

World's largest igloo makes weather history

■ Province gets four April items in calendar

An Easter blizzard that devastated southeastern New Brunswick and the world's largest igloo being built in Grand Falls were among the four New Brunswick mentions this month in the Environment Canada Weather Trivia Calendar.

There were eight Atlantic Canada items listed in April in this year's calendar, five of which occurred in the same year — 2008.

The calendar, which is compiled annually by David Phillips of Toronto, senior climatologist for Environment Canada, incorporates a mixture of weather records and historic storms along with quirky or unusual weather happenings.

All the proceeds from the calendar's sales go back to Environment Canada to be used for education, training and other programs.

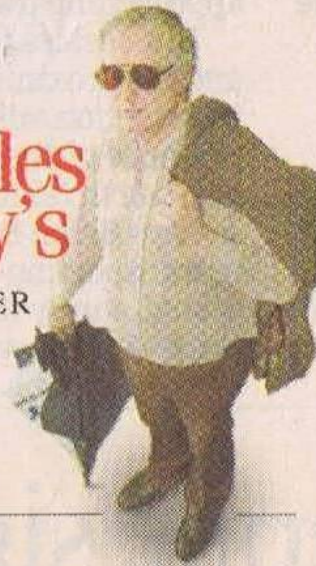
Among the New Brunswick items last month was an Easter storm on April 20, 1946, which featured heavy snow and gusty winds, inflicting considerable hardship and suffering.

Between Salisbury and Amherst, 80 to 100 utility poles fell over. Gas pressure dropped so low in Moncton that the gas went out and heavy drifting kept the snow plows going well into the night.

On April 8, 2008, the world's largest, self-supporting dome igloo — built by New Brunswick engineers and confirmed by Guinness World Records — was brought

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down by a stretch of warm weather.

Completed in February, its construction required 70 volunteers, 2,000 blocks of ice and 50 hours of work. The igloo was 7.9 metres (25.9 feet) in diameter and 4.2 metres (13.8 feet) high.

On April 27, 2008, the province experienced its worst flooding in 35 years along the St. John River, affecting some 1,600 properties and causing about \$50 million in damages.

Riverside basements filled with smelly debris-laden waters, while rising waters forced the closure of the New Brunswick legislature. Harried employees at the Beaverbrook Art Gallery rushed artworks from the basement.

During a budget debate in the N.B. Legislature on April 11, 2007, on snow clearing, one member referred to his legislative opponent as "weather girl." She called his

Weather facts

- Today's high for southeastern New Brunswick is expected to be 8C (46F) and the low, 2C (36F).
- Yesterday's high for the area was 14C (57F) and the low was 1C (34F).
- The highest maximum temperature recorded in Metro Moncton for April 25 (yesterday) was 28.2C (82.9F) in 1942. The lowest minimum temperature was -7.5C (18.5F) in 1990.
- On this date (April 26) last year, it was a mild, sunny day under clear skies in Metro Moncton. The high was 17.7C (63.9F) and the low was 0.9C (33.6F).

remarks degrading and sexist.

He sued for slander, saying the weather girl reference was no different than terms like cowgirl or manhole cover. Eventually, he dropped the suit.

All of the Atlantic provinces were part of the April 10, 2008 mention in the calendar. On an Earth Day survey on that date, it was found that Atlantic Canadians were the most concerned about global warming in the country.

The other Atlantic provinces' items this month on the calendar included icebergs off the coast of Newfoundland on April 1, 2008 and again on April 29 of that year; and more than 100 sealing vessels being trapped off Newfoundland by pack ice on April 23, 2007.

■ *Charles Perry's Weather appears daily.*