

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 built in Grand Falls were among the four New Brunswick mentions 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 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 Brun-

wick 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 remarks degrading and sexist.

He sued for slander, saying the

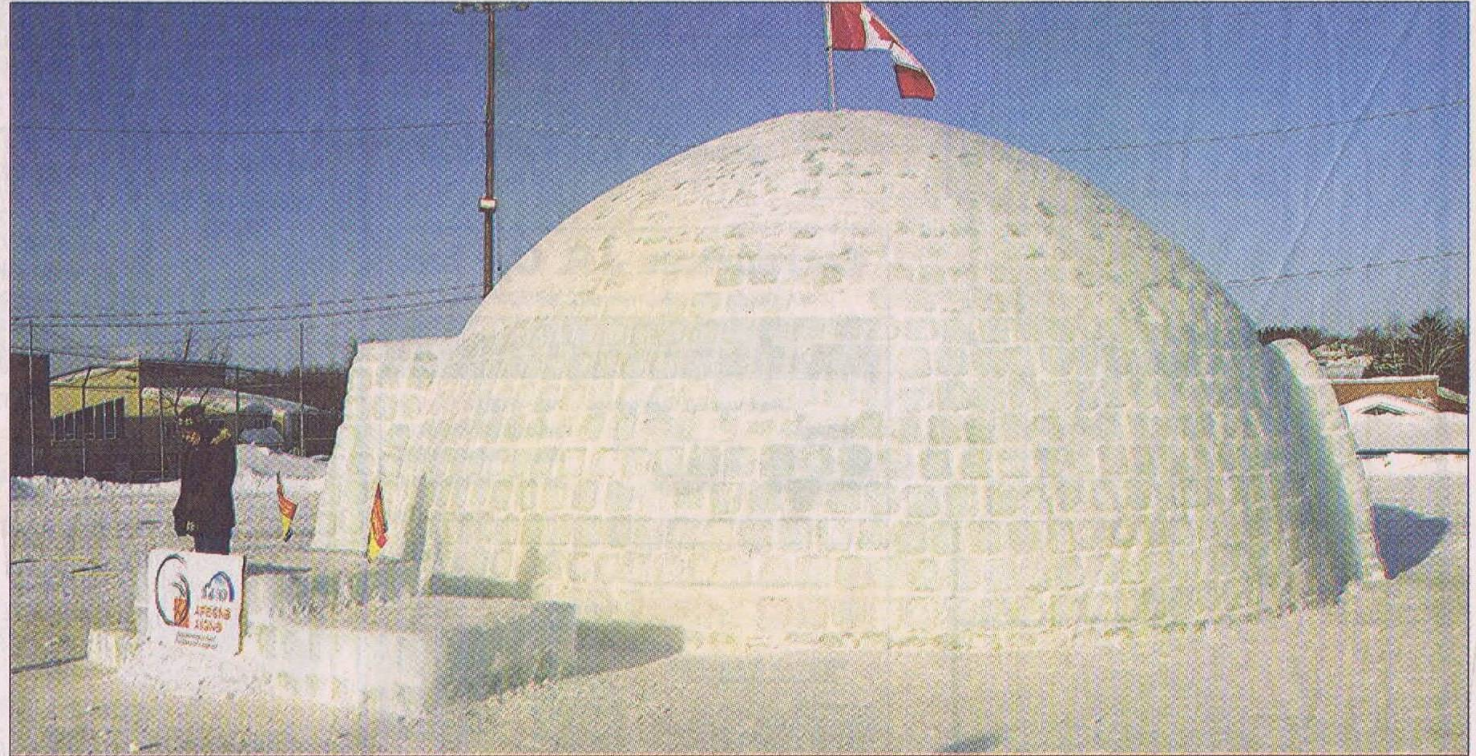
weather girl reference was no different than terms like cowgirl or manhole cover. Eventually, he dropped the suit.

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 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.

(With files from The Daily Gleaner)



World record broken

The ice igloo, which was built for the second annual APEGNB Igloo Building Competition held February 15 to 17, measured 7.9 m (25 ft. 9 in.) in diameter and 4.2 m (13 ft. 8 in.) high. It collapsed April 8 and was confirmed as a world record holder by Guinness on April 18. (File photo)

Grand Falls youth justice court news

By Kelsey MacDonald

Theft and mischief charges

Two Grand Falls area teenagers pleaded not guilty to a charge of stealing a home theatre system at the Rossy store in Grand Falls. Trial dates will be set on July 6 and 13 for each youth.

One of the teens also pleaded guilty to committing mischief and a breach of his probation.

"On April 5, at 1:14 p.m., the youth broke a car window on Joyner Street. The suspect left on a bicycle but was apprehended by the vehicle's owner. Police arrested

the youth on St. George Street. The youth admitted throwing a rock and breaking the windshield, causing \$271 in damages. He was on probation at the time and failed to keep the peace and be of good behaviour," stated Crown prosecutor Charles Couturier.

The youth will be sentenced on July 6 following the preparation of a pre-sentence report and a victim impact statement.

Plea adjourned

A Grand Falls area teenager will enter her pleas on June 29 to two charges of committing assaults.

Suspended curfew

A Perth-Andover area teenager facing 10 different charges and whose trial is slated to be held on July 5 was granted his request that his curfew be suspended in order that he can attend graduation activities.