

'Goldilocks' winter predicted for York Region

Record temperatures in summer and fall have led to 'residual heat', slowing the pace of winter

ALI RAZA

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York Region is in for a "Goldilocks" winter this season, says Environment Canada.

Not too cold, not too warm. It's what The Weather Network is calling a "classic Canadian winter."

Environment Canada meteorologist David Phillips explains why the region won't see last year's mild winter where residents dreamed of a white Christmas that never came nor will they see the merciless frigidty of the two previous winters.

Phillips explained that the last seven months (May to November) yielded one of the warmest summers on record and one of the warmest falls on record.

"Why that's important is because it stores a lot of heat in the ground, lakes, rivers, etc.," he explained. "That eventually gives up, but it takes a while for winter to really come in when you have residual heat."

That residual heat, especially in the northern half of York Region closer to Lake Simcoe, will yield lake-effect snow. Phillips says as the Great Lakes and Lake Simcoe are warmer than average, the lake-effect can yield a lot of snow.

As cold air from the Arctic moves south and over the lakes, it causes the warm lake water to condense and be carried away to land where it precipitates in the form of snow. A greater difference between the air and lake temperature yields a greater chance – and amount – of lake-effect snow.

What this means throughout winter is lakes are expected to take much longer to freeze.

It also means that residents in York Region won't see the severe, persistent cold seen the two previous winters, including the December 2013 ice storm.

"We're not forecasting a return to what we saw in those years," said The Weather Network meteorologist Doug Gill-

ham. "We will have periods of frigid weather, but not as those years."

Last year, Canada's mild winter was partially caused by a particularly strong El Niño, a warm phase of the Pacific Ocean current. This year, Phillips, Gillham and other Canadian meteorologists all agree that a smaller, milder La Niña will have to battle winds from different directions.

"We think this year it'll attack us from all directions," Phillips said. "But nature won't punish you. They're will be some shovelling, plowing and pushing, but it's not going to necessarily bury us."

Gillham explained that the Great Lakes region – and York Region by proximity – is near a "battle zone" where different air masses of different temperatures meet.

"We'll have a more active storm track in southern Ontario," he said. "You get storms when milder weather and colder



Metroland file photo

Environment Canada and The Weather Network agree this year's winter won't be too mild or too severe. Meteorologist David Phillips says the weather will be good for traditional winter activities like hockey, skiing, ice fishing, etc.

weather battle out."

Moist, warm air from the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean are likely to collide with colder, drier air from the Arctic. The result is various types of winter storms ranging from heavy rain to blizzards.

Residents needn't worry

as the general consensus still points to a "classic Canadian winter". Phillips thinks it's good news for those anxiously waiting for spring.

"It'll be a yo-yo kind of winter, two weeks of this, two weeks of that, and I think that makes winter go a little faster," he said.

● Thursday, December 8

Exhibit: Fit to be Tied

WHEN: 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. **WHERE:**

Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum,

14732 Woodbine Avenue **CON-**

TACT: Julia, 905-727-8954, www.

townofws.ca/museum, wsmuse-

um@townofws.ca **COST:** General

Admission

Aprons trace the changing history

of the role of women as they run

the household.

● Friday, December 9

Annual Christmas Luncheon

WHEN: 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

WHERE: Granite Golf Club, 2699

York Durham Road 30 **CONTACT:**

Harry Renaud, 905-642-4227,

harry@stouffvillechamber.ca **COST:**

\$50 + HST

The Stouffville Chamber of

Commerce is hosting its annual

Christmas luncheon on Friday,

Dec. 9. A turkey feast is planned

with complimentary wine supplied

by Galluci Winery. Registration is

required in advance. To register,

visit [http://stouffvillechamber.ca/](http://stouffvillechamber.ca/christmas-luncheon/)

christmas-luncheon/

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● GET CONNECTED

Visit yorkregion.com/events to submit your own community events for online publishing.

Admission

Aprons trace the changing history

of the role of women as they run

the household.

● Saturday, December 10

Exhibit: Fit to be Tied

WHEN: 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. **WHERE:**

Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum,

14732 Woodbine Avenue **CON-**

TACT: Julia, 905-727-8954, www.

townofws.ca/museum, wsmuse-

um@townofws.ca **COST:** General

Admission

Aprons trace the changing history

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the household.

Candlelight Christmas

WHEN: 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

WHERE: Whitchurch-Stouffville

Museum, 14732 Woodbine Avenue

CONTACT: Julia, 905-727-8954,

www.townofws.ca/museum,

wsmuseum@townofws.ca **COST:**

Adults: \$16 plus tax, Children

under 12: \$10 plus tax

Decorated for the season, the mu-

seum's historic buildings come to

life. Visit with Father Christmas and

go on a horse-drawn wagon ride.

The Next Generation Leahy

WHEN: 7 p.m. **WHERE:** Flato

Markham Theatre, 171 Town Centre

Bldv. **CONTACT:** Flato Markham

Theatre, 905-305-7469, 305_

show@markham.ca **COST:** Prime:

\$59, Regular: \$54 Diamond

4-Pak: \$172 Students: \$15

Doug Leahy, together with his

wife Jennifer and six of their eight

children, are keeping the family's

musical traditions alive.

Stouffville Spirit Jr. A Hockey

WHEN: 7:30 p.m. **WHERE:**

Stouffville Arena, 12483 9th Line

North **CONTACT:** sarah.stouffvil-

lespiritohockey@gmail.com **COST:**

\$5 for seniors, students, children;

\$10 for adults. Stouffville hosts the

Cobourg Cougars in Ontario Junior

Hockey League action.

● Sunday, December 11

Toronto Maple Leafs and Music

WHEN: 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. **WHERE:**

St. James Presbyterian Church,

6432 Main Street **CONTACT:** Jim

Mason, 905-640-3151, jimma-

son905@gmail.com **COST:** Free

Question-and-answer, music with

Jason Wilson, co-author of the new

book> The Toronto Maple Leaf

Hockey Club: Official Centennial

Publication, 1917-2017.

5 things to do this weekend

● Friday, December 9

Heroes and Monsters: A Holiday Concert

WHEN: 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. **WHERE:**

Trinity Anglican Church, 79 Victoria

St. **CONTACT:** auroracommunity-

band@gmail.com **COST:** Adults

\$10, seniors/students \$5

The Aurora Community Band

presents holiday entertainment like

no other. Join a musical journey

to celebrate indomitable human

spirit.

● Saturday, December 10

Jingle Bell Walk

WHEN: 10 a.m. to **WHERE:**

Hollidge Tract, 16389 Hwy 48

CONTACT: York Region, accessy-

ork@york.ca **COST:** Free

Learn about the holiday tradition

of bells and Christmas trees. Bring

a non-perishable food item for

the local food bank. Register at

[york.ca/wps/portal/yorkhome/](http://york.ca/wps/portal/yorkhome/newsroom/events/eventdetail/jinglebellwalk2016)

[newsroom/events/eventdetail/](http://newsroom/events/eventdetail/jinglebellwalk2016)

jinglebellwalk2016

"Write for Rights": Human Rights

Day 2016

WHEN: 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

WHERE: Aurora Public Library,

15145 Yonge St. **CONTACT:** Renee,

Aurora-Newmarket Amnesty group,



Staff file photo/Mike Barrett

Valerie Saunders lights candles on a Christmas tree during the 2014 evening holiday event at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum Saturday.

905-713-6713, <http://www.writeathon.ca>, **COST:** Free

Join the Aurora-Newmarket Am-

nesty International group to sign

a postcard or write a letter at this

annual free drop-in event.

Candlelight Christmas

WHEN: 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

WHERE: Whitchurch-Stouffville

Museum, 14732 Woodbine Avenue

CONTACT: Julia, 905-727-8954,

www.townofws.ca/museum,

wsmuseum@townofws.ca **COST:**

Adults: \$16 plus tax, Children

under 12: \$10 plus tax

Decorated for the season, the mu-

seum's historic buildings come to

life. Visit with Father Christmas and

go on a horse-drawn wagon ride.

Chorus York: "Our First Nowell"

WHEN: 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

WHERE: Richmond Hill Presbyte-

rian Church, 10066 Yonge Street

CONTACT: Mary-Lou Montgrain,

905-884-7922, www.chorusyork.ca,

mlmontgrain@rogers.com