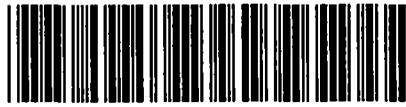


Environment Canada Imaging Cover Page

Report N.:



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SKP Box Number: 672572447

**CANADIAN METEOROLOGICAL MILESTONES**

compiled by

**MORLEY K. THOMAS**

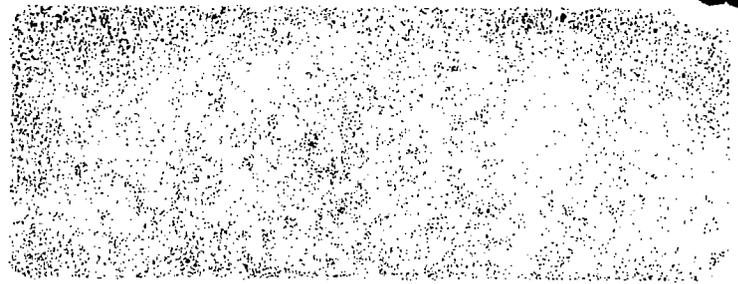
With the Assistance of Colleagues

Throughout the

**ATMOSPHERIC ENVIRONMENT SERVICE**

September 1, 1971

Atmospheric Environment Service  
4905 Dufferin Street  
Downsview, Ontario.



**January 1, 1907**

The Stevenson screen became the official screen or thermometer shelter at the Meteorological Headquarters in Toronto.

**January 2, 1872**

The first synoptic telegraphic weather reports were received at Toronto from Kingston, Port Dover and Port Stanley, and were then forwarded to Washington with those from Toronto to begin a daily routine exchange of weather data between Canada and the United States. For want of funds the transmissions were discontinued after six weeks but resumed on July 1, and the exchange of data has been continuous since that date. Late in 1872 the transmissions of observations were begun from Saugeen, Ont., Montreal and Quebec, Que., Halifax, N.S. and Fort Garry, Man.

**January 4-18, 1956**

During an unusually protracted period of mild weather in Nova Scotia frequent heavy rains fell. Over a period of two weeks Mount Uniacke was drenched with 11.82, and Ingonish Beach with 12.24 inches. Monthly totals amounted to 17.15 and 17.74 inches respectively.

**January 9, 1889**

The Niagara Suspension Bridge, located just above the Falls, was blown down during a storm described in the press as "one of the greatest storms that has ever passed over any part of Canada".

**January 9, 1962**

The highest pressure values recorded during this century in Canada occurred in Alberta. A sea level pressure of 1062.0 mb. was recorded at Lethbridge, Alta. at 1100 MST, and at Jasper a value of 1062.1 was recorded at 1000 MST on the same day.

**January 10, 1859**

A minimum temperature of  $-26.5^{\circ}$  was recorded at Toronto - the lowest temperature on record (1840-1970) at Canada's oldest weather reporting station.

**January 10, 1964**

Following the resignation of Dr. P.D. McTaggart-Cowan to become the first President of Simon Fraser University in British Columbia, Mr. J.R.H. Noble was appointed Acting Director of the Meteorological Branch, and subsequently Director. With the reorganization of the Ministry of Transport in 1970 Mr. Noble's title was changed to Administrator, and that of the Branch to the Canadian Meteorological Service.

**January 11, 1911**

At Fort Vermilion, Alta. a minimum temperature of  $-78^{\circ}\text{F}$  was recorded. This is the lowest temperature ever officially recorded at any station in the Prairie Provinces.

**January 13-15, 1968**

A three-day period of freezing rain, and later snow, slowly moved eastward across southern Ontario. The most pronounced and extensive effects from the freezing rain were power failures as an ice sheath of up to one inch in thickness built up on structures and trees causing large limbs to break, damaging overhead power lines. Several highways, including a section of the Macdonald-Cartier Freeway near London had to be closed. Telephone and telegraph lines were damaged and Air Canada cancelled 45 flights in southern Ontario over the weekend. This storm was one of the worst on record in the province.

**January 17, 1971**

The lowest sea level pressure ever reported from a station in Canada - 946.7 mb. occurred at St. John's/Torbay Airport, Nfld. at 0200 NST.

**January 19-20, 1935**

Extremely low temperatures were recorded in Vancouver and Victoria which resulted in fuel shortages and frozen water supplies. Temperatures as low as 4°F at Vancouver were followed by 17.5 inches of snow on the 20th. Many roads were impassable for days. A mild spell and rain followed causing the Forum and other roofs to collapse in Vancouver. Weatherwise, the winter of 1934-35 was one of the worst on record throughout southern British Columbia, and especially at Vancouver and Victoria.

**January 23, 1935**

The lowest temperature ever officially reported from any station in eastern Canada, -73°F, occurred at Iroquois Falls, Ont.

**January 24, 1857**

A paper "On the Employment of the Electric Telegraph for Predicting Storms" was read by Prof. G.T. Kingston before a meeting of the Canadian Institute in Toronto.

**January 24, 1897**

The highest sea level pressure ever reported in Canada - 1067 mb. was reported from Medicine Hat, Alta. at 0600 hours.

**January 24, 1958**

The temperature at Alert, N.W.T. rose to 32° during an abnormally mild spell in the Canadian Arctic. Maximum temperatures at Alert (32°), Eureka (30°), Isachsen (25°), and Resolute (23°) were each higher than any temperature ever reported previously during the six months from November to April inclusive.

**January 27, 1962**

During the onset of a chinook at Pincher Creek, Alta. the temperature rose from -20° at midnight to 38° at 1 a.m.

**January 31, 1913**

At Vancouver, B.C. snowfall totalling 57.3 inches was recorded during the month - an all time record for any month in that city.

**January 31, 1971**

In the Ottawa and St. Lawrence River valleys of Ontario and Quebec January 1971 was one of the snowiest months on record. At Montreal, Que. the snowfall for the month totalled 45.9 inches, and at Ottawa, Ont. 62.8 inches. Seasonal (1970/71) snowfalls in this area were also record breaking in this century - Montreal/McGill 158.4 inches, Montreal/Dorval Airport 150.8 inches and Ottawa 174.8 inches.

**FEBRUARY**

**February 1, 1880**

Prof. G.T. Kingston, who had been Director of the Toronto Magnetic and Meteorological Observatory since 1855, and of the Meteorological Service of Canada from its organization in 1871, retired on account of failing health.

**February 2, 1969**

Temperatures rose above zero at Edmonton, Alta. for the first time since January 6. During the 26 days with continuous sub-zero temperatures at the Edmonton Industrial Airport, the coldest temperature was -39° on January 30. Temperatures were lower outside the city during the cold spell with the Edmonton International Airport reporting a low of -49° on January 30.

**February 2-3, 1960**

A record snowfall of 30.3 inches was reported at Halifax, N.S.

**February 3, 1947**

The lowest temperature ever officially recorded in Canada,  $-81^{\circ}\text{F}$ , was observed at Snag, Y.T.

**February 10, 1853**

Colonel Edward Sabine read a paper "On the Periodic and Non-Periodic Variations of the Temperature at Toronto in Canada from 1841 to 1852 Inclusive" before the Royal Society in London. This paper, later published in the Society's Philosophical Transactions, was the first scientific paper based on official data observed at Toronto.

**February 16, 1959**

At Saint John's, Nfld. a storm which started during the previous afternoon proved to be one of the worst snowstorms and blizzards ever experienced in Newfoundland. The storm took six lives and left 70,000 Newfoundlanders without power, crippled telephone service, and blocked highways, streets and railways. The winds abated on the morning of February 17, but the city of Saint John's was virtually paralyzed with 15-foot drifts blocking the main streets.

**February 18, 1971**

After 25 years' cooperation with the U.S. in building and maintaining five Joint Arctic Weather Stations, the Meteorological Service began a phased takeover of all weather service operations in the Canadian Arctic archipelago.

**February 25-26, 1961**

The Montreal area suffered one of the most damaging ice storms in its history. Damage to public utilities alone was estimated at \$3.5 million, and total damage probably exceeded \$7 million. Wires, heavily loaded with one to two inches of ice, were subjected to winds of 50 mph with gusts up to 70 mph.

**February 27-March 2, 1958**

A severe ice storm occurred at Saint John's Nfld. A total of 43 hours of freezing precipitation was reported as thousands of people were without heat and light for several days.

**February 28, 1954**

The monthly snowfall total at Kemano (Kildala Pass) amounted to 202.5", the most snowfall ever reported in any calendar month from any station in Canada.

**February 28, 1959**

While a hockey game was in progress in the arena at Listowel, Ont., an excessive snow load on portions of the roof caused it to collapse resulting in the loss of several lives.

**MARCH**

**March 4, 1966**

A blizzard with fresh snowfall amounting to 14 inches, and winds to 70 mph, struck Winnipeg, left the city paralyzed for two days.

**March 4, 1971**

A major storm, one of the worst in the history of southern Quebec, brought 17 inches of snow and strong gusty winds to 67 mph in the Montreal area. The storm paralyzed the city for two days.

**March 5, 1964**

During the passage of storm at Montreal a sudden short period wind gust in excess of 110 mph was recorded.

**March 10, 1961**

Wind speeds as high as 90 mph with gusts to 120 mph delayed trains for 17 hours at St. Andrew's, Nfld.

**March 13, 1968**

A meteorological automatic reporting station (MARS) was installed at Gonzales Observatory, Victoria, B.C. — the first such permanent installation in Canada. The unit automatically measures temperature, dew point temperature, wind and precipitation, and transmits the data to a meteorological teletype circuit every 15 minutes.

**March 14–16, 1902**

A severe blizzard swept the eastern prairies. The temperature at Winnipeg was in the 50's on the 13th but, during the 14th–16th blizzard, 11 inches of snow fell, wind speeds exceeded 60 mph for many hours and the temperature fell to  $-11^{\circ}$  by the morning of the 16th.

**March 22, 1968**

An extremely low relative humidity of 6% was recorded at Calgary, Alta., at 3 p.m. The temperature was  $64^{\circ}\text{F}$  and the dew point temperature  $-4^{\circ}\text{F}$ .

**March 23, 1950**

The first postwar meetings of the 10 Technical Commissions of the International Meteorological Organization were held at Meteorological Division Headquarters in Toronto during August 1947. Approximately 250 delegates were present from 73 countries. A Conference of Directors of the national services followed in Washington at which a World Meteorological Convention was adopted to provide for the transformation of the International Meteorological Organization into a new World Meteorological Organization affiliated with the United Nations. The new organization came into being on March 23, 1950 and the final transfer of the activities, functions, assets and obligations of IMO took place a year later.

**March 30, 1848**

As the result of a wind-driven ice jam the Niagara River ran dry. By April 1st, the River and Falls had returned to normal.

**March 31, 1871**

Prof. G.T. Kingston, Director of the Toronto Magnetic Observatory, wrote to the Hon. P. Mitchell, Minister of the Marine and Fisheries, acknowledging receipt of the advice "that \$5000 had been placed in the estimates for meteorological observations" and enclosed a detailed memorandum relative to a proposed meteorological organization in British North America.

**March 31, 1922**

Mr. W. Menzies, Magnetician, retired from the staff of the Meteorological Office in Toronto after 52 years of service. Mr. Menzies' father, Thomas Menzies, was the first magnetician at the observatory when it was established in 1839, and held that position until his death in 1887.

**APRIL**

**April 1, 1962**

A small area of southern New Brunswick was deluged with steady rainfall that gave 9.00 inches to Alma, N.B. in 48 hours of which 7.05 inches occurred on this date.

**April 10, 1853**

On behalf of the British government, Captain (later General Sir) Henry Lefroy, Director of the Toronto Magnetic and Meteorological Observatory, handed control of the observatory to Prof. J.B. Cherriman of the University of Toronto who received it for the Province of Canada.

**April 14, 1955**

Nearly 3 inches of wet snow, an unusual occurrence for April, were reported at Victoria, B.C. covering the daffodils.

**April 17, 1967**

A line of thunderstorms swept across southwestern Ontario during the late afternoon and early evening. Tornadoes occurred near Hensall, about 35 miles northwest of London, and near St. Jacobs just north of Waterloo. Hail was reported over the Bruce Peninsula. The path of destruction varied in width from 100 yards to a quarter of a mile. There was one death attributed to these tornadoes.

**April 17--20 and April 27--29, 1967**

From Claresholm south to the international border, record snowfall of 60 to 80 inches occurred as two storms, a week apart, swept southern Alberta. A large part of this agricultural country was declared a disaster area as thousands of cattle starved and perished on the open range.

**April 23, 1914**

Gonzales Observatory was opened in Victoria, B.C.

**MAY**

**May 1, 1871**

The Governor General approved a Minute of the Committee of the Privy Council in which it was recommended that "The proposed expenditure for meteorological and climatological purposes . . . of \$5000 . . . (be authorized) . . . and that the expenditure of the appropriation of \$5000 made for that purpose be placed under the direction of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, and the sum of \$4000 be appropriated for the purpose recommended". This government action effectually launched a new service - The Meteorological Service of Canada.

**May 18, 1950**

The highest Red River flood in modern times crested at 30.3 feet above normal near Winnipeg, Man. where more than 100,000 people were evacuated. Damage to 5000 homes and buildings was estimated at \$100,000,000.

**May 21, 1953**

Tornadoes moved eastward across Lambton and Middlesex Counties, in southwestern Ontario, resulting in five deaths and property damage amounting to \$8,000,000 in Sarnia and the rural areas.

**May 25--28, 1961**

Exceptional rainfall was recorded in the St. John River basin of New Brunswick. It was the most severe storm experienced in New Brunswick between 1922 and 1961. The highest recorded two-day rainfall was 6.94" at Brockway on May 26-27.

**May-June 1948**

British Columbia's worst flood on record occurred along the lower Fraser River. Two thousand homes were destroyed or damaged, and 55,000 acres were inundated.

**June 1, 1936**

Responsibility for all meteorological operations in Newfoundland was given to the Meteorological Service of Canada.

**June 11, 1971**

Following the passing of the Government Reorganization Bill by the House of Commons on June 10, a Department of the Environment was created and Hon. Jack Davis was sworn in as Minister. The Canadian Meteorological Service became the Atmospheric Environment Service, and Mr. J.R.H. Noble, formerly Administrator of the Canadian Meteorological Service, became an Assistant Deputy Minister of the new department responsible for the Atmospheric Environment Service.

**June 14, 1969**

The highest temperatures on record in Yukon Territory occurred on this date 97°F at Mayo, and 96°F at Whitehorse Riverdale.

**June 14, 1971**

Part of the Training Section of the national headquarters' staff of the Atmospheric Environment Service moved into a new headquarters building at 4905 Dufferin Street, Downsview, Ont. in suburban Toronto. By late August 1971 most of the headquarters' staff had been reunited in the new building after 30 years of operating out of as many as six different buildings in downtown Toronto.

**June 17-23, 1922**

An extremely wet period occurred in northern New Brunswick during which 7.82 inches of rain fell at Upsalquitch Tower.

**June 19, 1955**

A tornado ripped through Vita Man. (pop. 400) injuring 300 people. Property damage was estimated at \$500,000.

**June 19, 1959**

A small intense storm moved inland over Nova Scotia to the Northumberland Strait where several salmon boats were swamped with considerable loss of life.

**June 20, 1877**

A disastrous fire spread throughout Saint John, N.B. and levelled a building housing the meteorological observatory. Eighteen lives were lost in the city and property damages were estimated to be approximately \$27,000,000.

**June 22, 1922**

Manitoba's most destructive tornado to date moved eastward across the plains striking Portage la Prairie at 2 a.m. "Homes and business buildings collapsed like packs of cards", five people were killed and scores injured, while property damage amounted to about two million dollars.

**June 26-27, 1969**

Violent storms occurred across Ontario causing excessive damage. Thirty miles north of Sault Ste. Marie the Trans-Canada Highway was severed by surging flood waters and, at Exeter, in southern Ontario, damage was estimated to be \$250,000.

**June 29, 1915**

The North Saskatchewan River at Edmonton, Alta. rose to a level 24 feet above normal in full flood. A record high discharge was estimated at 205,000 cubic feet per second – a flow 26 times the long-term mean discharge, and 4 times the mean annual flood discharge. Property damage was heavy at low levels along the river.

**June 29, 1963**

Forty-four inches of snow fell at the Livingston Ranger Station Lookout Tower in Alberta in one climatological day – the greatest all-time one-day snowfall in Canada on record.

**June 30, 1912**

The most destructive tornado ever known on the Canadian prairies occurred at Regina, Sask., then a city of 35,000 people. Known as the "Regina Cyclone" the storm struck at 4:50 p.m. and caused property damages of \$4,000,000 and 28 persons were killed and hundreds injured.

**June 30, 1957**

The total seasonal snowfall at Kemano (Kildala Pass), B.C. for the 1956–57 snowfall season from July 1, 1956 to June 30, 1957 amounted to 880 inches – the heaviest seasonal snowfall on record in Canada.

**June 30, 1958**

The greatest number of hours of bright sunshine ever reported in any month in Canada was 528 hours recorded at Sachs Harbour, N.W.T.

**June 30, 1961**

Under an almost stationary ridge of high pressure, June 1961 was a record hot, dry month in the Canadian prairies. In Alberta and parts of Saskatchewan 1961 was the warmest June on record, with average temperatures exceeding those of all but the very warmest Julys. It was the driest June ever in Manitoba and parts of Saskatchewan. Across the four western provinces there was more bright sunshine recorded than during any other June on record.

**JULY**

**July 1, 1881**

The Meteorological Service began to issue daily forecasts at midnight for use in morning newspapers throughout eastern Canada.

**July 1, 1962**

A small tornado, only the third observation of a funnel cloud in 33 years of records at the Vancouver, B.C. Weather Office, was observed near that city.

**July 4, 1944**

Temperatures at Goose, Labrador, reached 100°F – the only recorded occurrence of such a high temperature in Labrador or in the entire Province of Newfoundland.

**July 5, 1937**

The highest temperatures ever officially recorded in Canada 113°F were observed at Midale and Yellow Grass, Sask.

**July 5, 1939**

The lowest temperature ever reported in July in Canada was 10°F at Fort Ross, N.W.T.

**July 9, 1936**

July 1936 was an exceptionally hot month in many parts of Manitoba and Ontario. The most intense heat wave on record in southern Ontario took place during this month when the maximum temperature at Toronto reached 105°F on this date. Maximum temperatures on July 8 and July 10 were only a few tenths of a degree lower.

**July 11, 1970**

Violent hailstorms slashed across central Alberta during which tennis ball size hail was reported near Rocky Mountain House, and golf ball size at Viking, Alta. The storm at Viking was accompanied by a 70 mph wind - windows and buildings were damaged and trees and crops pounded into the ground.

**July 14, 1968**

An early morning downpour drenched Winnipeg as 0.70" of rain fell in five minutes, and 1.55" in 30 minutes, record precipitation intensities for the city.

**July 16 and 17, 1941**

Maximum temperatures of 112°F were recorded at Lytton, Chinook Cove and Lillooet, the highest ever reported from British Columbia.

**July 18, 1941**

The maximum temperature at Fort Smith was 103°F, the highest temperature ever reported from the Northwest Territories.

**July 29, 1946**

The most destructive hailstorm in the history of the Okanagan Valley was reported near Penticton, B.C. as damages totalled \$1,700,000. Approximately 10% of the apple, and 15% of the pear crop were destroyed by the 15-minute storm. Some hailstones measured over two inches in diameter.

**July 31, 1921**

This was the warmest month on record throughout most of southern Ontario. Mean daily temperatures for the month reached 80° at Brockville and Pelee Island, about 10 degrees above normal.

**AUGUST**

**August 1, 1969**

One of the worst hailstorms on record was reported at Montreal, Que. Hailstones measured from half an inch to two and three-quarters of an inch in diameter.

**August 4, 1969**

The most severe hailstorm in the memory of many citizens struck Edmonton, Alta. Damages were estimated at around \$7,000,000 as the storm produced some of the largest hailstones ever observed in Alberta. Tornadoes were reported near the junction of the White Mud and Black Mud creeks, just south of the city of Edmonton, as trees two feet in diameter were broken off by the winds.

**August 5, 1909**

The headquarters' staff of the Meteorological Service of Canada occupied a new headquarters building at 315 Bloor Street West in Toronto. The observing site at the observatory on the University of Toronto campus had been vacated on March 26, 1908, and a temporary site at 719 Spadina Avenue, near Bloor Street, had been used during construction of the new headquarters. The Stevenson screen and thermometers were moved from the temporary site to the lawn behind the new headquarters building at 315 Bloor Street West on September 10, 1909.

**August 15-16, 1971**

Extensive property damage resulted from Hurricane Beth which had lost punishing winds but retained exceptional moisture content as it moved over Nova Scotia. Flooding from rainfall, which reached 11.67 inches at the Halifax International Airport, washed out highways and bridges, temporarily isolating communities in eastern mainland Nova Scotia, wrought havoc with buildings of all kinds in the Halifax/Dartmouth twin city complex and caused considerable farm crop destruction.

**August 16, 1956**

A severe hailstorm, associated with tornado activity, moved over a 120-mile path from Elkhorn to Crystal City, Man. causing \$15,000,000 damage.

**August 19, 1935**

Maximum temperature records were established throughout the Maritime Provinces. Provincial extremes recorded were 98° at Charlottetown, P.E.I., 101° F at Collegeville, N.S., and 103° F at Rexton, N.B. Woodstock and Nepisiguit Falls, N.B. also reported 103° F on the previous day August 18.

**August 19, 1960**

A 24-hour precipitation total of 1.88 inches of rain was recorded at Mould Bay, N.W.T. exceeding all one-day precipitation records for stations in the Arctic.

**August 19, 1968**

A severe hailstorm was reported in the Lambeth, Ont. area causing extensive damage to crops and property. Four hours after the storm ice was still piled four to seven inches deep on the streets.

**August 20, 1970**

Winds of tornado-like intensity struck the Sudbury, Ont. area at about 8:30 a.m. A long path of destruction resulted, and in the immediate Sudbury area four persons were killed, 750 were left homeless and damages exceeded \$6,000,000.

**August 21, 1855**

G.T. Kingston was appointed Professor of Meteorology, and Director of the Toronto Magnetic Observatory, by the Governor-General Sir E.W. Head. Professor Kingston's salary was \$2,040 of which one-third was paid by University College, Toronto.

**August 22, 1968**

At St. Paul, Alta. a hailstorm caused extensive damage. The roads were piled six inches high with half-inch pellets.

**August 25, 1873**

A hurricane swept over Cape Breton Island, N.S. destroying 1200 vessels, took an unknown number of lives, destroyed trees, bridges, breakwaters, wharves, dykes and buildings.

**August 26, 1891**

Weather forecasts were first published for Manitoba and parts of the Northwest Territories (present day Saskatchewan and Alberta).

**August 31, 1949**

The summer of 1949 was the warmest on record over most of southern Ontario. Temperatures averaged about 73° at stations between Toronto and Windsor over the June, July and August period.

**August 31, 1955**

July and August of 1955 were exceedingly warm throughout most of Ontario with the mean for the two months exceeding 75° throughout southern Ontario.

**August 31, 1957**

This August was the driest calendar month on record at Montreal. McGill Observatory reported only 0.08 inches of precipitation, and Dorval Airport but 0.02 inches.

**August 31, 1961**

A torrential downpour of rain was reported at Timmins, Ont., accompanied by severe thunder and an occasional burst of small hail. Town Creek rose to flood stage, causing death of five people, roads were ripped apart and considerable property damage was reported.

**August 31, 1967**

This was the foggiest summer on record along the Atlantic coast of Nova Scotia where Yarmouth reported fog on 85 of the 92 days in June, July and August.

**August 31, 1970**

This was the rainiest month on record in southeast Newfoundland. Westbrook/St. Lawrence reported 18.24 inches, Salmonier 17.48 inches, and St. John's/Torbay Airport 12.90 inches.

**SEPTEMBER****September 3, 1896**

R.F. Stupart, new Director of the Meteorological Service of Canada, sailed for Europe to attend meetings of the International Meteorological Organization which began on September 17 in Paris, France. This was the first direct participation by a Director of the Canadian National Service in international meteorological meetings.

**September 4, 1876**

R.F. (later Sir Frederic) Stupart, issued the first Canadian prepared storm warning from the observatory and headquarters of the new Meteorological Service of Canada. The first general weather forecast (called "Probs" in those days) was issued on October 1, 1876.

**September 17, 1932**

A tropical storm struck the Maritime Provinces destroying 300,000 barrels of apples in the Annapolis Valley of Nova Scotia and caused great damage to fishing gear and lobster traps in Prince Edward Island.

**September 20-23, 1942**

A widespread rainstorm swept the Maritime Provinces as four-day totals amounted to 13.99 inches at Stellarton, N.S., and 10.83 inches at Charlottetown, P.E.I.

**September 21, 1942**

On the climatological day of September 21, precipitation at Halifax amounted to 9.40 inches – the most precipitation ever to be officially reported from any station on a single climatological day in eastern Canada.

**September 24, 1950**

After a prolonged period of dry weather, thirty or more forest fires in northern Alberta had spread rapidly earlier in the month and were soon out of control. A dense pall of smoke spread across the country darkening skies on Sunday afternoon September 24, 1950, in eastern Canada. Reports of smoke from these fires were subsequently received from Europe.

**September 26, 1959**

Dr. P.D. McTaggart-Cowan became Director of the Meteorological Branch upon retirement of Dr. Andrew Thomson.

**OCTOBER**

**October 1, 1956**

Dr. Andrew Thomson's title was changed from controller to director and the name of Canada's national weather service was changed from the Meteorological Division to the Meteorological Branch of the Department of Transport.

**October 4, 1869**

The Saxby Gale (so called because Lieut. Saxby, R.N. had made a prediction nearly a year earlier that at 7 a.m. of the 5th of October 1869 there would be a storm of marked severity and an exceptionally high tide) was reported. The western border of New Brunswick was struck by an unusually destructive and violent storm accompanied by a tide which rose to an extraordinary height. Vessels broke away from moorings, some were driven ashore and many were badly damaged.

**October 6, 1967**

A new record for the greatest precipitation measured in one day at any Canadian weather reporting station was set on this day. Rain amounting to 19.26 inches fell at Ucluelet (Brynnor Mines), B.C. This amount exceeded the previous record of 16.61 inches of rain which fell at Henderson Lake, B.C. on December 30, 1926.

**October 12, 1962**

The remnants of typhoon "Freda" struck the Pacific northeast late in the evening, bringing with it rain and near hurricane force winds to Victoria and Vancouver, B.C. At Victoria, winds reached sustained speeds of 56 mph with gusts to 90 mph, while an hour later Vancouver recorded sustained speeds of 54 mph with gusts to 78 mph.

**October 15-16, 1954**

The extra tropical phase of Hurricane Hazel moved northward over central southern Ontario. The largest one-day precipitation totals were reported from Snelgrove (7.15") and Brampton (7.02"). On October 15 wide-spread wind and flood damages occurred. The greatest destruction of life and property was in the river valleys west and north of Toronto. There were more than 80 casualties and property damage amounted to more than 24 million dollars.

**NOVEMBER**

**November 1, 1898**

The meteorological office at Victoria began to provide a forecast service for parts of southern British Columbia.

**November 6-13, 1969**

Sustained freezing precipitation caused \$1,500,000 damage to hydro lines between Quebec City and the new Manicouagan River power generators. Thirty towers in a transmission line under construction failed in the storm.

**November 7-13, 1913**

One of the most severe Great Lakes storms on record swept the area with winds of 50 to 60 mph and occasionally to 80 mph over Lakes Erie and Ontario. At least 8 large ships were lost and more than 200 seamen were drowned.

**November 17, 1927**

A storm at Montreal, Que. produced 3.32 inches of rain in one day, and there was a three-day period accumulation of 4.94 inches. Over the calendar month 12.04 inches of precipitation fell making this the wettest month on record at Montreal.

**November 18, 1931**

Canada's record high wind speed for one hour -- 126 mph occurred at Cape Hopes Advance, Que.

**November 23, 1936**

An Act was passed by the House of Commons establishing a new Department of Transport. The Meteorological Service of Canada became the Meteorological Division of the Air Services Branch of the new Department, and Dr. John Patterson, formerly Director of the Service, became the first Controller of the new Division.

**November 30, 1917**

The highest monthly precipitation total for Canada -- 88.01 inches was reported at Swanson Bay, B.C.

**DECEMBER**

**December 1, 1946**

Dr. Andrew Thomson became Controller of the Meteorological Division on the retirement of Dr. J. Patterson. Dr. Thomson had been Assistant Controller of the Branch since February 8, 1940.

**December 1-2, 1964**

One of the most violent storms in years struck the Maritime Provinces with gales reaching gust speeds of 100 mph. Three fishing boats, including two large draggers, were lost in the storm with a toll of 23 lives. Damage due to seas, wind and flooding were estimated in excess of one million dollars.

**December 3, 1878**

Forecasts were first made for the Maritime Provinces and transmitted to 20 locations in those provinces.

**December 11-12, 1944**

A severe storm swept southeastern Canada. In the lower Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River valley of Ontario and Quebec wind and snow conditions were particularly bad. A total of 20.5 inches of snow fell in 24 hours at Toronto, 19 inches on the climatological day of December 11, paralyzing transportation in the city.

**December 15, 1964**

A combination of low temperatures and very strong winds developed into the most severe blizzard in the memory of the "old timers" in parts of the Prairie Provinces. The early winter of 1964-65, one of prolonged cold and heavy snowfall, is remembered as the year of the "Great Blizzard".

**December 22, 1873**

Dr. Charles Smallwood died in Montreal. An English born physician with a great interest in meteorology and astronomy, he had built an observatory on Île Jesus, nine miles west of Montreal before becoming a Professor of Meteorology at McGill in 1856. In 1862 Dr. Smallwood moved his instruments to the newly built McGill Observatory.

**December 26, 1968**

The evening of this day saw the beginning of the heaviest seasonal snowfall at Victoria, B.C. in 20 years. Eleven inches of snow fell on December 30-31 and over a five-week period four feet fell at Victoria Gonzales Observatory. The temperature dropped to 4°F on December 29th, the all-time minimum at Victoria. Vancouver on the same date reported a minimum of -0.3°F, the only official sub-zero temperature on record at Vancouver Airport. On December 31 at Victoria the depth of snow on the ground amounted to 23 inches.

**December 26-28, 1959**

A severe freezing precipitation storm occurred in southern Ontario. To the west and northwest of Toronto this was considered to be one of the worst ice storms on record.

**December 28, 1839**

The Council of King's College, Toronto, agreed to provide two acres of College grounds as a site for a magnetic observatory to be built by the British Government.

**December 28, 1894**

R.F. Stupart (later Sir Frederic) was appointed Director of the Meteorological Service of Canada. Mr. Stupart had been Acting Director for nearly a year after the death of Prof. Charles Carpmael, Director from 1880 to 1894.

**December 31, 1917**

The mean temperature for the month at Dawson, Yukon, was -51.4°F - the lowest monthly temperature ever reported from any Canadian station.

**December 31, 1931**

The annual precipitation at Henderson Lake, B.C. totalled 319.78 inches - the most precipitation that ever fell at any Canadian station during any calendar year.

**December 31, 1955**

The annual precipitation at St. John's West, Canada Department of Agriculture station in Newfoundland, amounted to 84.11 inches - the most precipitation ever to fall in a calendar year in eastern Canada.