Weekly

Climatic Perspectives

February 13 to 19, 1995 — A weekly review of Canadian climate and water — Vol. 17 No. 8

Winds lash coastal regions

Strong winds were recorded along the east, west and northern coasts.

Blizzard conditions in Newfoundland, on the 13th, caused power outages and closed schools and some businesses. Winds reaching 135 km/h at Burgeo resulted in an 18-hour power outage. Ferry service was cancelled between Nova Scotia and Newfoundland due to winds of 82 km/h at Sydney and 159 km/h at Port aux Basques. A disturbance from the west, on the 16th, brought snow and rain to Newfoundland and five to ten centimetres of snow to southern Labrador. Below-normal temperatures were experienced in Labrador.

Strong winds, to 90 km/h, blew across Prince Edward Island and Cape Breton Island, on the 13th and again on the 16th, over P.E.I., eastern New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Temperatures in the Maritimes were well below normal, at the beginning of the week. Locations in New Brunswick recorded minimum temperatures from -27 to -20°C, February 13-15. Temperatures rose to above-normal, on the 16th - Nova Scotia recorded maximum temperatures from 8 to 10°C. Precipitation totals varied from 5 mm at Moncton, New Brunswick, to 24 mm at Western Head, Nova Scotia. Snow was the major precipitation type in northern New Brunswick, while a mix of rain and snow fell in other areas.

Strong, gusty, east to southeast winds persisted throughout the week at Port Hardy, British Columbia. A frontal system moved across Vancouver Island, on the 13th, bringing 20 to 30 cm of snow to central and northern locales. The system also brought strong winds to the Nanaimo area. Trees were downed due to the winds, causing power outages. Temperatures rose during the week and precipitation changed to rain. On the 18th, Victoria recorded 48.2 mm of rain (old record 29.2 mm, 1968). The interior of British Columbia was influenced by cool, dry Arctic air, at the start of the week. However, a southwesterly flow established itself by week's end, producing wet and mild conditions.

Clear and cold summarize what was experienced in the Northwest Territories. High wind-chill factors were recorded in northern areas of the District(s) of Mackenzie and Keewatin.

Elsewhere

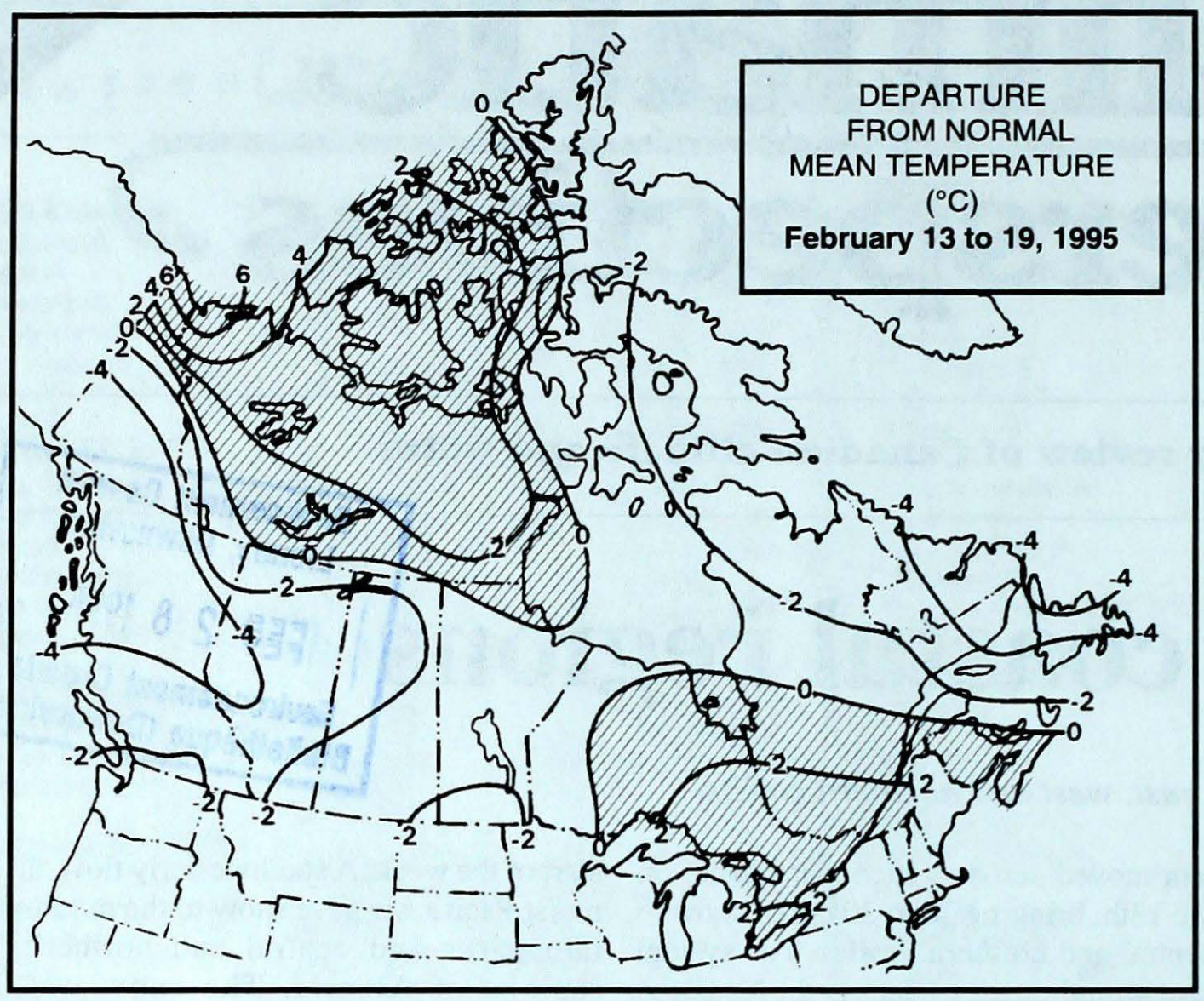
The Yukon was in a persistent northerly flow aloft for most of the week with below-normal temperatures. By the weekend, the flow changed to southwesterly and a storm tracked across the Yukon bringing a few centimetres of snow, wind and blizzard conditions.

A dome of cold Arctic air covered the Prairie Provinces, for most of the week, keeping temperatures well below normal. Minimum temperatures in southern regions ranged from -30 to -25°C, at the start of the week. A southwesterly flow of moist Pacific air gave snow to the mountain parks and central and northern regions of Alberta. The snow was welcome news to the participants of the Canada Winter Games taking place at Grande Prairie and Jasper. Mild air surfaced in southern Alberta on the 17th, pushing temperatures to 15.6°C at Medicine Hat, on the 19th. By the end of the week, the milder air pushed across Alberta and into southern Saskatchewan.

Temperatures in Ontario became milder, as the week progressed. Toronto recorded 8.1°C on the 19th. Heavy snowfalls were recorded, February 15-16, in an area stretching from Wawa eastwards to Timmins. Earlton and Wawa received 10 to 20 cm of snow while Timmins received over 20 cm. Freezing rain in southern Ontario, on the 15th, caused dangerous driving conditions.

A look ahead ...

For the week of February 27, above-normal temperatures are expected across British Columbia, the Prairies, Ontario, the southern half of Quebec, and the Atlantic Provinces. Elsewhere, near- to below-normal temperatures are likely. Significant precipitation is possible for B.C., southwestern Alberta, the Great Lakes Basin and southwestern Quebec.



Weekly normal temperatures (°C)

	max.	min.
Whitehorse A	-9.3	-19.2
Iqaluit A	-21.9	-30.5
Yellowknife A	-21.9	-31.5
Vancouver Int'l A	8.0	1.7
Victoria Int'l A	8.2	1.4
Calgary Int'l A	-3.2	-14.0
Edmonton Int'l A	-7.1	-18.0
Regina A	-9.0	-19.9
Saskatoon A	-10.2	-21.2
Winnipeg Int'l A	-10.6	-21.5
Ottawa Int'l A	-5.0	-14.5
Toronto Int'l A	-1.8	-10.4
Montréal Int'l A	-4.6	-13.7
Québec A	-6.1	-15.9
Fredericton A	-2.7	-14.2
Saint John A	-2.3	-12.9
Halifax (Shearwater)	-0.6	-8.9
Charlottetown A	-3.3	-12.0
Goose A	-9.0	-19.4
St John's A	-1.3	-7.9

Weekly temperature and precipitation extremes

	Maximum temperature (°C)		Minimum temperature (°C)		Greatest precipitation (mm)	
British Columbia	Lytton	14	Fort Nelson A	-32	Vancouver Int'l A	89
Yukon Territory	Blanchard	-5	Ogilvie	-48	Watson Lake A	13
Northwest Territories	Inuvik A	-9	Shepherd Bay A	-47	Inuvik A	21
Alberta	Medicine Hat A	16	Fort Chipewyan A	-37	Grande Prairie A	15
Saskatchewan	Eastend Cypress (aut)	13	La Ronge A	-37	Yorkton A	7
Manitoba	Winnipeg A	-5	Norway House A	-35	The Pas A	6
Ontario	Burlington Piers (aut)	9	Moosonee	-33	Timmins A	21
Quebec	Sherbrooke A	7	Schefferville A	-35	Sherbrooke A	41
New Brunswick	Moncton A	6	St Stephen (aut)	-27	Charlo A	22
	St Stephen (aut)	6				
Nova Scotia	Shearwater A	9	Truro	-19	Yarmouth A	23
Prince Edward Island	East Point (aut)	5	Charlottetown A	-19	Charlottetown A	7
Newfoundland and Labrador	St John's A	5	Wabush Lake A	-36	St Anthony	50

Across The Country...

Highest Mean Temperature	Victoria Int'l A (B.C.)	5
Lowest Mean Temperature	Eureka (N.W.T.)	-39

95/02/13-95/02/19

CLIMATIC PERSPECTIVES
VOLUME 17

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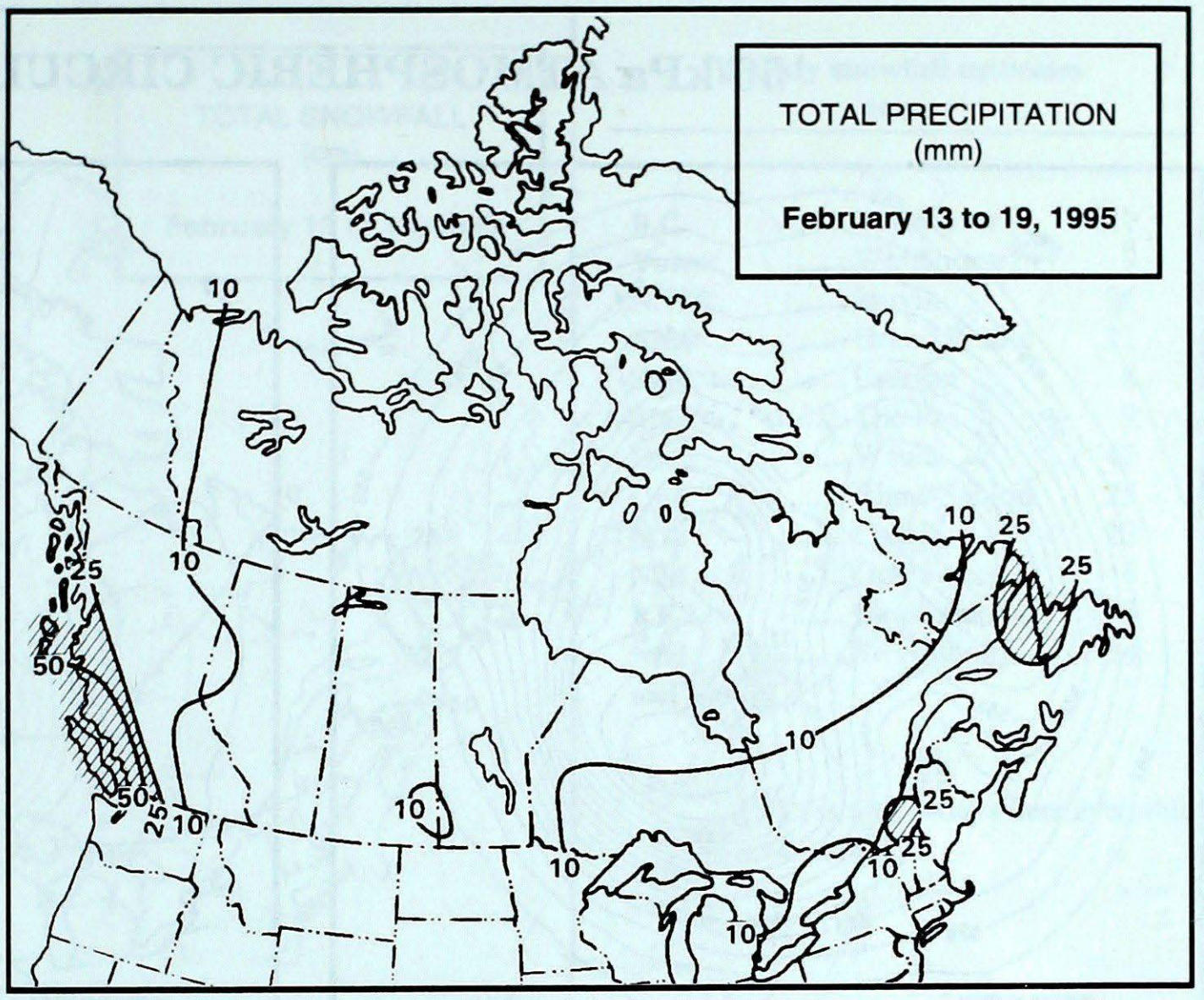
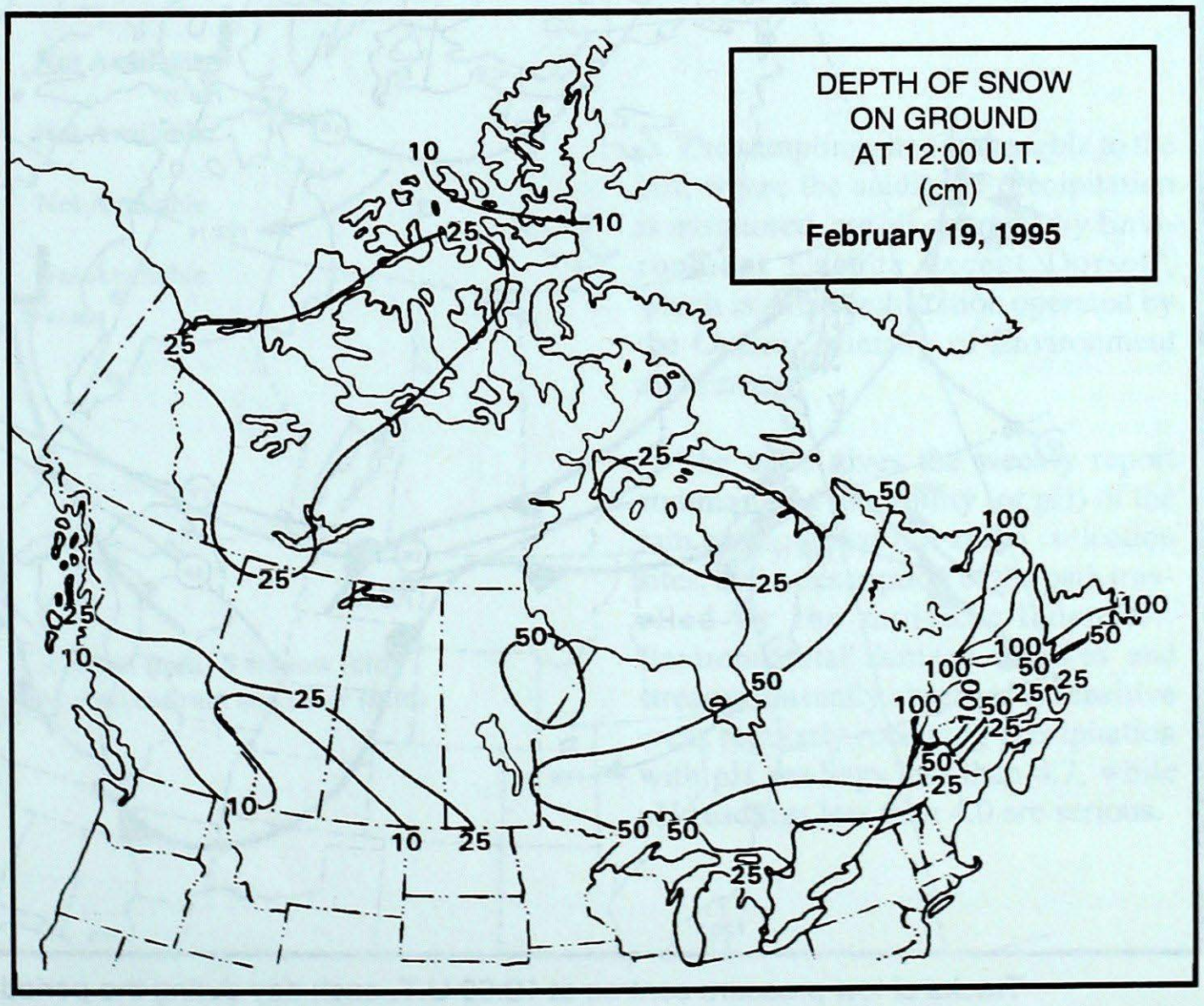
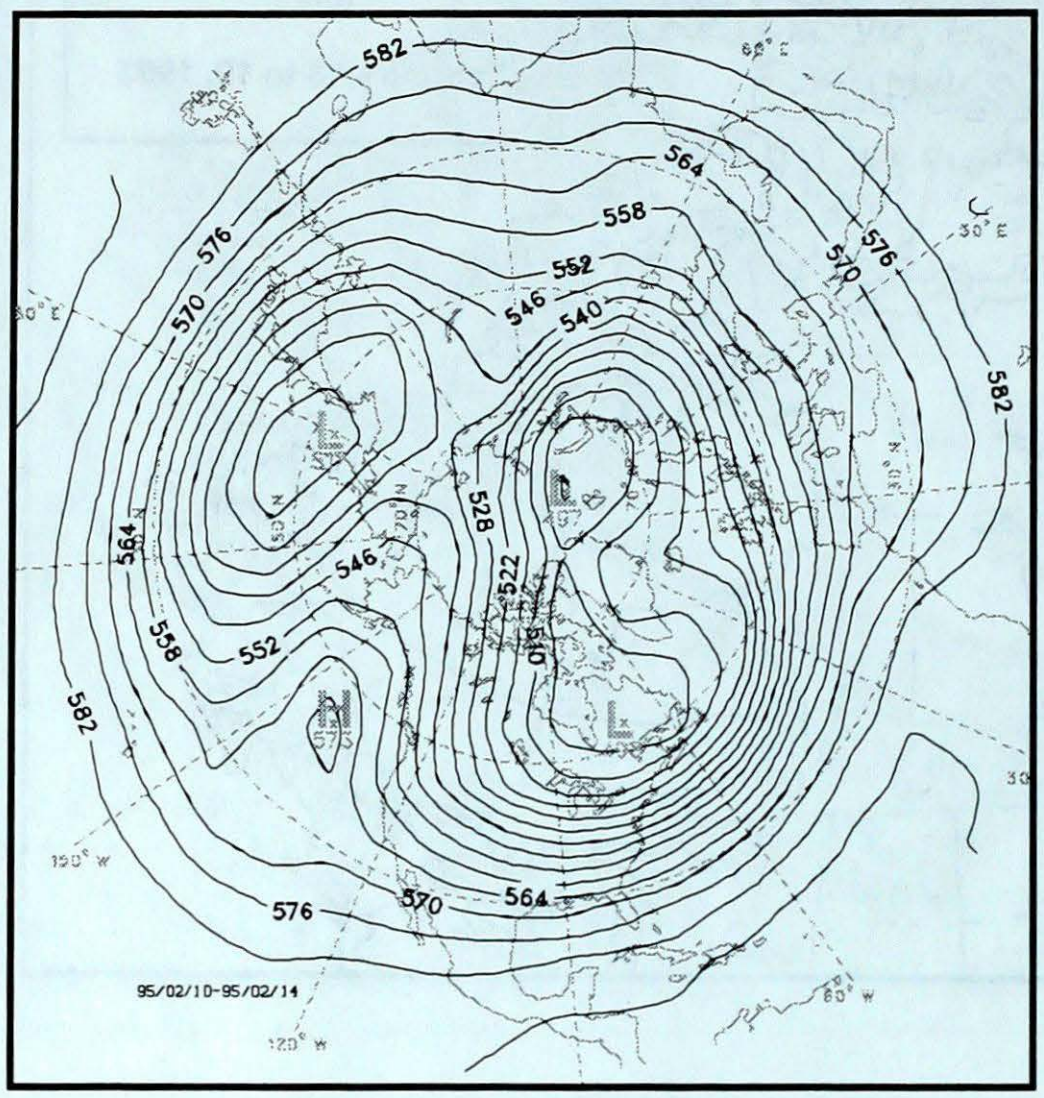
The purpose of the publication is to make topical information available to the public concerning the Canadian climate and its socio-economic impact.

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.

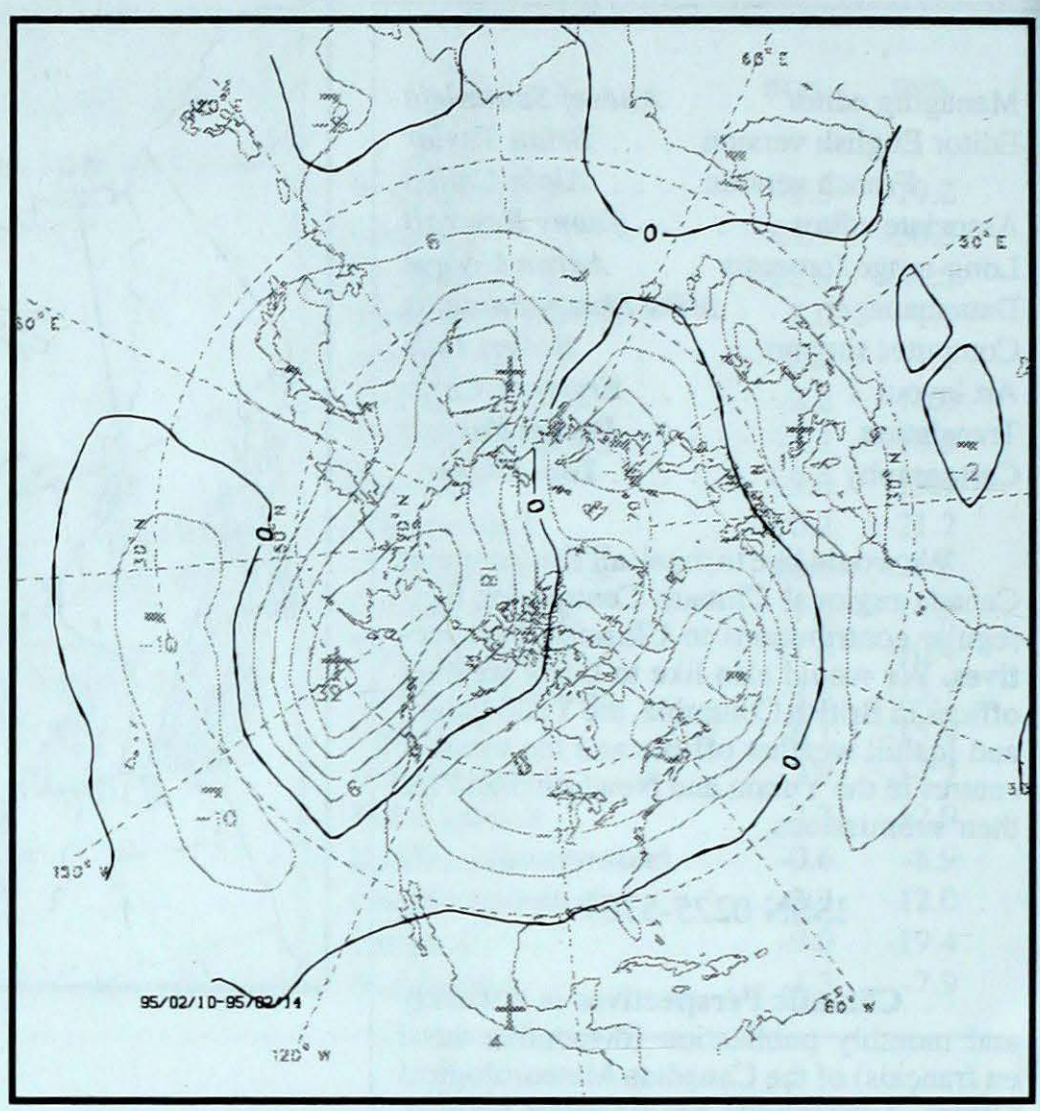




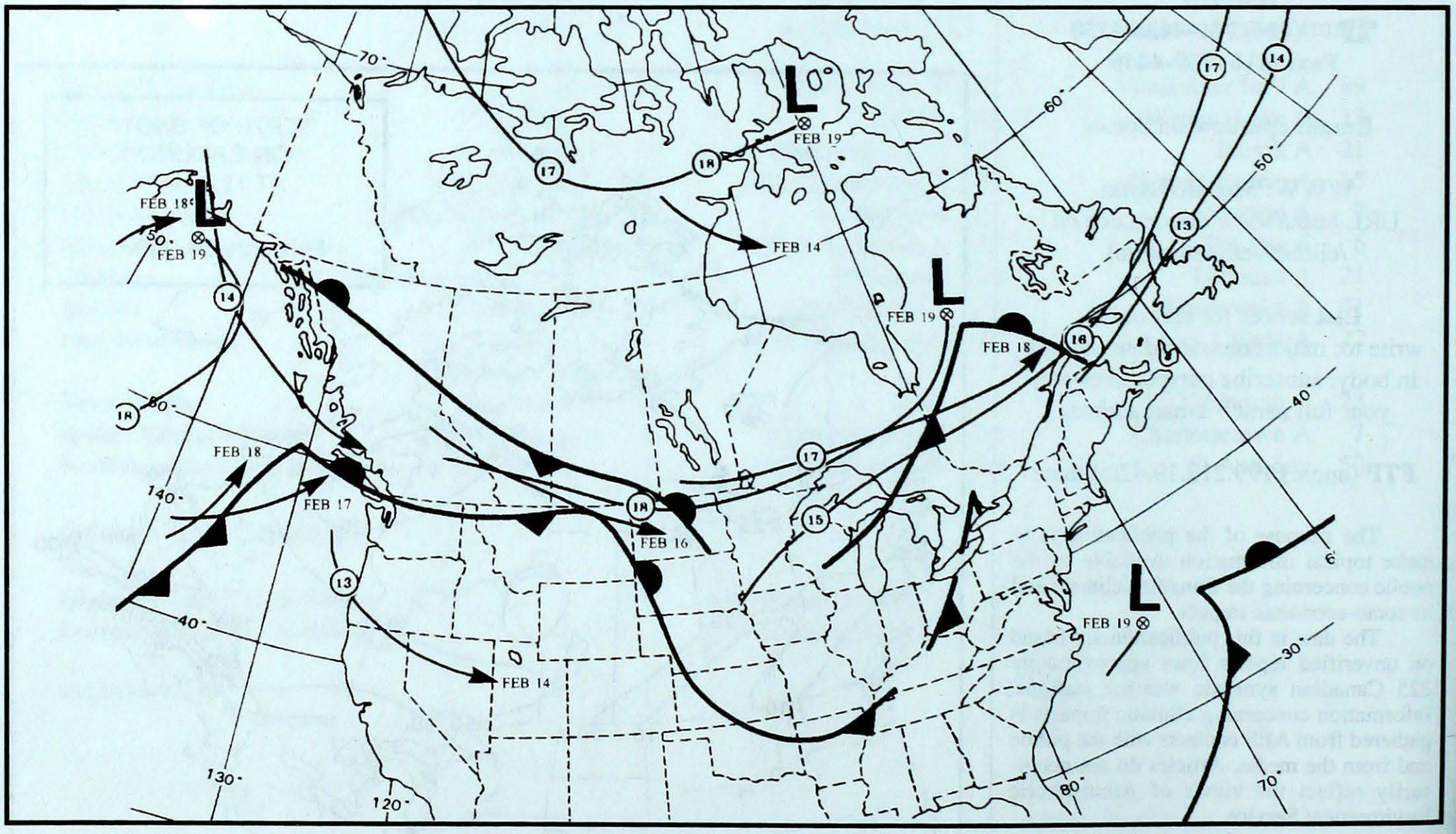
50-kPa ATMOSPHERIC CIRCULATION



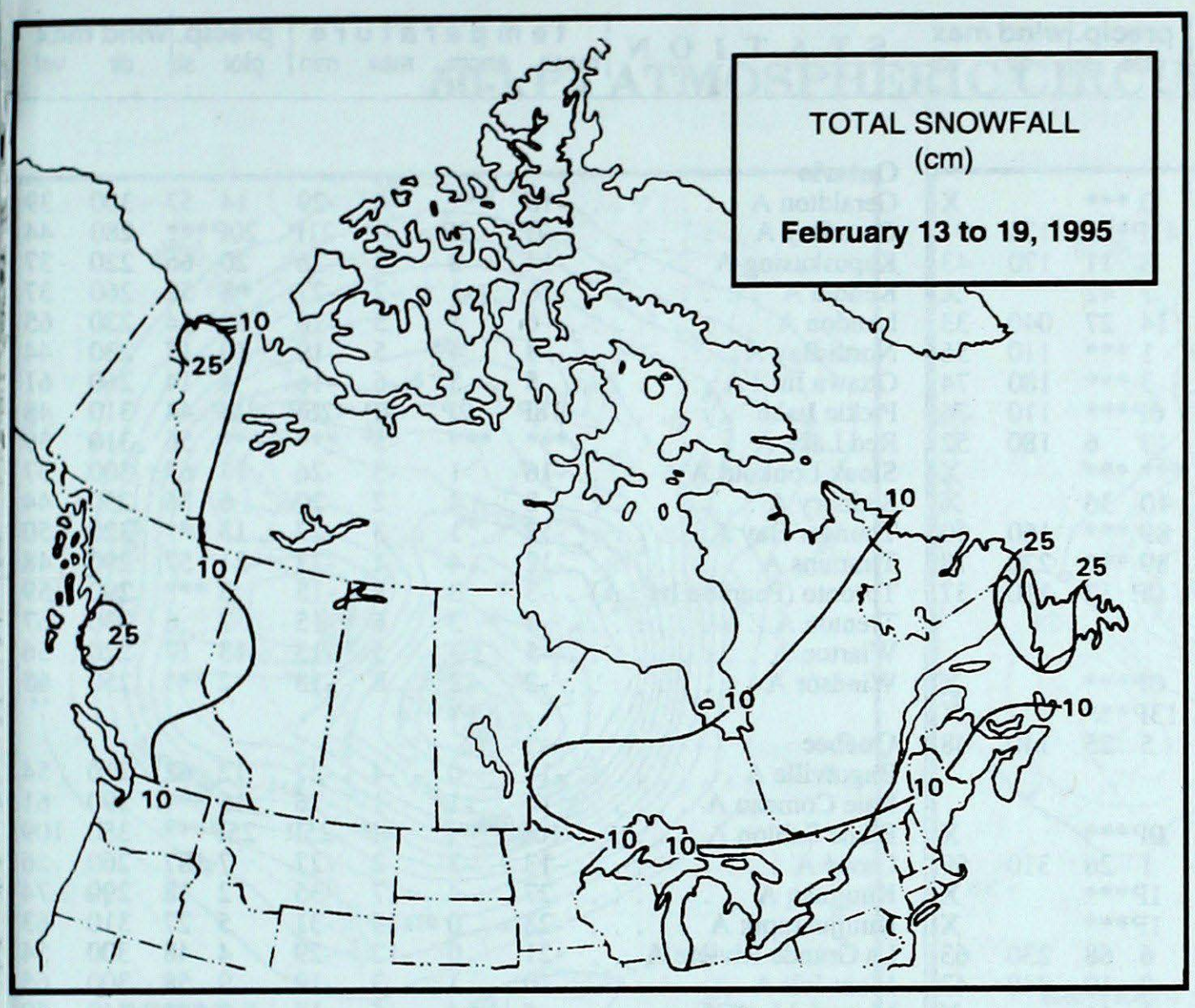
Mean geopotential height
50-kPa level (6-decametre intervals)



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.	..... Vancouver	21
Yukon	..... Whitehorse	9
N.W.T.	..... Inuvik	26
Alta.	..... Grand Prairie	21
Sask.	..... Estevan	8
Man.	..... The Pas	9
Ont.	..... Wawa	47
Que.	..... Blanc Sablon	25
N.B.	..... Charlo	22
N.S.	..... Greenwood	6
P.E.I.	..... Charlottetown	3
Nfld. and Lab.	..... St. Anthony	54

P=Less than 7 days data available
Tr=Trace

ACID RAIN REPORT

February 12 to 18, 1995

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

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

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.

STATION	temperature mean	anom	max	min	precip. ptot	st	wind max dir	vel
British Columbia								
Blue River A	-6	-3	10	-23	0	***		X
Comox A	2P	-2P	10P	-6P	41P	***	130	91
Cranbrook A	-5	-2	13	-23	8	11	170	43
Fort Nelson A	-20	-1	-9	-32	7	42		X
Fort St John A	-18	-5	-5	-27	14	27	040	33
Kamloops A	-1	0	13	-12	1	***	110	56
Penticton A	1	1	12	-13	3	***	180	74
Port Hardy A	5P	1P	11P	-6P	6P	***	110	76
Prince George A	-11	-4	9	-21	13	6	180	52
Prince Rupert A	***	***	***	***	***	***		X
Smithers A	-10	-4	7	-22	10	36		X
Vancouver Int'l A	4	-1	12	-6	89	***	160	50
Victoria Int'l A	5	0	11	-5	89	***	220	78
Williams Lake A	-5P	-1P	12P	-21P	0P	17	110	37
Yukon Territory								
Teslin (aut)	-26P	***P	-17P	-37P	0P	***		X
Watson Lake A	-27P	-8P	-17P	-43P	13P	***		X
Whitehorse A	-22	-8	-13	-35	5	25	140	48
Northwest Territories								
Alert	-32P	2P	-29P	-35P	0P	***		X
Baker Lake A	-30	3	-17	-36	1	26	310	59
Cambridge Bay A	-31P	4P	-18P	-37P	1P	***		X
Clyde A	-32P	-4P	-23P	-38P	1P	***		X
Coppermine A	-25	-3	-15	-35	6	68	230	63
Coral Harbour A	-32	-2	-23	-38	0	10	340	43
Eureka	-39	-1	-32	-43	1	11		X
Fort Smith A	-24	0	-11	-34	2	40	310	37
Hall Beach A	-30P	4P	-22P	-41P	1P	38	330	33
Inuvik A	-23	8	-9	-40	21	56	340	83
Iqaluit A	-31	-5	-24	-39	0	26		X
Mould Bay A	-30P	6P	-24P	-36P	0P	***	320	50
Norman Wells A	-27P	1P	-11P	-40P	1P	33	290	67
Resolute A	-31	2	-25	-40	1	52	110	57
Yellowknife A	-25P	2P	-13P	-36P	2P	32	330	61
Alberta								
Calgary Int'l A	-9	-1	12	-25	0	***	250	87
Cold Lake A	-14P	1P	2P	-25P	0P	24		X
Edmonton Namao A	-18P	-6P	-11P	-25P	0P	21		X
Fort McMurray A	-20	-3	-9	-32	5	22	100	37
Grande Prairie A	-18	-4	6	-29	15	46	270	46
High Level A	-19P	-2P	-9P	-26P	7P	30	340	46
Lethbridge A	1P	7P	15P	-19P	0P	***		X
Medicine Hat A	-8	0	16	-25	3	***	220	65
Peace River A	-18P	-2P	-11P	-27P	8P	26	010	32
Saskatchewan								
Estevan A	-15	-2	6	-29	3	24	220	44
La Ronge A	-21	-2	-10	-37	3	33	240	37
Regina A	-15	-1	5	-27	3	11	140	63
Saskatoon A	-17	-1	1	-28	2	***	300	33
Swift Current A	-11	0	9	-26	6	***	190	56
Yorkton A	-19P	-2P	-3P	-29P	7P	50	140	41
Manitoba								
Brandon A	-19	-3	0	-31	1	27	290	35
Churchill A	-26	1	-16	-32	0	***	310	72
Lynn Lake A	-22P	-1P	-12P	-33P	3P	31	320	46
The Pas A	-19	0	-9	-32	6	29	310	44
Thompson A	-21P	0P	-11P	-35P	2P	46	260	41
Winnipeg Int'l A	-18	-2	-5	-29	0	24	170	67

STATION	temperature mean	anom	max	min	precip. ptot	st	wind max dir	vel
Ontario								
Geraldton A	-16	***	-6	-29	14	57	300	39
Gore Bay A	-7P	3P	4P	-21P	20P	***	280	44
Kapuskasing A	-14	2	-3	-26	20	66	220	37
Kenora A	-16	-1	-2	-27	8	52	260	37
London A	-6	1	5	-16	10	14	220	65
North Bay A	-8	4	5	-19	10	17	230	44
Ottawa Int'l A	-5	5	6	-16	4	14	260	61
Pickle Lake	-18P	2P	-7P	-26P	15P	44	310	48
Red Lake A	***	***	-5	***	***	56	310	39
Sioux Lookout A	-16	-1	-3	-26	14	67	300	37
Sudbury A	-8	4	2	-20	6	36	250	44
Thunder Bay A	-12	1	3	-27	13	***	320	50
Timmins A	-12	4	1	-23	21	57	290	48
Toronto (Pearson Int'l A)	-3	3	8	-15	3	***	290	59
Trenton A	-4	3	6	-15	7	6	330	67
Wiarton A	-5	3	5	-13	13	17	220	56
Windsor A	-2	2	8	-13	2	***	250	65
Québec								
Bagotville A	-14	0	-4	-27	12	62	310	54
Baie Comeau A	-14	-1	1	-26	15	***	290	61
Blanc Sablon A	-16P	***P	-4P	-25P	25P	***	350	109
Gaspé A	-13	-3	2	-27	7	187	260	56
Kuujjuaq A	-27	-4	-17	-35	2	18	290	74
Kuujjuarapik A	-23	0	-15	-31	5	27	310	63
La Grande Rivière A	-21	0	-12	-29	4	48	300	54
Mont Joli A	-10	1	3	-19	9	58	300	65
Montréal Int'l A	-5	4	5	-18	*	***	240	50
Natashquan A	-16	-5	-1	-29	15	104	280	74
Québec A	-10	1	2	-24	20	85	230	56
Schefferville A	-24	-3	-12	-35	3	***	240	39
Sept-Îles A	-16	-3	-4	-28	18	59	310	44
Sherbrooke A	-9	3	7	-26	41	***	***	X
Val-d'Or A	-13	3	1	-24	17	28	330	44
New Brunswick								
Fredericton A	-8P	0P	6P	-21P	0P	50	190	67
Miscou Island (aut)	-10P	0P	2P	-20P	9P	***		X
Moncton A	-8	0	6	-21	6	18	270	74
Saint John A	-8	0	5	-24	14	9	190	61
St Leonard A	-11	***	4	-25	16	120	180	44
Nova Scotia								
Greenwood A	-4	1	8	-17	15	6	170	89
Shearwater A	-4	1	9	-16	16	***	210	80
Sydney A	***	***	7	***	***	11	280	89
Yarmouth A	-3	1	7	-14	23	***	310	59
Prince Edward Island								
Charlottetown A	-8	0	5	-19	7	17	280	70
East Point (auto)	-7	***	5	-16	201	***		X
Newfoundland and Labrador								
Cartwright	-17	-5	-8	-26	21	154	340	93
Churchill Falls A	-23P	-3P	0P	-34P	2P	***	300	46
Gander Int'l A	-10	-4	3	-17	18	129	270	107
Goose A	-19	-4	-9	-28	6	29	280	59
Stephenville A	-9	-3	2	-20	39	111	300	93
St John's A	-9	-4	5	-16	19	112	260	133
St Lawrence	-7	-2	4	-14	21	47		X
Wabush Lake A	-23	-1	-8	-36	8	95	280	50

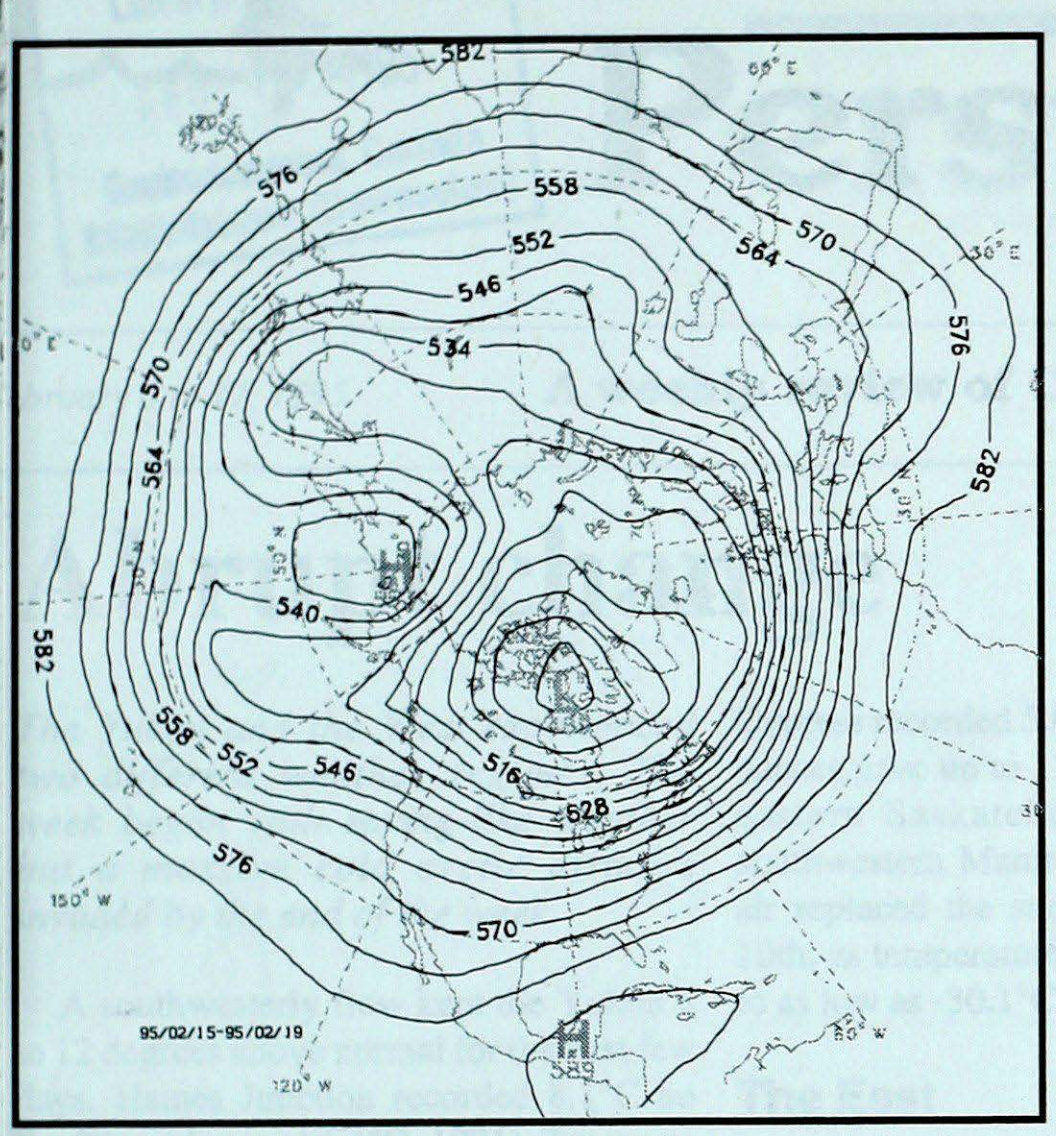
95/02/13-95/02/19

mean = mean weekly temperature, °C
max = maximum weekly temperature, °C
min = minimum weekly temperature, °C
anom = mean temperature anomaly , °C

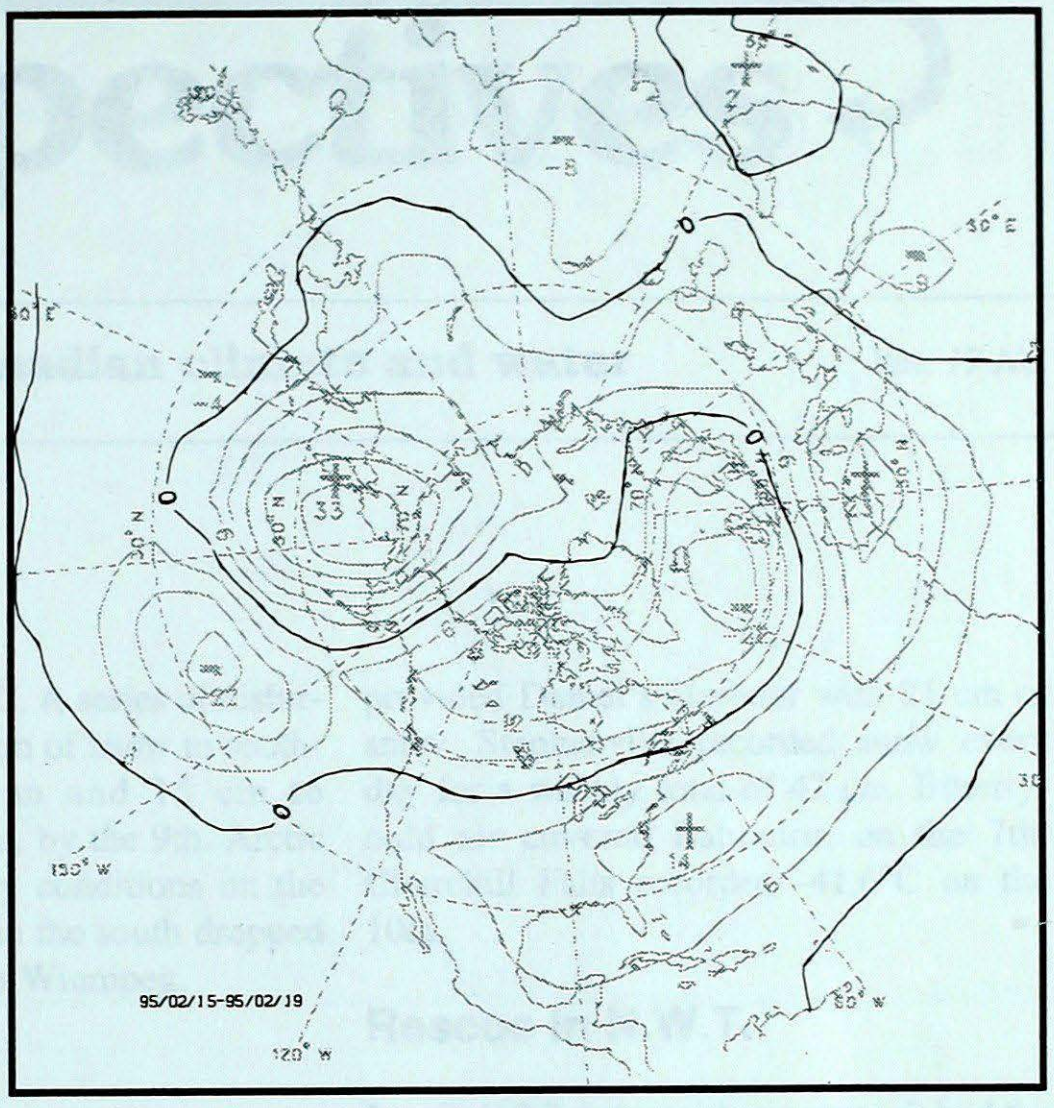
ptot = weekly precipitation total in mm
st = snow thickness on the ground in cm
dir = direction of max wind, deg. from north
vel = wind speed in km/h

— Annotations —
X = no observation
P = less than 7 days of data
***** = missing data when going to printing.

50-kPa ATMOSPHERIC CIRCULATION



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



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

Environmental Citizenship

WATER CONSERVATION

Watch the sales for water-saving devices for toilets, shower heads and faucets. They can cut your water use by as much as 40%.