

March's lack of snow highlight of weather

There were indications of both winter and spring during March 2009, a month which technically includes both seasons. But, unlike March 2008, when snow was reported everywhere, this year it was the lack of snow throughout Ontario that could be considered newsworthy, says Environment Canada.

Typical amounts of snow in Southern Ontario range from 20 to 30 centimetres, but March's totals amounted to less than one centimetre for some locations. Locations throughout the rest of the province also reported snow amounts that were 20 to 30 centimetres below what was expected.

March 2009 varied markedly from last year's March, when monthly snowfall records were broken at several locations. Along with the snow, those areas also tended to have higher-than-normal precipitation last year. Temperatures were also noteworthy in March 2008, when it was cold everywhere.

Temperature-wise, this March brought a bit of both seasons, with balmy temperatures experienced through many areas during the school March break and cold temperatures still being felt near the end of the month. Overall, temperatures were within a degree of normal for most areas.

Southern Ontario was mostly spared in March when it came to winter-like storms that typically include snow, ice pellets, or freezing rain. In fact, a number of sites in that area were noteworthy for the number of days when no precipitation at all was recorded. However, when it rained, it really rained...with many storm systems showering 15, 20, or 30-plus millimetres during an event. Waterloo/Wellington recorded 71.0 millimetres of rain during the month, the wettest since 2004.

Ontario being on the warm side of a March 10 storm, all of the precipitation fell as rain. Amounts in Southwestern Ontario were generally between 20 and 30 millimetres.

While this system poured rain over Southern Ontario, it had a much more winter-like tone in Northern Ontario. Snowfall accumulations in Northwestern Ontario were in the 15 to 20 millimetre range, with local accumulations approaching 30 millimetres. While the rain fell in Southern Ontario, more snow fell in Northeastern Ontario, with Timmins recording 20 fresh centimetres of snow.



DISHING UP GOODIES: The Rockwood and District Lions Club held its 30th Annual Pancake Breakfast. About 500 people showed up for all-you-can-eat pancakes, eggs and sausages. The sausages were locally produced by Wellington Country Marketplace. Lion Bob Bartlett is shown serving breakfast to Crystal MacKay. - Rebecca Ring Photo

May 2 is date set for unique Guelph/Eramosa Community Day

By Rebecca Ring

Guelph/Eramosa is holding a "Municipal Community Day" at Rockmosa Community Centre in Rockwood on May 2, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mayor Chris White, Councillors, department and committee representatives will be on hand to answer any questions. "The intention is to give people an idea of what we're doing," says White, "This is an opportunity to communicate and get feedback from the community."

The day begins with the annual Green Legacy tree give-away. The County

program donated 5,000 tree seedlings to the community for planting. All residents are welcome to pick up trees at no charge to take home to plant. At Rockmosa, 3500 will be given away and another 1500 will be given away at Marden Community Centre on a first-come-first-served basis. Bring plastic bags for transporting.

Township and committee representatives will be set up in an outdoor tent. The Heritage Committee will be displaying photos and maps. They will be screening a video that was shot in the late 1940's in

Rockwood, which captures real people and real life in the community at that time. They will also be looking for participants and support for a local historical play. Committee member Ron Beverage is writing a play about life at the Rockwood Academy in the 1880's.

The Environmental Stewardship Committee will provide information on its projects, namely the anti-idling campaign and the Tree Coverage Plan, which was endorsed by Council. There will be a rain barrel on display, which Wellington County will be selling, along with backyard composters on May 23. Enter a draw to win a clothes drying tree and clothes pegs donated by Rockwood Home Hardware.

The Trails Committee will be displaying a comprehensive trails map that is in process and the prototype of a key ring card system that holds trail maps and highlights.

The Commercial Corridor Improvement Committee will display plans for sidewalks and landscaping along Hwy. #7 in Rockwood, which will take place during the MTO highway reconstruction in 2011. The proposed theme is "rock and wood," using boulders, trees and wood with the idea of linking the downtown core

with the Rockwood Conservation Area. They are looking for public input for these plans. OMAFRA is co-funding the project.

Public Works will have some of its impressive equipment on display, including some of the newer purchases. Recreation and Culture Services will show its plans for Marden Park development, of which, phase one begins this summer. Plans for the 65-acre park include a sports area with a fieldhouse and a natural area with an enabling garden and trails.

The Guelph/Eramosa Fire Department will be on hand with their "smoke house." This portable house is used to simulate a house fire and children are given an opportunity to learn the do's and don'ts and to practise escaping a house fire. The Wellington County O.P.P. will be there with the beautiful horses in the mounted unit.

A bridge dedication ceremony was planned to celebrate the recent construction of five bridges in the Township. The ribbon-cutting event is postponed, as MP Mike Chong is not available on that date. However, details and photos of the construction will be displayed.

Barbecued hot dogs and pop will be available with all sales proceeds going to Rockwood Medical Centre Leasehold Improvements.



TOWNSHIP OF GUELPH/ERAMOSIA

PUBLIC NOTICE

WATER MAIN CLEANING PROGRAM

ROCKWOOD & HAMILTON DRIVE

Township of Guelph/Eramosa will be conducting its spring controlled flushing of Hamilton Drive and Rockwood's water mains beginning Monday May 4th and will be completed on approximately Friday June 19, 2009. This process takes place to reduce the likelihood of residents experiencing discoloured or brown water.

Regular flushing is an important component of a comprehensive water management program. The Township of Guelph/Eramosa flushes water mains annually to remove accumulated sediment and stagnation in low circulation areas of the distribution system. Opening fire hydrants and allowing them to flow freely for a short period of time cleans out these areas, along with the rest of the system.

All residents should be aware that cleaning activities could create temporary instances of discoloured water. While drinking small quantities of discoloured water is not likely to cause health risk, it is recommended that residents wait until water clarity returns to normal before consuming water. Please contact Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health at 519-846-2715 if you require further clarification on this issue.

Please visit our website at www.get.on.ca for Frequently Asked Questions regarding our Water Main Cleaning Program.

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