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Richard K. Taylor
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Are we in for the Joseph effect?

as warm weather delights us all

Continuing warm weather could be a sign that we are in for more of the same throughout the year and maybe even a repeat next year.

Dr. Gunars Subins, a geographer at Wilfrid Laurier University, says we could even be seeing the start of what climatologists call "the Joseph effect."

The effect is named for the biblical Joseph with his prophetic dream of seven fat years followed by seven lean years.

"We could be seeing the start of something similar but I wouldn't count on it lasting any seven years," Subins said. "The chances are we could have a mild fall and even another mild year to follow."

He says global weather systems are huge and take time to change. They can stay too cold or too warm for long periods--something like a house heated with hot water that stays hot long after the furnace clicks off.

"And I wouldn't even exclude the gloomy prediction that we might once again have an ice-age in Canada. But we won't be here to see it."