

## WORLD NEWS

FEB 1 - space shuttle Columbia, after a successful mission, broke apart during re-entry, killing all 7 astronauts. Debris widely scattered over Texas.

May 19 - WAR began in IRAQ. U.S. + BRITAIN leading the war to search for weapons of MASS destruction + end the oppressive regime of SADAM HUSSEIN.

CANADA decided not to participate as this action was not SANCTIONED by the U.N.

May - APR.

A mysterious illness called S.A.R.S. has begun to show up in TORONTO. It has been present in parts of China since Nov. There is no cure. It is a type of severe pneumonia + is extremely contagious. All Canadian hospitals are screening all visitors + most are closed to the public. W. H. O issued a travel advisory, suggesting people not travel to countries affected.

By the MIDDLE of MAY it appeared to be under control + some precautions were lifted. This was followed by a fresh outbreak. All local hospitals complied with strict screening for all patients + visitors.

By late summer the last S.A.R.S. patient had been discharged. HUNDREDS of deaths occurred around the world, including 40 in TORONTO + 400 throughout Canada.

May 20. A single case of "MAD Cow Disease" was reported in Alberta. This resulted in the U.S. + other countries closing their borders to CANADIAN BEEF - resulting in economic disaster for some CANADIAN FARMERS.

AUG - SEPT.

FOREST FIRES raging out of control in B.C. + parts of ALBERTA - aggravated by windy conditions + a very dry summer.