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A WEEKLY REVIEW OF CANADIAN CLIMATE

CLIMATIC PERSPECTIVES

THE CANADIAN CLIMATE CENTRE,
ATMOSPHERIC ENVIRONMENT SERVICE,
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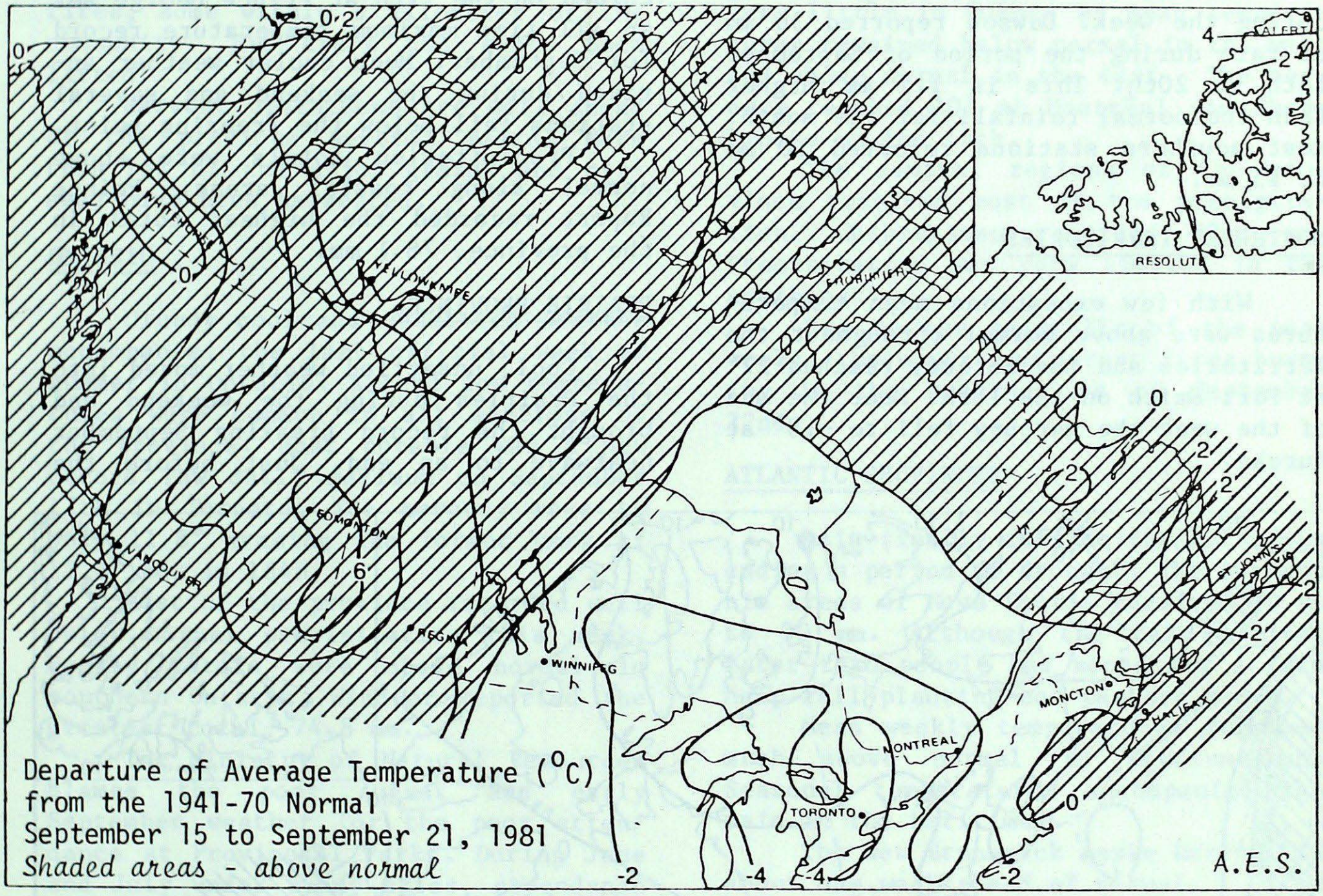
SEPTEMBER 25, 1981 *(Aussi disponible en français)* VOL.3 NO.38



Departure of Average Temperature (^{o}C)
from the 1941-70 Normal
September 15 to September 21, 1981
Shaded areas - above normal

A.E.S.

WEATHER HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE PERIOD - SEPTEMBER 15 - 21, 1981

The heat wave ends in the West

The heat wave in the western provinces continued to produce many temperature records up to the last two days of summer. A cool airmass which marched over the West during the weekend brought unsettled weather but put a damper on the forest fires raging in northern Alberta. The town of Swan Hills was again put on evacuation alert late in the week as a dry thunderstorm ignited more than 20 fires, some within a kilometer of the community.

Temperatures oscillated between a maximum of 35° at many stations in Alberta to a minimum of -18° on the last day of the week at Eureka. Prince Rupert recorded 78.1 mm of precipitation and Sable Island recorded 78.3 mm.

NOTE: The data shown in this publication are based on unverified reports from approximately 225 Canadian and 115 northern United States Synoptic stations.

YUKON

Winter made an appearance in the northern Yukon. The week started with temperatures near 10°, but by the end of the week the mercury was only able to struggle up to -1° with moderate snow reported. Clear nights on the 20th and 21st allowed Watson Lake to set record low temperatures on both days of -3° and -5° respectively.

Much of the central Yukon was wet during the week. Dawson reported 30 mm of rain during the period of September 18th to 20th. This is 1.5 mm higher than the normal rainfall for the month. Most southern stations reported 10 mm to 15 mm.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

With few exceptions mean temperatures were above normal throughout the Territories and the mercury reached 27° at Fort Smith on the 16th. Near the end of the week the mercury fell to -18° at Eureka.

Precipitation was abundant in south-central areas of the Arctic Archipellago and along the Mackenzie Valley. Gladman Point recorded the greatest weekly total, 22.4 mm.

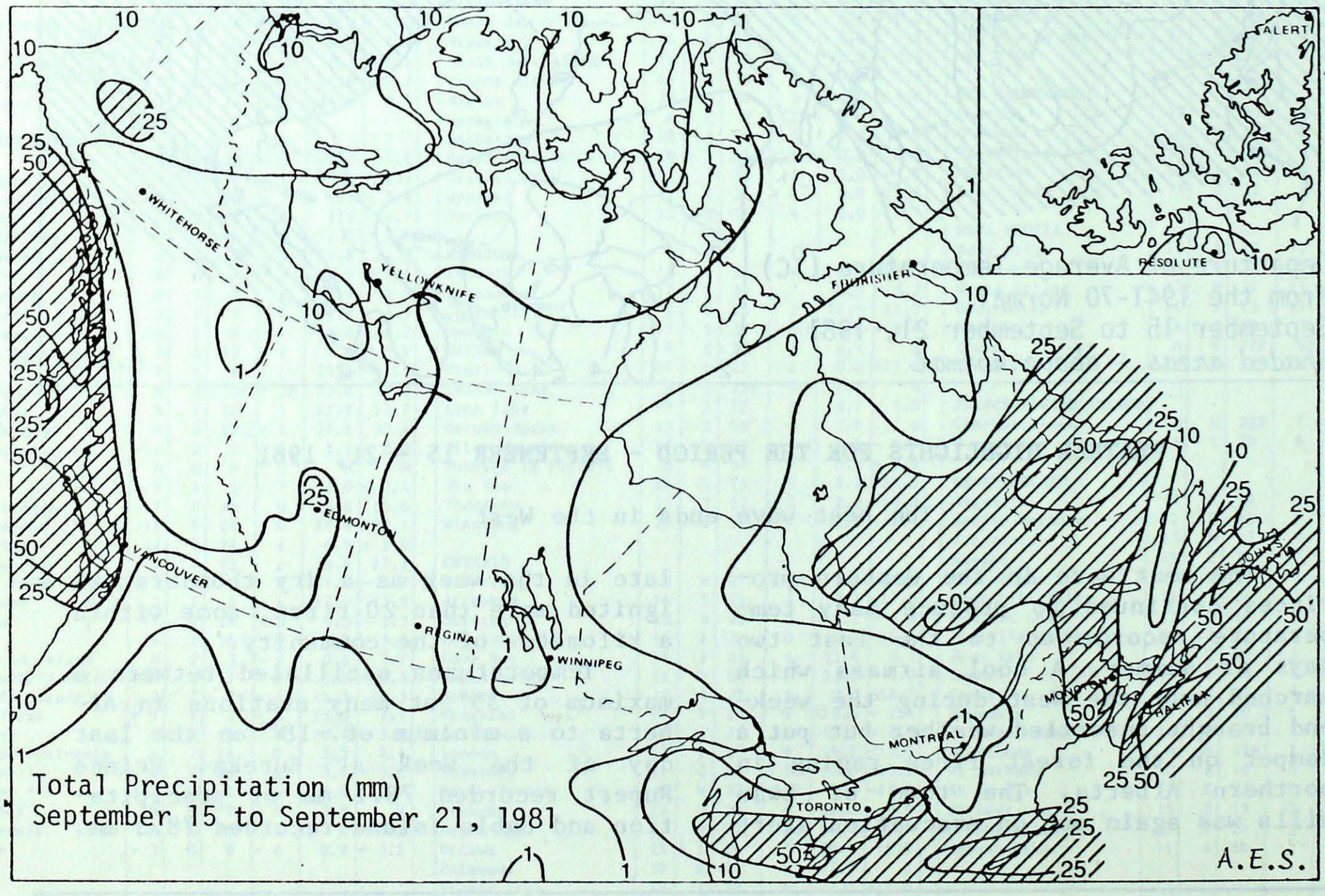
BRITISH COLUMBIA

The week started with very warm weather that set high temperature records at several stations. The 30° recorded on the 17th at Prince George set an all time maximum temperature record for September. Much cooler weather arrived during the weekend and several stations fell below the freezing point.

Precipitation totals were above normal along coastal areas. Prince Rupert recorded the highest total in the province, 78.1 mm.

PRAIRIE PROVINCES

Cool, unsettled weather moved into the Prairies during the weekend and brought the record breaking September heatwave to an end. Just before the



Total Precipitation (mm)
September 15 to September 21, 1981

end, on the 17th and 18th, many stations in Alberta reported maximum temperatures of 35°.

The return to cool, showery weather put a damper on Alberta's forest fires. A number of large fires in northern districts, however, were still out of control at the end of the week. The town of Swan Hills was again put on an evacuation alert late in the week as a dry thunderstorm ignited more than 20 fires, some within a kilometer of the community. The alert has since been lifted.

Harvest operations are well ahead of the previous several years. More than 75% of the major grains and oilseed have been harvested.

ONTARIO

Cloudy cool and unsettled weather accompanied the last official week of summer in Ontario. Record low temperatures were common in all sections of the province. Most notable was a new record low daily maximum on September 17th in Toronto. The mercury rose to only 11.8° erasing the former mark of 12.8° set in 1848.

Most of the province recorded well below normal precipitation this week. Weekly totals were above normal in southern Ontario. Windsor reported the greatest total, 74.8 mm.

The Ministry of Natural Resources blames the poor August and early September weather for the poor attendance at Provincial Parks. During June and July under sunny skies, attendance was up 10%, but the subsequent bad weather stopped this trend.

The Ministry and of the Environment reported that the unusually high rainfalls in the Haliburton area during the late summer contained 20% of the 'normal' one year's acid precipitation.

QUÉBEC

The temperature regime changed very little in Québec as mean temperatures remained below normal in the west and above normal in the east. The mercury reached 20° at Montréal and Sherbrooke on the 15th.

The central regions of the province received most of the precipitation. Chibougamau recorded 52.8 mm. Precipitation was very limited in the southwest.

Due to the rainfalls of the past weeks, there were no forest fires burning in the province as of September 22nd.

ATLANTIC PROVINCES

Rain finally fell on the Maritimes ending a period of drought. The hardest hit areas of Nova Scotia received 20 mm to 30 mm. Although the rain arrived later than people had hoped for it did help fall planting and pasture crops.

Mean weekly temperatures remained much above normal in Newfoundland. Seasonal temperatures accompanied the rain in the Maritimes.

The New Brunswick apple harvest is about one week ahead of normal.

CLIMATIC PERSPECTIVES

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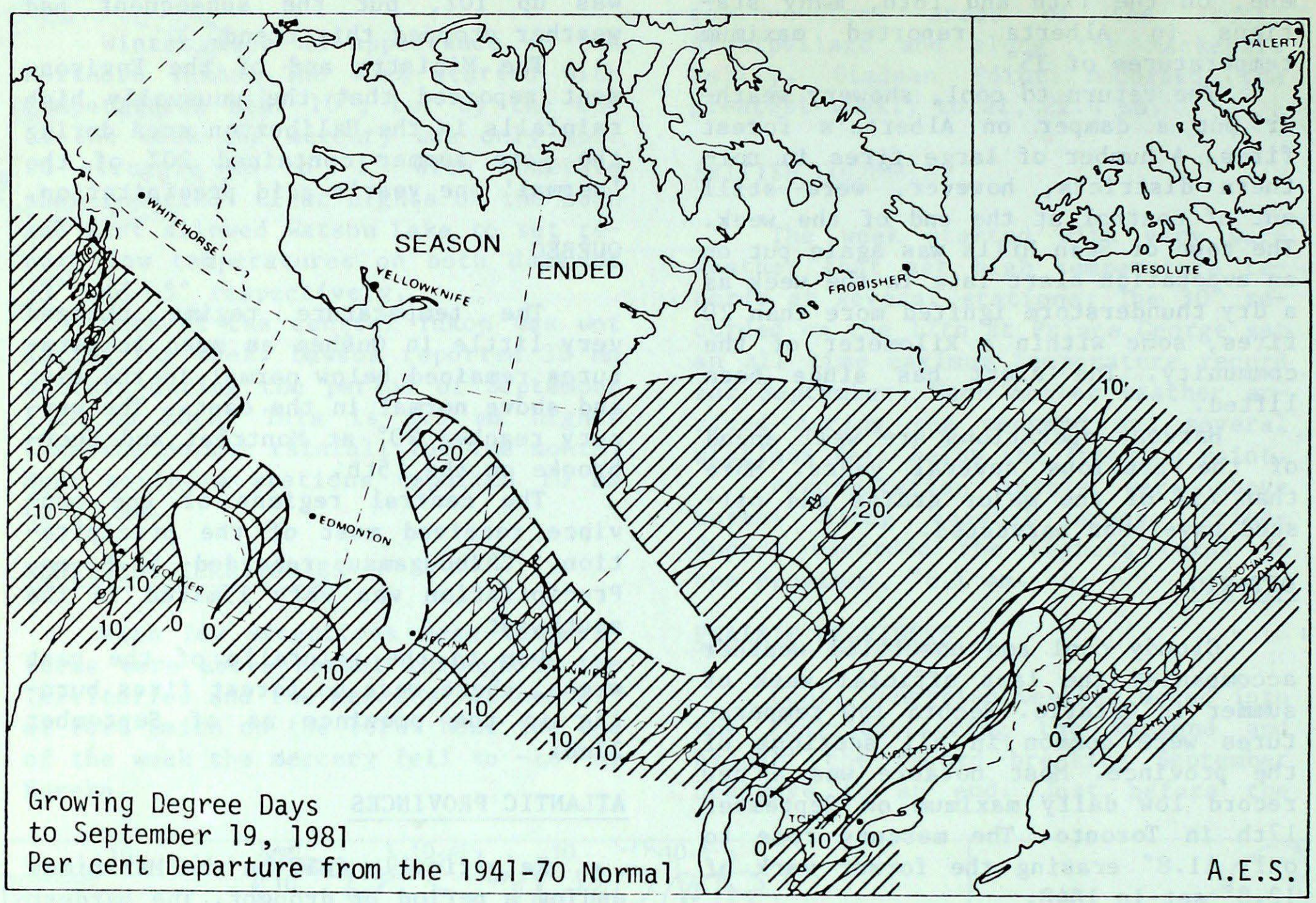
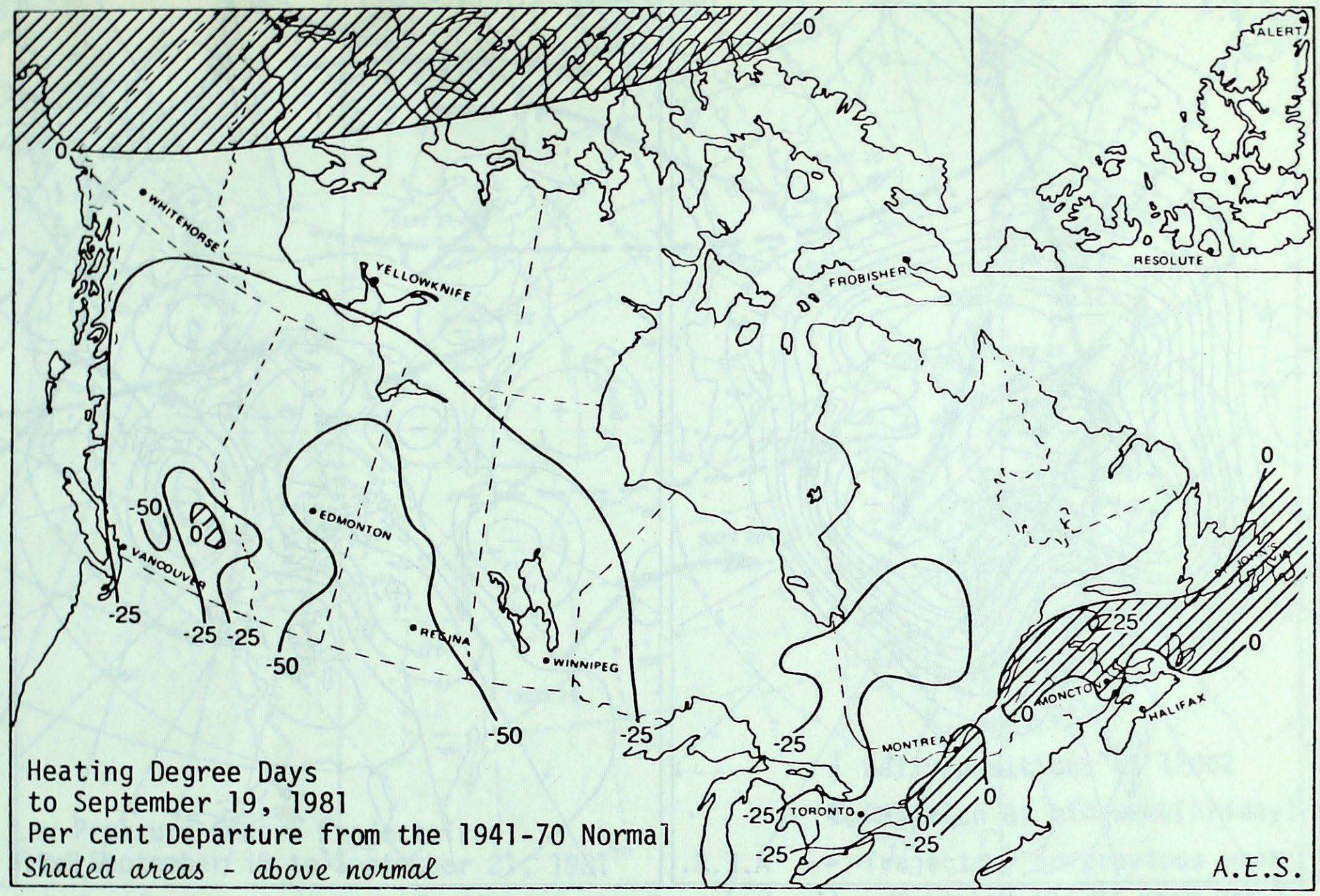
GROWING DEGREE-DAY SUMMARY TO SEPTEMBER 19, 1981



CITY	MONTHLY CUMULATIVE TOTAL	MONTHLY DIFF. FROM 1941-70 NORMAL	SEASONAL TOTAL	SEASONAL DIFF. FROM 1941-70 NORMAL	SEASONAL PERCENT OF NORMAL
Whitehorse*	0.0	-74.0	853.5	-14.5	98
Penticton	237.0	34.0	1896.0	24.0	101
Vancouver	219.0	29.0	1765.0	118.0	107
Edmonton	213.0	97.0	1679.0	440.0	136
Calgary	191.5	55.5	1343.0	133.0	111
Regina*	16.0	-139.0	1566.0	73.0	105
Saskatoon	215.0	68.0	1731.0	263.0	118
Winnipeg	183.5	7.5	1688.5	88.5	106
Thunder Bay	150.5	7.5	1355.5	82.5	106
Windsor	251.5	-11.5	2221.0	70.0	103
Toronto	227.0	-1.0	1756.0	-113.0	94
Ottawa	205.0	2.0	1809.0	8.0	100
Montreal	212.0	-7.0	1815.0	-50.0	97
Quebec	192.5	19.5	1561.5	25.5	102
Fredericton	179.5	10.5	1612.0	78.0	105
Halifax	210.0	20.0	1416.5	10.5	101
Charlottetown	195.0	7.0	1476.5	102.5	107
St John's	131.0	-15.0	1066.0	84.0	109

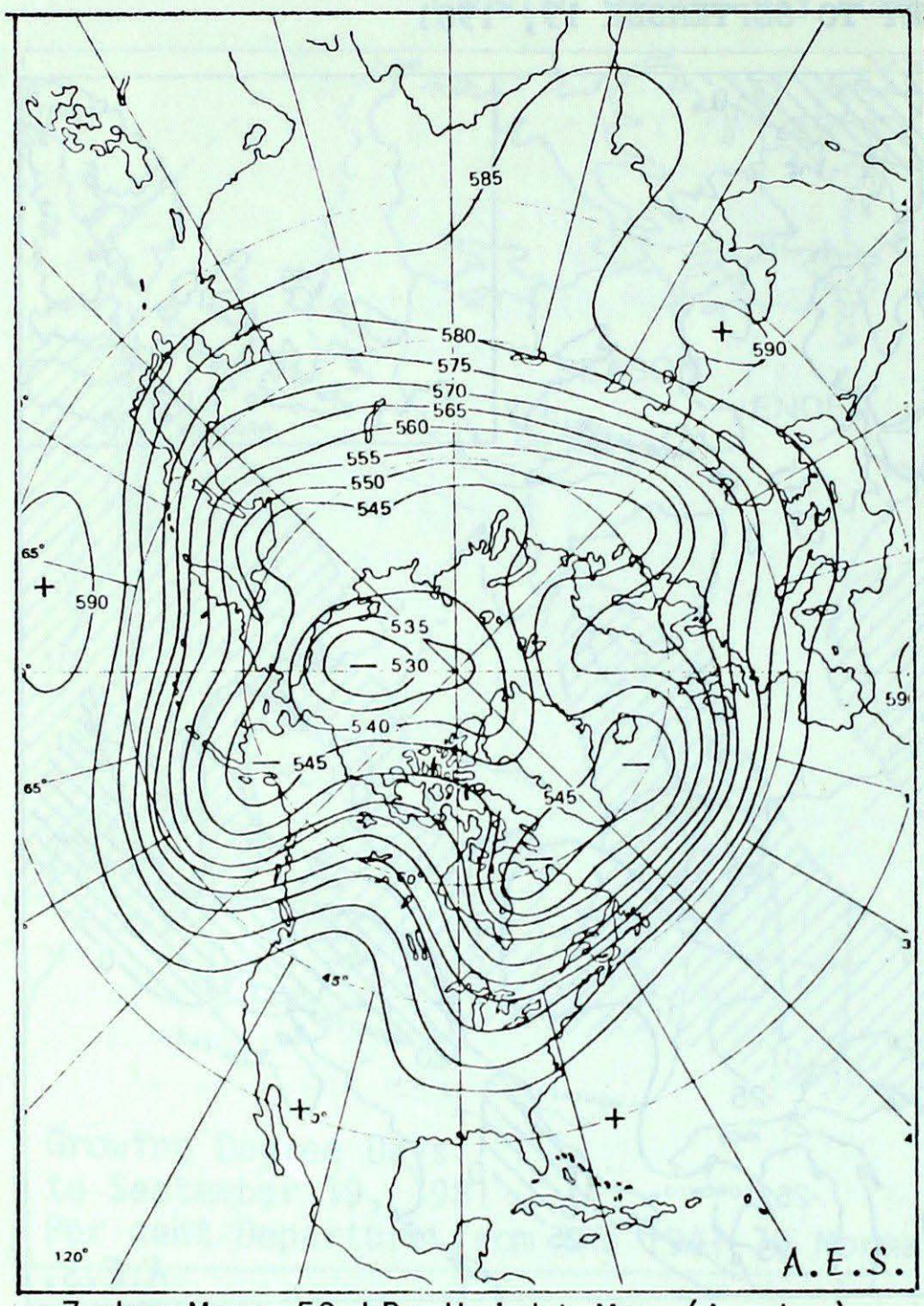
* Season ended

HEATING DEGREE-DAY SUMMARY TO SEPTEMBER 19, 1981

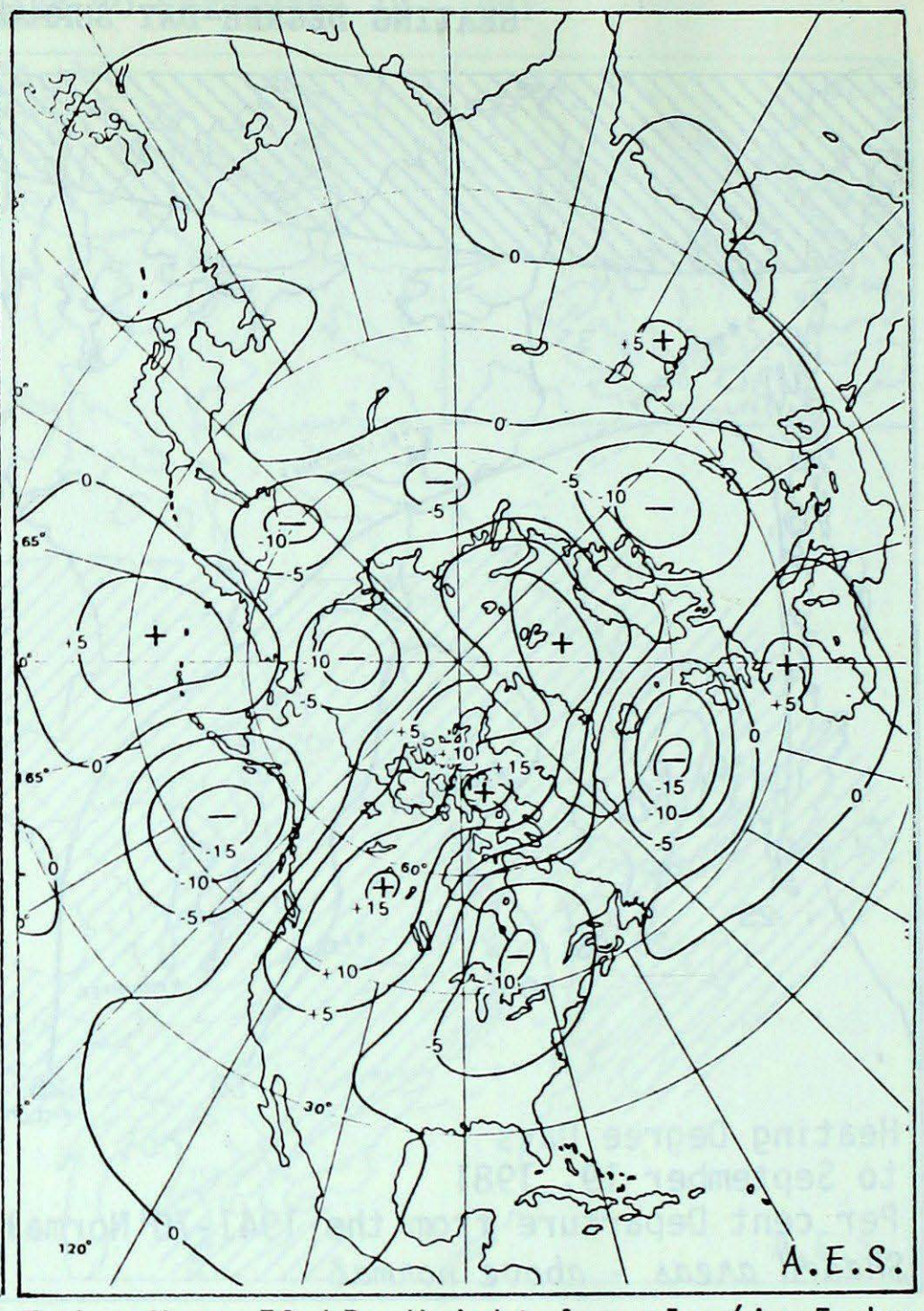


STATION	MONTHLY CUMULATIVE TOTAL	MONTHLY DIFF. FROM 1941-70 NORMAL	SEASONAL TOTAL	SEASONAL DIFF. FROM 1941-70 NORMAL	SEASONAL PERCENT OF NORMAL
Resolute	386.5	-15.5	1326.0	25.0	102
Inuvik	268.0	9.0	692.0	55.0	109
Whitehorse	188.5	14.5	447.5	-27.5	94
Vancouver	31.5	-28.5	87.5	-47.5	65
Edmonton Mun	53.5	-57.5	113.5	-126.5	47
Calgary	68.0	-52.0	204.0	-78.0	72
Regina	56.5	-44.5	77.0	-99.0	44
Winnipeg	68.5	-22.5	95.0	-55.0	63
Thunder Bay	96.5	-7.5	176.5	-45.5	80
Windsor	25.0	-5.0	27.0	-14.0	66
Toronto	40.0	-6.0	64.5	-10.5	86
Ottawa	53.0	-9.0	77.5	-22.5	78
Montreal	48.5	2.5	78.5	5.5	108
Quebec	64.0	-12.0	134.5	-8.5	94
Saint John, N.B.	64.0	-21.0	161.0	-35.0	82
Halifax	38.5	-7.5	109.5	-3.5	97
Charlottetown	53.0	-9.0	122.5	-3.5	97
St. John's, Nfld.	116.0	15.0	323.5	33.5	112

Atmospheric Circulation



7-day Mean 50 kPa Height Map (in dam) September 14 to September 20, 1981



7-day Mean 50 kPa Height Anomaly (in 5 dam intervals) September 14 to September 20, 1981

The atmospheric circulation sported a much stronger north-south component over North America this week; a not uncommon feature for this time of year.

A strong major 50 kPa ridge dominated the western half of the country throughout the first half of the period. The very warm and dry condition of the previous week continued. An approaching low pressure trough from the Pacific gradually displaced this upper ridge eastward. As a result significantly cooler, unsettled weather conditions prevailed during the latter half of the period.

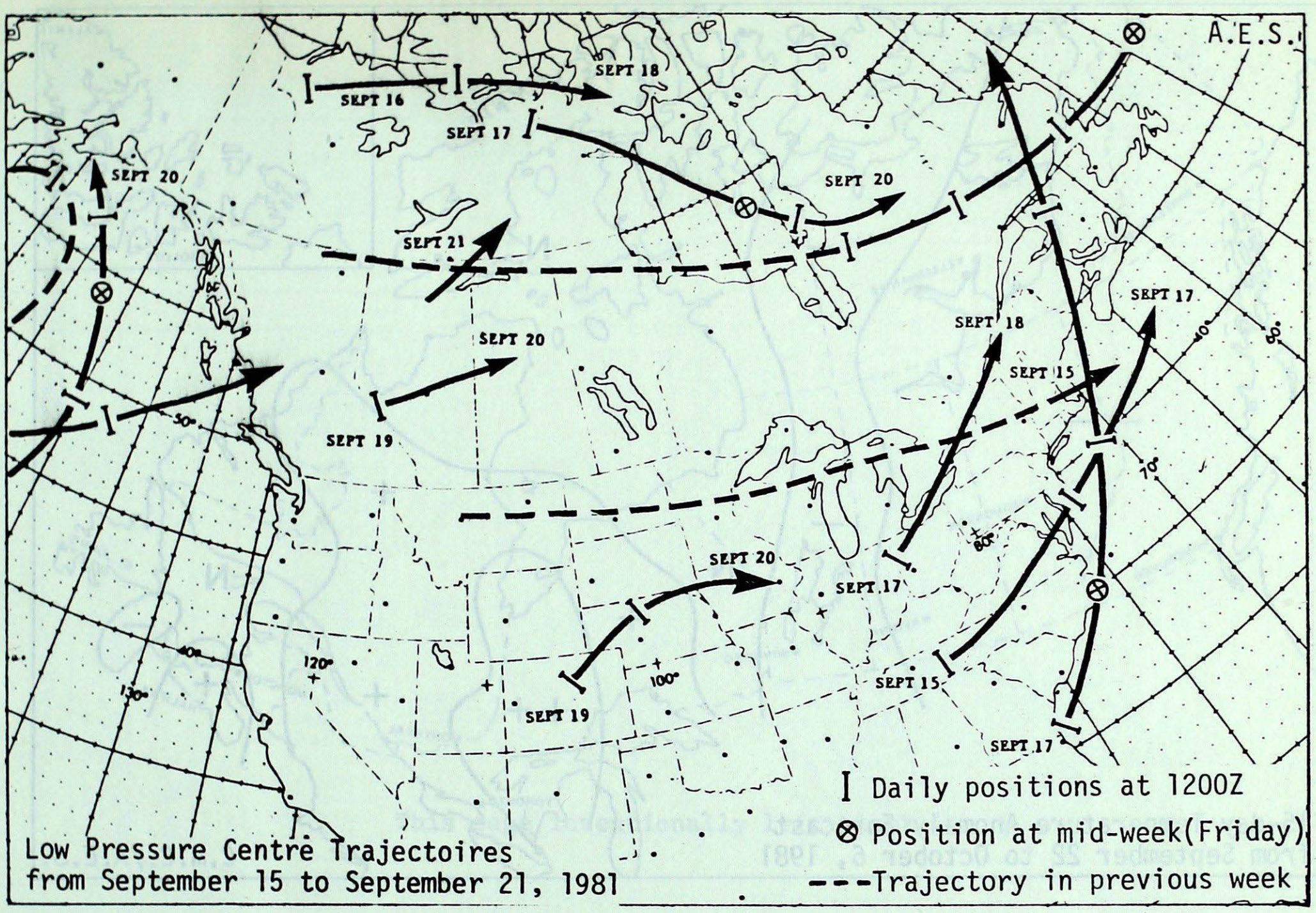
The eastern half of the country was under the influence of a nearly stationary, sharp upper trough; generally unsettled showery weather was the result. A strong northwesterly circulation pumped cold Arctic air southeastwards dropping temperatures to below normal values throughout the Great Lakes Basin. As this cold unstable airmass crossed the relatively warm waters of the great lakes, strong thermal heating from below resulted in waterspout or cold air funnel sightings.

Even though temperatures in the Atlantic Provinces continued above normal the dry summer weather came to an end. Numerous weak disturbances formed on the lea side of the upper trough and tracked northeastwards across eastern Canada.

A significant cyclonic storm system tracked up the eastern-sea-board and brought wide spread rain during the weekend. This combined with an Arctic system approaching from Hudson Bay to form a large nearly stationary low pressure system over Labrador. Strong westerly winds and modified but still cold Arctic air encompassed all of eastern Canada by the end of the period.

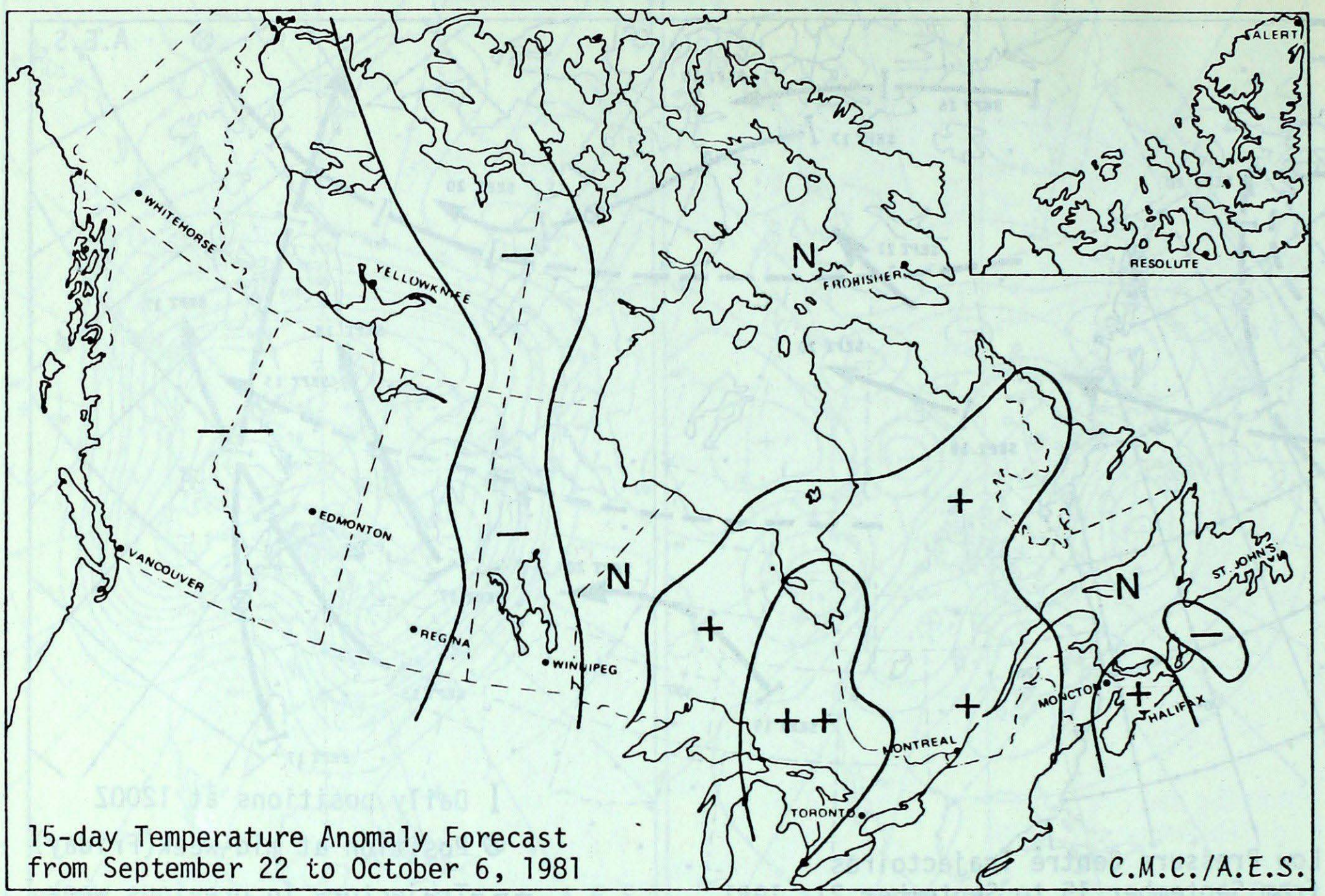
Andy Radomski

LOW PRESSURE CENTRE TRAJECTORIES



Low Pressure Centre Trajectoires
from September 15 to September 21, 1981

TEMPERATURE ANOMALY FORECAST



TEMPERATURE ANOMALY FORECAST FOR SEP 22 1981 TO OCT 6 1981

	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
WHITEHORSE		<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<							
VICTORIA			<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<						
VANCOUVER			<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<						
EDMONTON	<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<								
REGINA	<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<								
WINNIPEG	----------								
THUNDER BAY						++++++++++			
TORONTO						++++++++++			
OTTAWA						++++++++++			
MONTREAL						++++++++++			
QUEBEC						++++++++++			
FREDERICTON					NNNNNNNNN				
HALIFAX						++++++++			
CHARLOTTETOWN						++++++++			
ST JOHN'S					NNNNNNN				
GOOSE BAY					NNNNNNNNN				
FROBISHER BAY					NNNNNNNNNNN				
INUVIK	<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<								

<<<< MUCH BELOW NORMAL
---- BELOW NORMAL
NNNN NEAR NORMAL
>>>> MUCH ABOVE NORMAL
++++ ABOVE NORMAL

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TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION DATA FOR THE WEEK ENDING 0600 G.M.T. SEPTEMBER 22, 1981

Station	Temperature (°C)				Precip. (mm)	
	Average	Departure from Normal	Extreme Maximum	Extreme Minimum	Total	Departure from Normal
BRITISH COLUMBIA						
Abbotsford	16	2	31	8	21.6	- 4.2
Alert Bay	13	0	24	7	45.1	15.7
Blue River	M	X	26P	2	M	X
Bull Harbour	M	M	17P	6P	M	M
Burns Lake	M	X	27P	4P	M	X
Cape Scott	14	1	20	8	35.6	-12.8
Cape St James	14	1	21	10	10.5	-16.8
Castlegar	16	2	30	5	15.1	- 0.4
Comox	14	1	24	8	49.4	35.7
Cranbrook	16	6	33	3	2.0	- 9.0
Dease Lake	8	0	18	- 5	7.6	- 1.3
Estevan Point	M	M	18P	10	M	M
Fort Nelson	12	3	24	- 3	0.4	- 9.4
Fort St John	13	4	28	- 2	4.8	- 4.0
Kamloops	19	4	33	8	17.5	12.4
Langara	13	0	15	10	33.2	- 8.3
Lytton	19	3	34	7	2.6	- 3.3
Mackenzie	M	X	28P	1P	M	X
McInnes Island	14	1	20	10	28.4	-23.2
Penticton	16	3	33	4	2.4	- 3.6
Port Hardy	13	1	25	6	23.6	- 8.1
Prince George	14	5	30	1	4.8	- 8.6
Prince Rupert	13	2	21	5	78.1	16.5
Quesnel	15	4	33	3	7.8	- 3.3
Revelstoke	13	2	24	6	15.2	- 2.9
Sandspit	13	0	18	8	28.7	10.0
Smithers	11	2	26	1	5.8	- 5.0
Stewart	M	X	22P	5P	M	X
Terrace	12	1	23	- 1	14.8	- 9.9
Vancouver	16	2	27	10	26.8	9.7
Victoria	14	1	27	7	28.1	19.0
Williams Lake	15	5	31	- 1	3.6	- 4.0
YUKON						
Burwash	6	1	15	- 7	3.1	- 0.8
Dawson	7	1	18	- 2	35.8	28.6
Komakuk Beach	- 1	- 1	2	- 4	10.1	7.0
Mayo	8	2	19	- 1	25.1	17.4
Shingle Point	1	- 1	6	- 2	11.8	6.8
Watson Lake	7	- 1	15	- 5	4.6	- 5.1
Whitehorse	7	0	15	- 4	5.5	- 0.9
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES						
Alert	- 7	5	0	-14	6.1	- 1.5
Baker Lake	6	4	11	3	1.4	- 5.4
Broughton Island	M	M	0P	- 7	M	M
Byron Bay	3	3	7	- 2	6.0	2.2
Cambridge Bay	2	3	6	- 2	3.3	- 1.1
Cape Dorset	M	X	7P	- 3	0.8	X
Cape Dyer	- 1	1	3	- 4	0.0	-23.2
Cape Hooper	M	M	5P	- 6	M	M
Cape Parry	3	2	8	- 2	19.6	15.0
Cape Young	5	3	12	0	7.6	3.9
Clinton Point	4	3	13	- 3	2.8	- 5.5
Clyde	0	1	5	- 4	0.4	-11.4
Contwoyto Lake	M	M	12P	0P	M	M
Coppermine	5	3	13	0	14.6	10.1
Coral Harbour	M	M	9P	- 4	0.4	- 8.6
Dewar Lakes	- 3	1	5	- 7	0.0	-10.7
Ennadai	M	M	M	M	M	M
Eureka	- 7	2	- 1	-18	7.3	4.7
Fort Reliance	10	3	18	2	0.4	- 5.3
Fort Simpson	M	M	23P	0	M	M
Fort Smith	12	4	27	0	10.4	2.1
Frobisher Bay	2	0	6	- 1	4.2	- 4.5
Gladman Point	2	3	5	- 2	22.4	19.7
Hall Beach	0	1	3	- 3	2.8	- 1.4
Hay River	12	4	25	3	18.6	10.8
Inuvik	3	0	11	- 1	7.8	4.5
Jenny Lind Island	2	3	5	- 2	12.9	11.4
Lady Franklin Point	4	3	8	- 1	9.5	6.6
Longstaff Bluff	1	2	6	- 4	0.0	- 9.1
Mackar Inlet	- 1	3	5	- 6	2.8	- 5.3
Mould Bay	- 4	3	1	-11	3.8	1.6
Nicholson Peninsula	3	2	10	- 2	20.8	16.9
Norman Wells	10	4	24	1	19.2	12.5
Pelly Bay	- 1	3	3	- 6	14.4	7.6
Pond Inlet	- 2	X	2	- 6	0.8	X
Port Burwell	M	X	7	1P	21.6	X
Resolute	- 4	2	1	-10	12.7	8.4

Station	Temperature (°C)				Precip. (mm)	
	Average	Departure from Normal	Extreme Maximum	Extreme Minimum	Total	Departure from Normal
Sachs Harbour	1	3	6	- 6	21.6	19.5
Shepherd Bay	2	3	8	- 3	4.9	- 1.0
Tuktoyaktuk	1	- 1	9	-11	14.9	12.1
Yellowknife	10	4	22	4	9.1	3.7
ALBERTA						
Banff	M	M	30P	- 2	M	M
Calgary	M	M	32P	2	M	M
Cold Lake	15	6	32	0	1.4	-12.6
Coronation	16	6	34	2	3.2	- 8.2
Edmonton Intl	16	6	35	4	15.6	7.7
Edmonton Mun	17	7	34	6	14.4	3.7
Edmonton Namao	16	6	33	6	15.2	5.9
Edson	14	6	33	0	19.4	8.9
Fort Chipewyan	M	M	M	5	M	M
Fort McMurray	14	5	29	3	1.3	-11.2
Grande Prairie	15	5	30	2	2.0	- 6.7
High Level	M	M	28P	3	M	M
Jasper	14	5	32	2	6.0	- 2.4
Lethbridge	16	5	35	3	10.1	- 5.7
Medicine Hat	18	6	35	3	2.8	- 8.6
Peace River	14	5	30	- 1	5.4	2.3
Red Deer	15	6	33	1	20.2	6.4
Rocky Mountain House	13	4	32	- 1	15.2	1.7
Slave Lake	14	5	27	- 1	34.7	22.2
Vermilion	16	7	35	2	1.8	-10.4
Whitecourt	14	6	32	1	5.8	- 1.3
SASKATCHEWAN						
Broadview	13	2	30	- 2	0.5	-18.4
Buffalo Narrows	M	M	30P	7	0.0	-18.2
Cree Lake	12	X	23	1	0.0	X
Estevan	14	2	31	0	0.6	- 8.9
Hudson Bay	12	3	27	- 2	0.0	-10.9
Kindersley	17	7	33	5	3.6	- 6.0
La Ronge	13	4	30	1	0.2	-16.1
Meadow Lake	14	X	33	- 5	0.0	X
Moose Jaw	16	4	33	1	4.6	- 2.8
Nipawin	12	X	29	- 2	0.0	X
North Battleford	16	5	32	1	2.2	- 4.4
Prince Albert	13	4	30	- 3	0.0	- 7.8
Regina	14	3	32	1	2.7	- 7.0
Rockglen	M	X	29P	2	M	X
Saskatoon	15	5	31	0	3.4	- 4.4
Swift Current	M	M	32P	2	M	M
Uranium City	12	5	22	0	1.7	- 4.6
Wynyard	14	2	27	0	0.0	-16.7
Yorkton	12	2	25	- 1	0.0	-13.6
MANITOBA						
Bissett	9	- 1	22	- 1	0.4	-15.0
Brandon	12	1	28	0	0.8	-14.0
Churchill	7	2	18	- 1	1.0	- 8.4
Dauphin	11	0	24	0	1.8	-13.0
Gillam	8	X	15	- 2	3.2	X
Gimli	11	- 1	20	4	0.3	-13.4
Island Lake	M	X	20P	2	M	X
Lynn Lake	8	2	18	- 1	0.0	-11.4
Norway House	9	X	21	- 1	0.0	X
Pilot Mound	11	- 1	27	1	1.8	-10.5
Portage la Prairie	12	- 1	24	2	2.0	-11.2
The Pas	11	1	26	- 1	1.0	-10.7
Thompson	9	2	20	- 2	0.0	-11.8
Winnipeg	12	- 1	25	4	1.2	-12.8
ONTARIO						
Armstrong	M	M	20P	- 7	5.0	-16.0
Atikokan	7	- 3	24	- 5	0.3	-15.4
Earlton	M	M	15P	3	M	M
Geraldton	7	- 2	18	- 4	6.4	- 5.8
Gore Bay	10	- 3	18	2	1.2	-21.2
Kapuskasing	7	- 4	13	1	9.6	- 9.3
Kenora	11	- 1	22	3	0.0	-21.4
Kingston	12	- 3	19	4	27.0	4.2
Lansdowne	8	- 2	16	1	10.4	- 4.7
London	11	- 5	19	4	44.5	25.4
Moosonee	M	M	12P	1P	M	M
Mount Forest	M	M	18P	6P	M	M
Muskoka	M	M	22P	1P	M	M
North Bay	8	- 5	14	2	4.2	-21.9
Ottawa	11	- 3	19	3	7.0	-12.4
Petawawa	9	X	19	- 1	2.0	X
Pickle Lake	8	- 3	19	- 3	2.4	-12.2
Red Lake	8	- 3	20	- 3	1.2	-13.8

Station	Temperature (°C)				Precip. (mm)	
	Average	Departure from Normal	Extreme Maximum	Extreme Minimum	Total	Departure from Normal
Simcoe	M	M	20P	6	M	M
Sioux Lookout	8	- 3	19	- 1	3.4	-19.3
Sudbury	8	- 4	14	4	5.4	-12.5
Thunder Bay	9	- 2	26	- 1	0.0	-21.0
Timmins	7	- 4	12	1	4.3	-15.0
Toronto	11	- 4	20	5	19.2	- 1.7
Trenton	11	- 4	20	3	23.6	6.6
Trout Lake	7	- 2	15	- 2	5.1	-13.2
Wawa	M	X	13P	- 3	M	X
Wiarton	11	- 4	18	3	7.2	-12.2
Windsor	13	- 4	22	7	74.8	58.5
QUEBEC						
Bagotville	10	- 1	19	0	13.8	- 6.0
Baie Comeau	10	0	17	3	17.6	0.3
Blanc Sablon	M	M	15P	6	M	M
Border	M	M	M	0	M	M
Chibougamau	7	X	13	2	52.8	X
Fort Chimo	M	M	12P	1	M	M
Gaspé	11	X	18	1	49.3	X
Grindstone Island	14	1	17	10	9.2	- 9.5
Inoucdjouac	5	0	11	- 1	24.8	14.3
Koartak	M	X	6P	- 1P	M	X
La Grande Rivière	6	X	13	2	49.2	X
Maniwaki	9	- 3	17	3	5.6	-16.9
Matagami	M	X	12P	3	M	X
Mont-Joli	10	- 1	17	4	11.9	- 5.2
Montréal	12	- 3	20	5	0.6	-18.0
Natashquan	11	2	16	3	25.0	7.5
Nitchecun	M	M	11P	2	31.2	12.1
Port Menier	M	M	9P	4P	M	M
Poste-de-la-Baleine	7	- 1	11	3	20.4	4.3
Québec	12	- 1	19	4	4.8	-19.3
Rivière du Loup	M	M	16P	3P	M	M
Roberval	10	- 1	18	0	15.3	3.9
Schefferville	7	2	12	0	49.5	33.6
Sept-Iles	9	0	15	1	29.6	11.0
Sherbrooke	11	- 1	20	1	13.5	1.0
Ste Agathe des Monts	9	- 2	16	2	0.8	-23.0
Val d'Or	7	- 3	13	0	3.6	-16.2
NEW BRUNSWICK						
Charlo	11	0	19	4	48.1	37.1
Chatham	12	- 1	21	2	37.2	17.9
Fredericton	12	- 1	20	2	62.1	46.7
Moncton	12	0	19	3	8.8	- 8.6
Saint John	13	1	20	4	30.0	5.7
NOVA SCOTIA						
Eddy Point	14	X	19	8	31.6	X
Greenwood	13	0	23	3	19.8	2.6
Sable Island	17	2	21	12	78.3	58.3
Shearwater	15	1	20	8	59.4	39.7
Sydney	14	1	20	8	42.0	16.9
Truro	M	M	19P	5	M	M
Yarmouth	15	1	20	7	15.1	- 6.8
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND						
Charlottetown	13	0	19	7	12.1	- 7.1
Summerside	14	0	19	8	12.8	- 9.5
NEWFOUNDLAND						
Argentia	14	X	20	10	45.5	X
Battle Harbour	M	M	14	4P	6.0	- 5.6
Bonavista	12	2	20	8	20.8	8.3
Burgeo	13	2	18	7	69.0	52.2
Cartwright	9	0	15	3	32.6	13.8
Churchill Falls	7	2	13	1	61.8	39.8
Comfort Cove	12	2	19	6	32.6	21.9
Daniel's Harbour	12	2	18	7	9.4	- 6.8
Deer Lake	11	1	20	2	32.9	20.4
Gander	12	1	19	4	32.4	10.5
Goose	10	0	16	5	62.5	46.4
Hopedale	7	0	12	3	37.6	21.4
Port aux Basques	13	3	17	8	40.6	21.1
St Albans	M	M	20P	4	M	M
St Anthony	M	X	15P	5P	M	X
St John's	13	1	20	4	42.8	21.9
St Lawrence	14	3	18	8	63.0	46.7
Stephenville	14	2	19	7	41.4	19.9
Wabush Lake	8	1	13	2	27.6	10.1

P = extreme value based on less than 7 days X = no normal due to short period M = not available at press time