

Mercury to climb in July

June's hot weather shatters records

BY CHRISTINE BRANDT

WHT Reporter

The past month will go down in history as one of Ontario's hottest Junes on record.

Geoff Coulson, a meteorologist with Environment Canada, said 17 locations across Ontario set new records in June for the average monthly temperature.

"It's definitely been hot," said Coulson. "These records are being broken not by fractions of a degree, which we're used to, but shattered by whole degrees or even more."

At Pearson International Airport in Toronto, the mean temperature for June was 22.5 degrees Celsius. Coulson said a normal mean for the month would have been 17.8 degrees.

"That's a difference of 4.7 degrees on average. One or two degrees is pretty significant, but almost five (degrees) is unheard of," he said.

The previous record at Pearson was set in 1949, when the mean temperature was 21.4.

Locally, weather data is collected for Environment Canada at the Warton airport. Warton's mean temperature for the month of June was a record 19 degrees, up 3.4 degrees from the normal mean of 15.6. The last record high, set in 1949, was a mean of 18.3 degrees.

"It was definitely a June that will stand out in the record books, and we're looking at a continuation of this above-normal trend through the month of July," said Coulson.

Although the month began with a cold front moving through southwestern Ontario on Canada Day, the hot, humid weather is expected to return this week.

Coulson said because many people have become acclimatized to the warmer temperatures experienced throughout June, there should be fewer problems adjusting to hot weather in early July.

"The impact will be slightly less (this week) than when we got hit with it in June," he said. "Going from colder temperatures in May to a hot, hot June was difficult for some, but it won't be as hard for the human body to adapt to the much warmer weather (in July) because of what we experienced in June."

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According to Coulson, residents in this part of the province should take extra caution throughout the summer when Environment Canada issues humidex warnings. Several warnings were posted in June, and more are predicted for the coming weeks.

"The combination of heat, humidity and pollution can make temperatures in the low 30s feel like 40 degrees," said Coulson. "A humidex warning means you should sip that bottle of water even if you're not feeling particularly thirsty at that

time."

Aside from staying hydrated, Coulson advises residents to stay out of the sun during peak hours of the day. The elderly and young children are especially prone to heat exhaustion, he said, but everyone going outdoors in the summer should be wearing sunscreen and hats with wide brims, because this hot weather isn't going away any time soon.

"Late July and mid August are traditionally our warmest weeks of the summer, and we're not even there yet," said Coulson.

