



PACIFIC REGION TECHNICAL NOTES

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Vancouver Weather - Wetter and Wetter

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(Editor's Note: Mr. Bitcon, a senior meteorologist at the Pacific Weather Centre and a duty forecaster for 33 years, has prepared this technical note prior to his retirement. Reflecting on his vast experience, his parting advice to us all is not to take ourselves too seriously, and to beware of the incorrect conclusions which can be drawn from too much theory based on too few facts.)

INTRODUCTION

The time has come the walrus said, we've flown
through Saturn's rings,
And mastered rhyming forecasts now let's
start explaining things.
For there's no subject more discussed with
strangers and with friends,
Than what the weather's doing now, its past
and future trends.

VANCOUVER'S INCREASING RAINFALL

Now we've been keeping records here since
nineteen thirty-eight,
And through the years most of the time our
spring's been really great.
But on another dismal day of a spring
so cool again,
People ask us what strange force could cause
such endless rain.

In four of five years just now past while
we have wished in vain,
For drier weather we have set new
records for our rain.
And this year as the months go by, to
simply state our case,
Once again the rainfalls at record
breaking pace.

THEORY

And a theory to explain why
 it's the sunspots if you please,
Or hairspray in the ozone,
 Mount St. Helens, SST's.
But possibly El Nino or the current
 from Japan,
Has someone changed the jet stream
 like they say the Russians can?

CONCLUSION

To compare our present weather to what
 it's supposed to be,
Is today a favourite pastime as through
 all man's history.
But all is pure conjecture; how much
 should it rain or snow?
And what our "normal weather" is
 no one can ever know.

For records kept for fifty years are really
 not a gauge,
In a still expanding universe some
 billion years of age.
So just maybe we've kept records in what's
 really been a drought,
An we're headed back to normal now so
 get the lifeboats out.

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