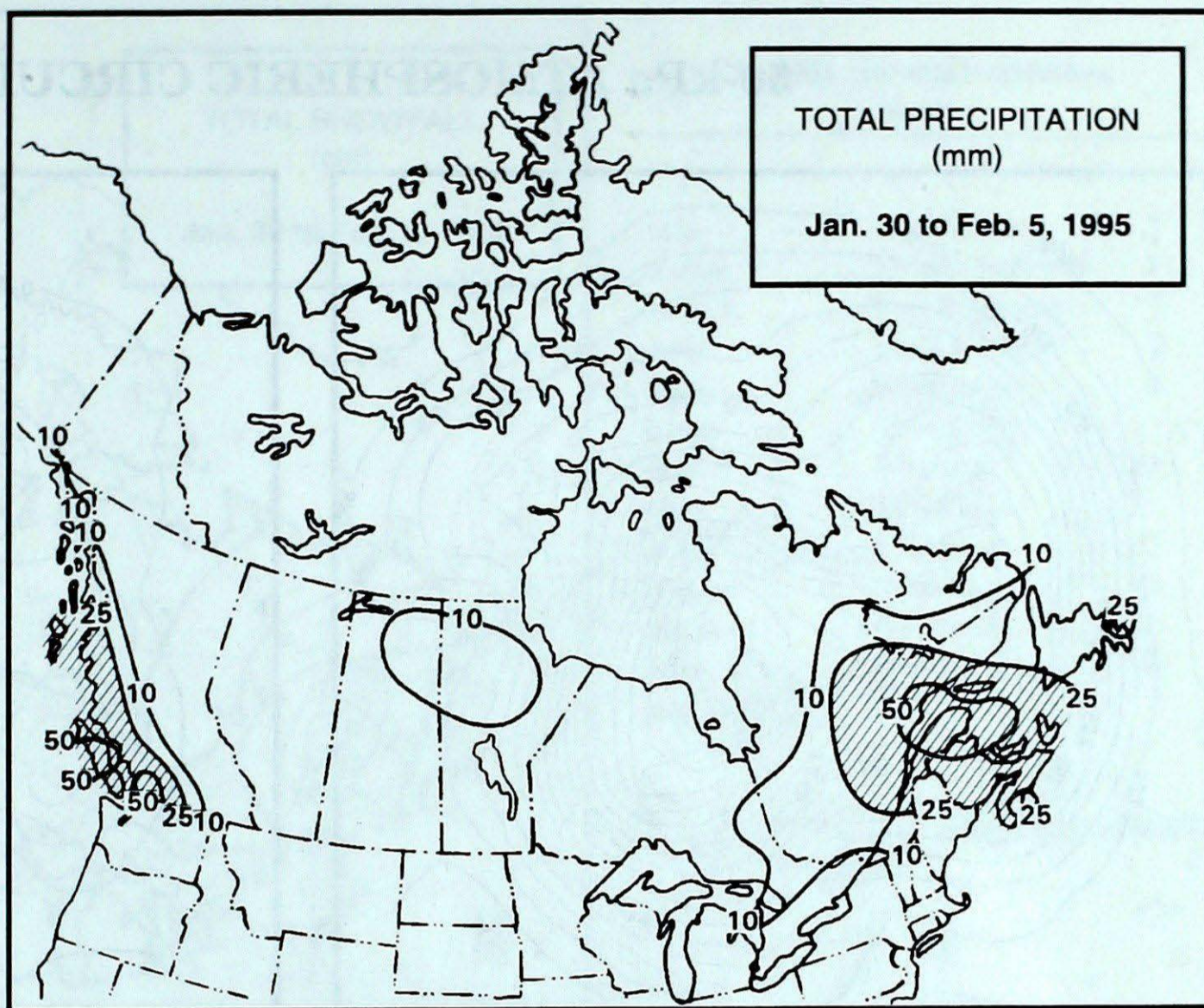
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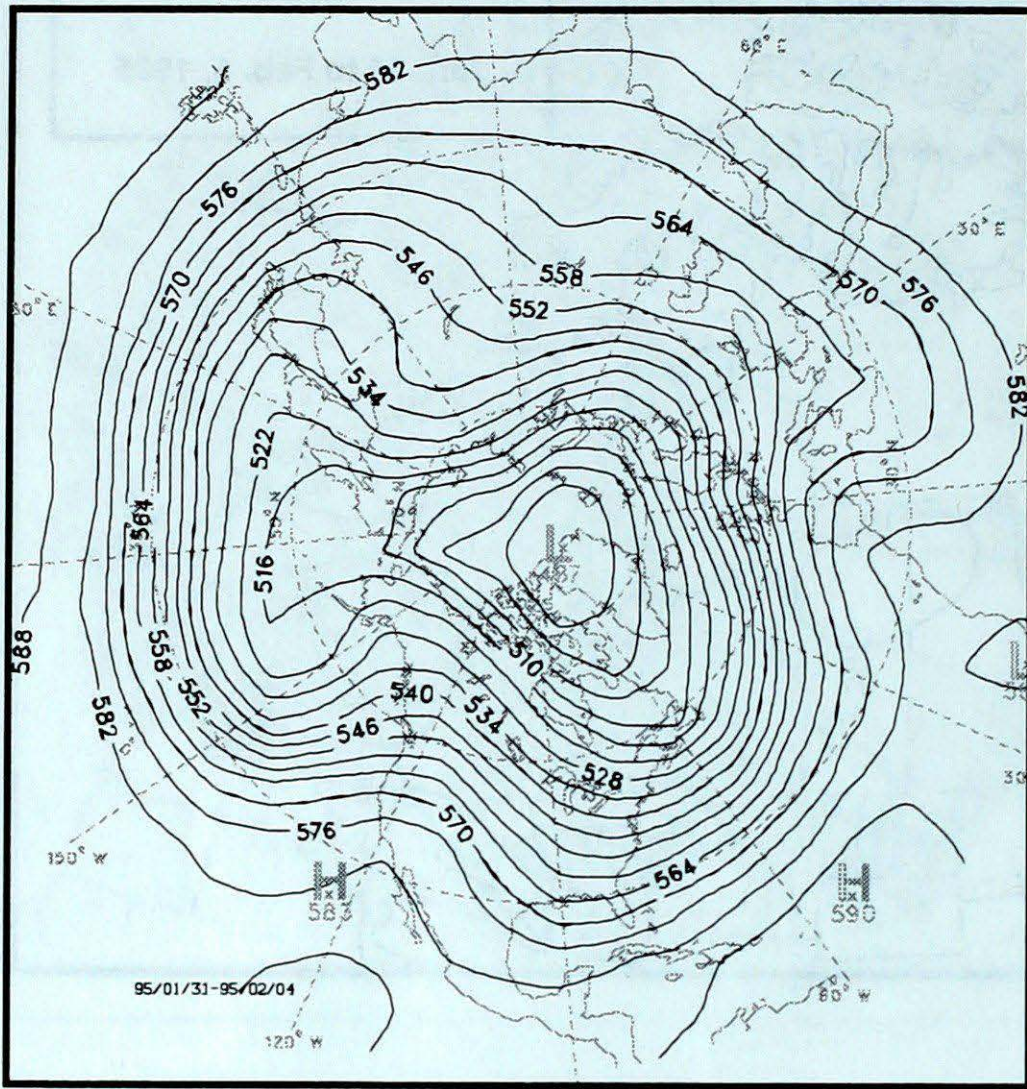
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The purpose of the publication is to make topical information available to the public concerning the Canadian climate and its socio-economic impact.

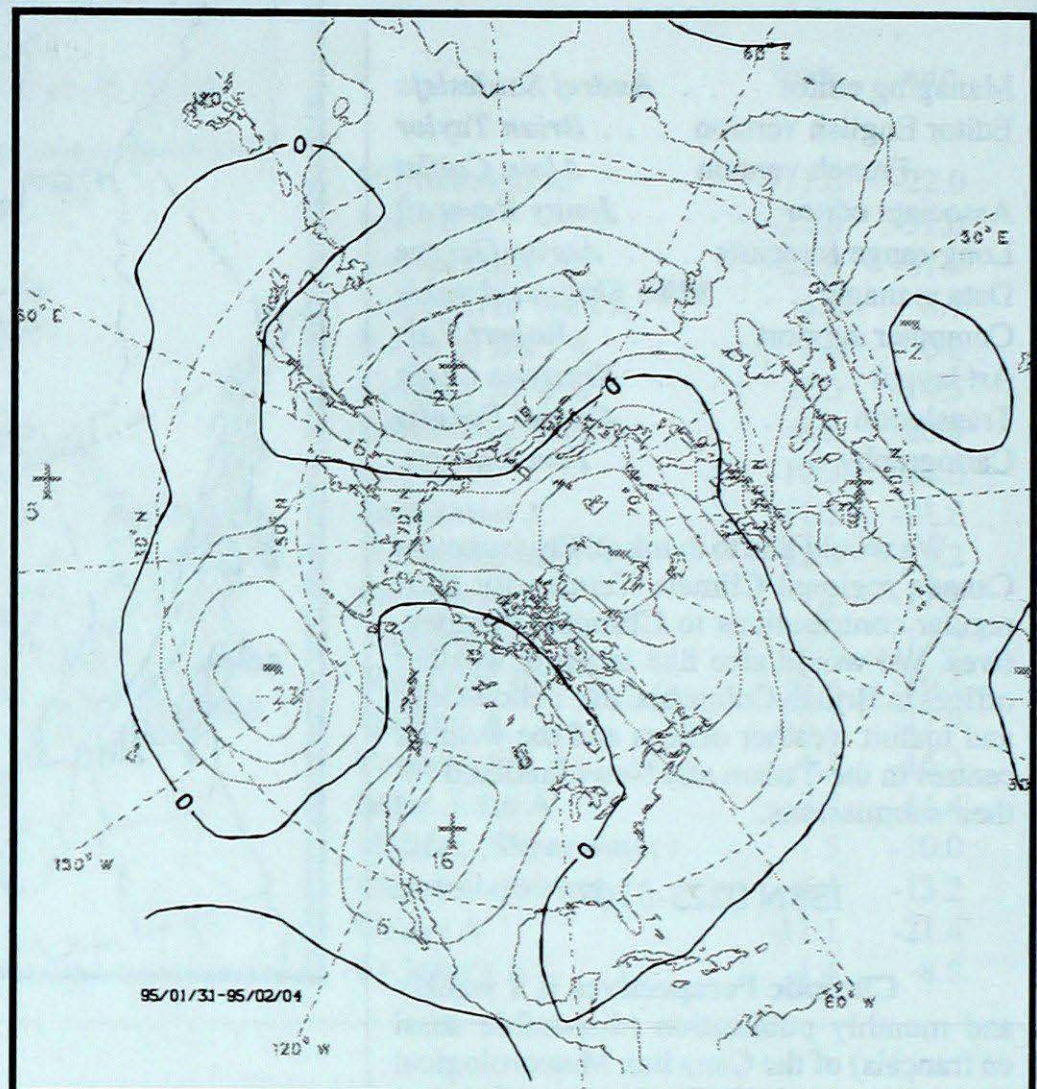
The data in this publication are based on unverified reports from approximately 225 Canadian synoptic weather stations. Information concerning climatic impacts is gathered from AES contacts with the public and from the media. Articles do not necessarily reflect the views of Atmospheric Environment Service.



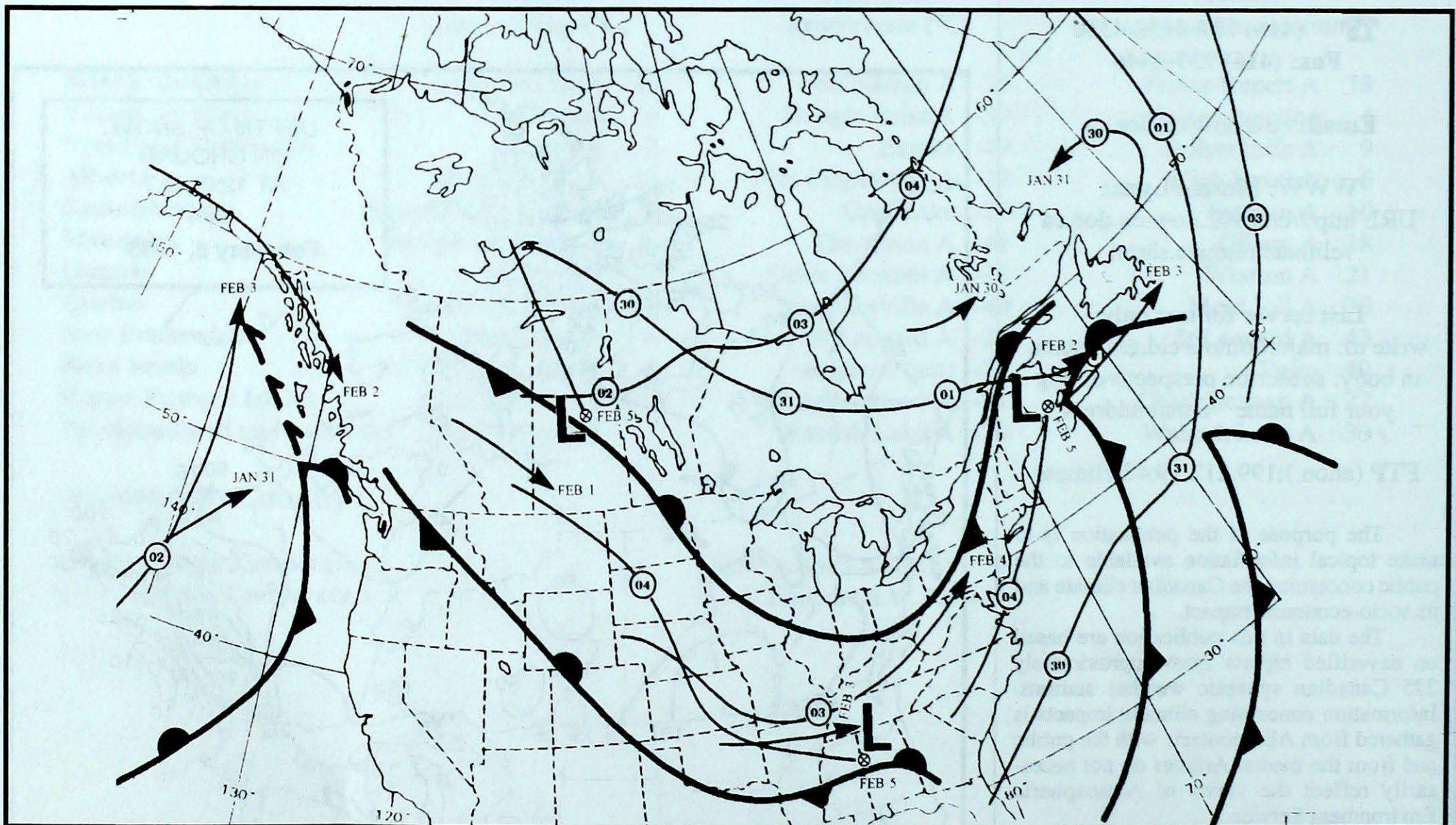
50-kPa ATMOSPHERIC CIRCULATION



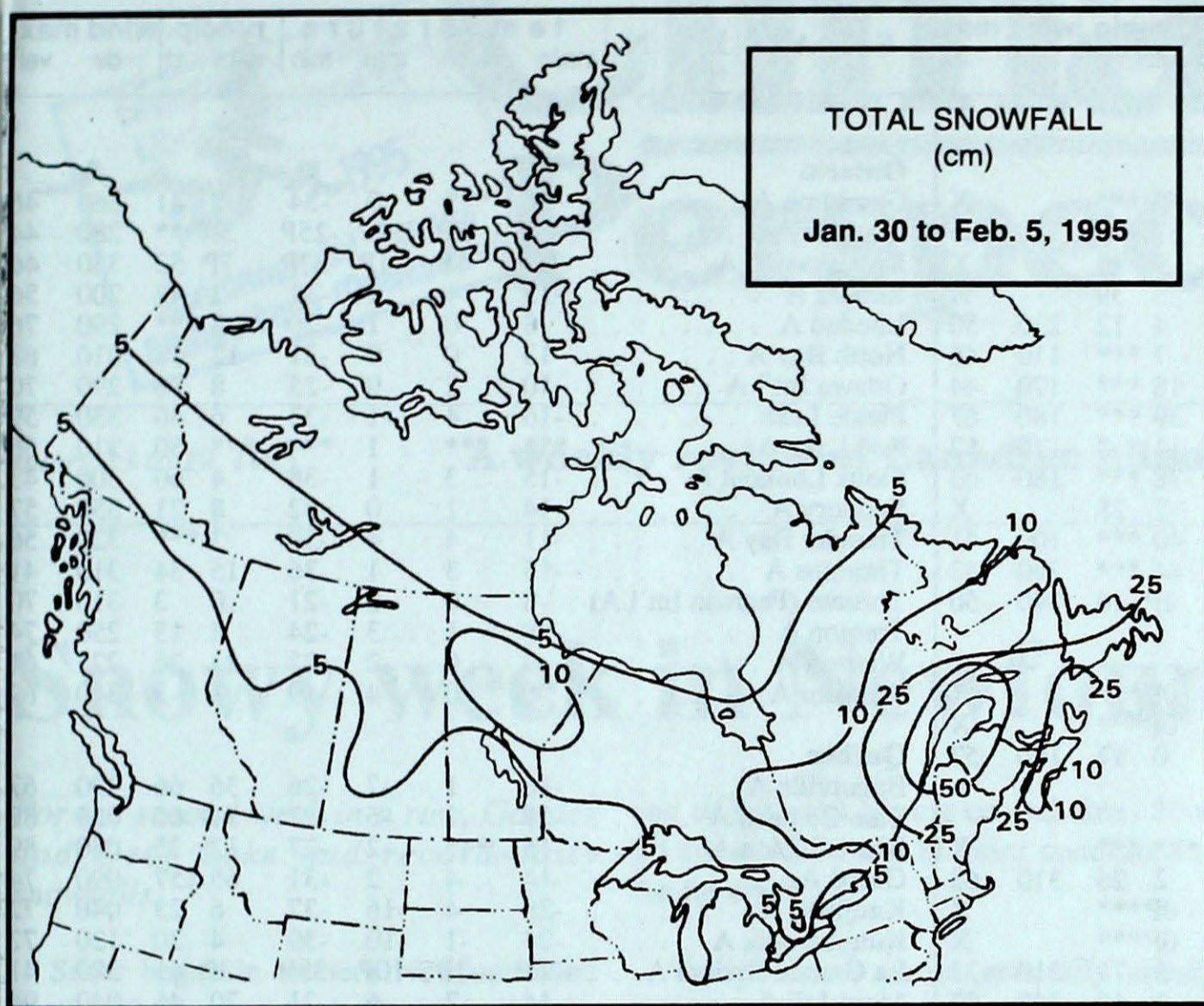
Mean geopotential height
50-kPa level (6-decametre intervals)



Mean geopotential height anomaly
50-kPa level (6-decametre intervals)



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



**Weekly snowfall extremes
(cm)**

B.C.	..... Fort Nelson	5
Yukon	..... Haines Junction	5
N.W.T.	..... Fort Simpson	5
Alta.	..... High Level	8
Sask.	..... Saskatoon	9
Man.	..... Thompson	21
Ont.	..... Wiarton	28P
Que.	..... Mont Joli	71
N.B.	..... Charlo	62
N.S.	..... Sydney	21
P.E.I.	..... Charlottetown	27
Nfld.	..... Wabush Lake	40
and Lab.		

P=Less than 7 days data available
Tr=Trace

ACID RAIN REPORT

Site	Day	pH	Amount	Air Path To Site
Egbert, Ont.				Not Available
Dorset*, Ont.				Not Available
Sutton, Que.				Not Available
Kejimikujik, N.S.				Not Available

January 29 to February 4, 1995

The sampling sites in the table to the left, where the acidity of precipitation is monitored, are all operated by Environment Canada except Dorset*, which is a research station operated by the Ontario Ministry of Environment and Energy.

The table gives the weekly report summarizing the acidity (or pH) of the 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.

R = rain (mm) S = snow (cm)
M = mixed rain and snow (mm)

