

Snowstorm set to hammer valley

Impact on river flooding uncertain

By Manfred Jager
Urban Life Reporter

MOTHER NATURE is about to throw a giant spanner this weekend into the Winnipeg flood-preparation works by hurling 40 millimetres of freezing rain, sleet and snow at the Red River Valley.

Even though it's spring and temperatures are not cold enough for the classification, "if people start referring to it as a full-blown blizzard by Sunday morning, they sure won't get an argument from me," Environment Canada Meteorologist Steve Smith said yesterday.

How the storm will affect river flooding levels once the ice on the Red breaks is not clear, said Larry Whitney, provincial flood situation spokesman.

A lot depends on how close the precipitation falls to the run-off area, he said.

Precise analyses of the storm's effects will be done when it ends late Sunday night by engineers of the provincial water resources branch in the natural resources department, Whitney said.

The findings will then be released next week as part of an updated flood forecast.

A storm which dumped 60 mm of water on Winnipeg and southern Manitoba in August of 1993 raised the level of the Red in the city by 50 centimetres.

The most recent provincial flood forecast said there is a 50 per cent chance that the Red will crest at 19.3 feet above winter ice level this spring — as it did last year. There also is a 10 per cent chance it might crest at 22.3 feet, with an additional 1.5 feet or a total of 23.8 feet above winter ice level in the south St. Mary's Road area.

The 1979 Red River flood crest was 19.2 feet above winter ice level. In 1950, when the city did not have the benefit from the Red River Floodway, the Red crested at 30.3 feet.

Winnipeg's primary dike network protects to a level of 26.5 feet.

Smith said this weekend's "Colorado Clipper" system is of the category known to meteorologists as heavy in moisture.

"It's the worst kind of storm we get in this part of the continent," the weather expert said. "You get cold air coming down from the north and colliding with warm, very moist air from the Gulf of Mexico."

As the system forms and starts travelling northeast, it picks up more and more moisture from southern air currents, Smith said.

By the time the full force of the storm hits the Red River Valley early Saturday, it could drop about 20 mm of rain and freezing rain on Winnipeg and southern

Manitoba, followed by a further 20 cm of snow.

Parts of North and South Dakota can expect as much as 70 mm of precipitation, Smith said.

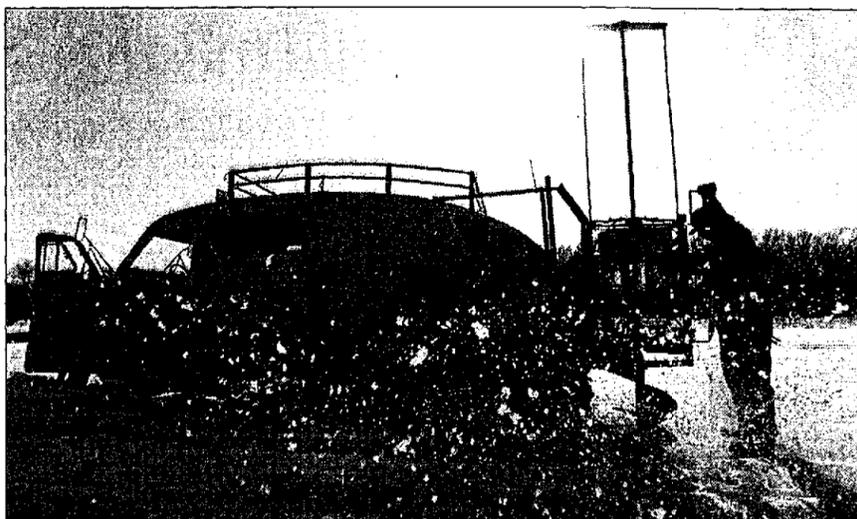
And while the storm system travels northeastward at altitudes between 18,000 and 24,000 feet, surface winds below that level bring cold air from the north.

"I can tell you this is keeping us very busy here," Smith said.

By Monday, sunny skies and temperatures as low as minus 12 are expected to prevail.

Forecasters don't expect a return to normal springtime temperatures until Thursday. However, even in their absence the sun and high winds will soak up much of the moisture that is not running off into the rivers before mid-week.

'It's the worst kind of storm we get in this part of the continent'



Fisherman Clarence Sveinson drills holes in the Red River south of Breezy Point.

Hovercraft not available

By Manfred Jager
Urban Life Reporter

A QUEBEC-BASED consultant can't spare his hovercraft this spring to help ease Manitoba's flood situation. It's needed in Quebec, he says.

The consultant advised the provincial government yesterday the hovercraft could break up enough ice to get the Red River flowing freely and relieve flood pressure on areas south of the city. But there's only one such craft in Canada and Quebec rivers need cracking, too.

Larry Whitney, provincial flood spokesman, said yesterday the province has decided not to pursue the hovercraft idea this spring.

Whitney said the consultant

was flown to Winnipeg Thursday to analyse the Red River situation and make recommendations.

"The (Quebec hovercraft) captain advised us that a hovercraft of suitable size could have taken care of breaking up the ice north of Selkirk," Whitney said.

"However, he only knows of two such machines in the western hemisphere. One is the Coast Guard machine which is based in Montreal. The other is a machine owned by a mining company and the machine is either in Alaska or in Paraguay. It was up for sale and is either on its way to Paraguay now or is already in Paraguay."

The hovercraft would have been used north of Selkirk in an area where nine Lake Winnipeg fishermen have been drilling

thousands of holes in the ice to enable it to break up quicker and into smaller pieces, letting the river flow to Lake Winnipeg faster.

The 10-day project, which started Monday at a point near Netley Marsh, covers about four kilometres a day and was going strong on yesterday.

Whitney said the Bombardiers are laying down nine-metre-square patterns of holes with each square measuring nine holes across and lengthwise as the river runs.

If the river ice remains strong enough to support the Bombardiers and allow drilling, the project will conclude at a point just north of Selkirk next Wednesday, Whitney said.

"As of today, the men were all set to work right through the weekend," he added.

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Take the plunge

The beach is never far away when you own your own pool /C1

New FACES

Visible minorities shift city image away from Anglo-Saxon dominance /B1



A people on the edge

In Tadoule Lake, Manitoba's most remote community, the Sayisi Dene barely have space to live /A5



The Weather

Cloudy. Snow ending in the afternoon. High -9. Low -15.

Details on page B13

Celebrating 125 years Sunday Free Press

Winnipeg, April 6, 1997

Inside



Famed race scratched

A bomb threat forced cancellation of the Grand National, the world's most famous steeplechase race, at Aintree race course in Britain yesterday. Some 60,000 spectators, including Princess Anne, were turned away and police destroyed several suspect packages in a controlled explosion /A4

Sinkhole feared

Two Crestview neighbours, who share a sinking driveway, want the city to repair the road and a crevice at the edge of the drive before there's a cave-in. The city, which owns the land, refuses /A3

Boy lucky to be alive

A 13-year-old boy is lucky to be alive after he was trapped for two hours in freezing water following a highway accident, his Regina doctors say /A4

Selanne soars

A trade made 14 months earlier, starring Teemu Selanne, has done more to make the Mighty Ducks of Anaheim a legitimate NHL franchise than anything in the team's three previous seasons of existence /A6

Cult guru dies

Allen Ginsberg, the angry, often sardonic poetic voice of the Beat Generation whose anti-establishment work and life inspired legions of hipsters and protesters, died yesterday, just days after revealing he had liver cancer /B10

One day for killings

A multiple killer was sentenced to one day in jail Friday after pleading guilty to two charges of manslaughter in North Bay, Ont. The culprit pleaded guilty last January to murder in connection with a slaying in Manitoba. He received a life sentence, but was deported to Minnesota to finish serving another murder sentence /A3

Sorry if we're late

If you did not get your paper on time today, we apologize. Our delivery people lost an hour of time this morning due to the change to daylight savings time. And, due to the severe weather conditions, delivery may also have been difficult. We are trying our best to get the paper to your doorstep.

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LOTTO 6/49

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Storm packs wallop

Blizzard, cold now; worst yet to come

By Alexandra Paul/Andrew Maxwell
Staff Reporter/For the Free Press

A SPRING blizzard that dumped 30 centimetres of snow on southern Manitoba will be followed by arctic temperatures of -20 C tomorrow — and then it's going to get worse. Arctic temperatures are forecast to linger over the south until Thursday or Friday, when the mercury will creep up to daytime highs of 1 to 2 C. By the time the sun comes out, the heat will trigger a quick melt, Environment Canada meteorologist Michel Bisson warned.

"The worst-case scenario is where the cold air blasts for five to eight days — and when the sun comes out, it will cause a rapid melt," Bisson said.

The impact of the blizzard on flood-water levels will be combined with the rains that are hitting the Dakotas.

"That just feeds into the Red River from the south of us," he said.

The snow in Winnipeg will melt down fast and equals 40 millimetres of water.

"That's pretty much part of the worst-case scenario," Bisson said.

In the immediate forecast, the blizzard — with winds of 60 kilometres an hour and gusts up to 85 km/h — won't blow over until this afternoon.

"The heavy snows might pull off Sunday afternoon, but you'll still see reduced visibility all Sunday and the winds will only start diminishing Sunday night," Bisson said.

"Very bad"

Highway travel is treacherous. "The road conditions are very bad and we're advising people not to travel," RCMP spokesman Sgt. Gerry Jennings said.

Highway 75, Manitoba's link to the United States, was closed yesterday and is expected to remain closed until sometime today, Morris RCMP Cpl. Richard Graham said last night.

Travel is also not recommended on Highway 14, which intersects Highway 75 about 10 kilometres north of Letellier and is the main road to Morden and Winkler.

Both highway closings followed serious accidents.

One woman was listed in stable condition at the Altona hospital last night after a collision with a semi-trailer. She was pinned under a car on Highway 14, four kilometres west of the Highway 75 junction. Her name and home town were not released.

The initial collision triggered a pile-up involving seven cars. They were quickly covered over with blowing snow.

Ten minutes after the first accident yesterday afternoon, about a dozen semi-trailers and a number of cars piled up on Highway 75 about 10 kilometres south of Morris at St. Jean Baptiste, Graham said.

One trailer jackknifed across the highway and the rest of the vehicles ran into one another. "We even had an ambulance run into a car," Graham said.

There was no information on the number of injuries in that accident.

"These cars were running off the road and into each other," Graham



JOE BRYKSA/WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

Tara Zytariuk, left, Heather Thomas slog on Pembina Highway.

said, referring to conditions at both accidents.

By last night, the wind and ice made road conditions even more treacherous.

"The wind will blow you off the road, off all four lanes, and into the ditch. It's a complete ice rink out there," Graham said.

Meteorologists say the worst storm of the spring is being caused by a combination of two low-pressure systems, one on top of the other.

A Colorado low is stretched across the upper Midwest, bordered by South Dakota on the south, Estevan, Sask., on the west, Winnipeg to the north and running east almost to Kenora.

Continued
Please see BLIZZARD/A2

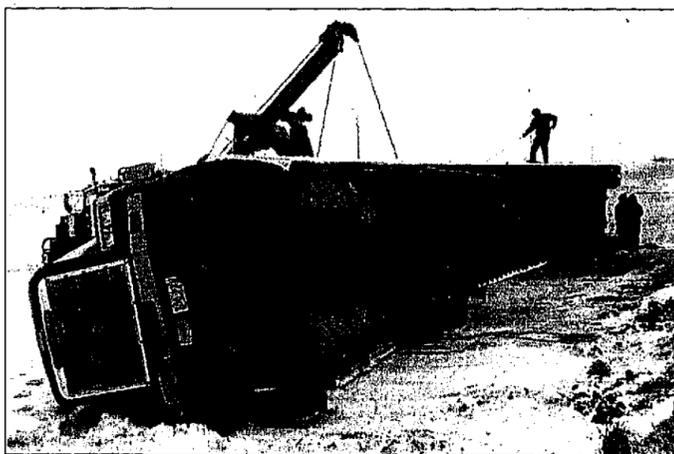
Travel not advised

Travel is not advised on major highways in southern Manitoba due to ice, packed snow or severely reduced visibility. Several stretches of highway in the Morris area were closed last night.

Local buses are running mostly on schedule, with temporary service disruptions in the Tyndal Park area reported last night. Officials predict smooth operation.

The Winnipeg International Airport was reported "fully operational" last night with extra crews cleaning runways. Anyone planning to travel is advised to contact their airline today, as departure or arrival is at the discretion of the pilot.

City crews will be cleaning major arteries and bus routes today. A decision on whether to implement a residential parking ban is expected this morning.



KEN GIGLIOTTI/WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

Semi on No. 1 East was one of several such blizzard casualties.

Waterlogged U.S. town would rather have snow

By Kim Guttormson
Staff Reporter

BRACKENRIDGE, MINN. — Pam Dohman never thought she'd be praying for an April snowstorm.

But as she and the rest of her town fight a rapidly rising river and streets flooding because of broken dikes, they would prefer a blizzard to the rain that won't quit falling.

"We were so prepared," said Dohman, who's helping co-ordinate the volunteer effort. "The last 24 hours have been hell."

The bloated Red River hit a record high here yesterday as the rain refused to let up and hampered efforts to keep the town's streets and homes dry.

Manitobans prepare for flood /A2

By early afternoon, the still-rising river had reached 5.4 metres — 2.54 centimetres better than the worst flood in the area in 1989 and about a half-metre shy of the six-metre crest forecast for today.

The unexpected surge was evident in the flood centre, where an extra piece of graph paper was tacked up to capture the steeply rising flood graph. With up to five cm of precipitation falling, the town of 3,700 is pulling together to get through what is now the flood of the century.

Mayor Kal Michels declared a state of emergency yesterday morning, closing the road into town for all except residents. As of last night, several families were being evacuated.

The U.S. Weather Service issued a flash-flood warning for the area during the day because of the rain falling behind the town's dikes.

The dikes surrounding Breckenridge are holding the river out, despite a scare early yesterday morning that had the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers shoring up weak spots that might have given way. By last night, the constant rain and wind had broken the dikes in several areas and water was seeping through.

The lunch room in the Breckenridge fire hall was filled yesterday with damp, tired sandy volunteers.

The entire town has turned out to sandbag schools, the hospital and their neighbours, and people have driven from the surrounding area to help, Dohman said.

"It's just been fantastic," said Breckenridge Ald. Roger Johnson. "I'd just rather it was different circumstances."

Myrna Burlinson and Janet Baker, working around the clock at the Farm City Supply hardware store, said people were popping in for things to fix their own home, then going back out to help somebody else.

People started buying plastic and sump pumps back in February when flood talk first surfaced, but the two were manning the till without a break yesterday.

"They want sump pumps, plugs, raincoats, plastic, shop vacs, rubber gloves," Baker said as she served a constant stream of customers. "A lot of hoses. But we've got no sump pumps, plugs or rain pants left. It's been a zoo."

Arrests, cold foil revenge in killing

By Gordon Sinclair Jr.
Free Press Columnist

A BLIZZARD and four quick arrests may have helped chill notions of retaliation yesterday for the gang-related slaying of a young man.

Terry Rodney Acoby, 18, was swarmed and beaten to death by a mob of gang members at about 4 a.m. Friday on Young Street north of Ellice

Avenue. Within minutes, a 15-year-old boy was arrested in the vicinity, police sources said yesterday.

By yesterday afternoon, another three males had been arrested; two 16-year-olds and one 17-year-old. All were charged with second-degree murder.

Another three suspects were still being sought in the fatal beating, which occurred within a block that contained two known gang houses.

As police investigated the savage

attack yesterday, two motives emerged, each as bleak and pointless as the young man's death. "Wrong place, wrong time," said Sgt. Kim Cameron of the police's homicide unit.

Acoby, reputedly an Indian Posse gang member, was walking with three females to a party on Langside Street when he passed a Young Street house occupied by members of the Deuce.

As Acoby passed the house, he made a remark to one of the girls at the

Deuce's party, police said yesterday.

"They came out of the house like a pack of wolves," said Cameron, swarming Acoby and beating him with a baseball bat until he was dead. Witnesses said the mob included several females.

Police feared reprisal attacks between the two gangs. The Deuce are a junior auxiliary of the Manitoba Warriors, and the Warriors and the Posse are known rivals.

Digest

CONSUMER WATCH

Snag in the Jag

LONDON — Luxury automaker Jaguar said yesterday it is recalling nearly 5,000 of its XK8 sports cars, including more than 150 in Canada, because of a possible flaw that could cause a rear wheel to collapse under extreme cornering.

The expensive XK8 was introduced last year as Jaguar's first new model since the company was bought by Ford Motor Co. in 1989, and its first new sports car in 21 years.

The recall affects almost half the 11,500 XK8s sold worldwide. Of those, 2,303 are being recalled in the United States and 162 in Canada.

The automaker's U.S. unit, Jaguar Cars Inc., said it expects only about 25 of the cars sold in North America will be found to have the flaw.

No injuries have been reported as a result of the problem, caused by the incorrect seating of two retaining rings in the rear drive housing. Jaguar said the forces required to cause a failure are so high that they would probably be encountered only during rigorous testing.

Jaguar said the cars will be inspected and the retaining rings resealed or replaced as needed at no charge. The XK8 went on sale last fall. Prices start at \$64,900 US for the coupe and \$69,900 for the convertible.

LOS ANGELES — Datron/Transco Inc. of Simi Valley, Calif., is marketing small, "on-the-fly" satellite-signal tracking systems. These make it possible for passengers in motor homes or buses to watch digital-quality satellite television while the vehicle is hurtling down the freeway.

Datron has sold about 300 of the DBS-4000 systems, including three to boat owners, at a suggested retail price of \$6,500 US. The system includes a parabolic reflector antenna, two electrical motors and a small computer that gives commands to aim the antenna, covered by a white plastic dome, at the DirectTV satellites 35 kilometres above the Earth's surface.

If the signal is blocked, such as when passing a grove of trees, the picture on the television is frozen for a second or two before the antenna adjusts. The antenna also pulls in a wide variety of CD-quality music stations.

DEATHS

- DRAD, Frank, of Ile des Chenes, husband of Terri Drad.
- EDWARDS, Yvonne Marguerite, 70, wife of Cecil Edwards.
- GIESBRECHT, Henry W., 85, husband of Helen (Lena) Giesbrecht.
- GILBERT, Herbert.
- JOHNSTON, Donald (Don), 53.
- LEBLANC, Marie Anna, 86.
- RUDOLPH, Helen Mackie, 76, widow of Ernie Rudolph.
- SANFORD, Victoria (Vicky), 73, of Ericksdale, wife of Alfred Sanford.

Classified Death Notices B11

LOTTERIES

- PICK 3**
Winning number yesterday was 774.
- LOTTO 6/49**
Winning numbers yesterday were: 2, 3, 15, 19, 44 and 45. Bonus number was 34.
- THE PLUS**
Winning number yesterday for the main prize of \$100,000 was 629061.
- POGO**
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Blizzard causes pileups

Continued from A1

Another low-pressure system with arctic air from Saskatchewan is riding over the top of the Colorado system.

"What it is doing is dragging down and slowing down the Colorado system, and that's why it is staying (till this afternoon)," Bisson said.

The Saskatchewan low is bringing arctic air with temperatures plummeting to -20 C.

"There's a lot of cold air being pumped into the Colorado system from behind it, and when it finally pulls out, we are going to get much colder temperatures," Bisson said.

By the time the air warms up at the end of the week, the sun's heat will hit the snow and quickly melt it into water, he said.

The full-force blizzard caused power outages throughout southern Manitoba, mostly in the Carman and Morden areas.

In Winnipeg, ice and fallen trees on power lines caused sporadic hydro outages in Transcona and East St. Paul, a Manitoba Hydro spokesman said.

"Most of our problems have been in the southeast part of the province," said Hydro spokesman Glenn Schneider.

Extra Hydro crews were called in yesterday to clear ice off lines with pole-mounted rollers, he said.

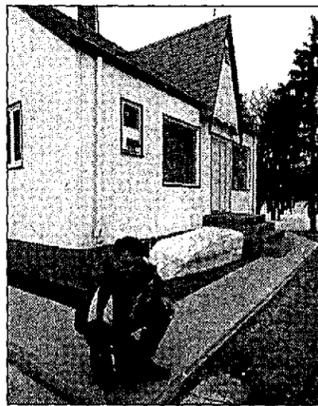


Jim Simmons pushes and his friend drives as they try to get unstuck. They're visiting from the U.S.

Gearing to take on Mother Nature

Fighting fire with fire, or water, residents face rematch

By Kim Guttormson
Staff Reporter



Beaudette shows unique footing.

ST. JEAN BAPTISTE — After watching their basement fill with muddy water during last year's flood, Rene and Colette Leclair are preparing to fight Mother Nature's fire with fire.

They're going to flood their basement before the Red River can.

"Last year it was a mess, with mud everywhere — and it smelled rotten for months," Colette says of water that came within 20 centimetres of their main floor. "At least this water will be clean."

By April 21 last year, the Leclairs



Rene and Colette Leclair are preparing to fight back this year.

and their neighbour Michel Beaudette, who all live on land just south of St. Jean that backs on to the Red, found their river-view homes had become islands in the middle of an enormous lake — and they're gearing up for what may be a rematch this year.

Rene, Colette and their three teenagers were forced from their home for a month last year, fleeing by car just before the roads closed and only able to return by boat to check on the house.

"The day before there was no water in the front," Colette says. "By four there was a little, by six o'clock there was a rush of water covering and by eight you couldn't see the land in front. I never thought I'd land on my front porch with a boat and walk through (.6 metres of) water to get to my front door."

Beaudette was in a similar boat, except he rode through the disaster in his own home.

Kept tides at bay

By bolting and bracing one-metre high pieces of plywood to a specially constructed sidewalk around the house and running a sump pump every 20 minutes, he kept the tides at bay and his basement relatively dry.

He motored around his farm with an inflatable boat he bought just for the flood, docking it in his garage turned boathouse. He also checked on the Leclairs' place while they were waiting out the wet in town.

While Beaudette is fairly blasé about the possibility the water could rise

again this year, saying "I've been through quite a few," like the Leclairs, he's taking precautions.

His wheat has all gone to the elevator and he's moved his grain to the high-ground granaries, along with the machinery. The makeshift dike is waiting in the garage.

If the water gets higher than last year, his camper is also on high ground. As well, his cell is ready for when the phones die.

The Leclairs have arranged to rent a camper to live in. They've packed up some of the basement already and moved everything in the yard to the high ground behind their house that was above last year's water mark. And they've worked out how to flood their basement when the time comes, using pipes pumping water from the dugout in the backyard.

But even though they're ready for what may come, Colette Leclair says the uncertainty and the wait are almost unbearable.

The Leclairs say their basement wasn't usable until July, and even then the wet kept seeping into the floor. They estimate they spent more than \$6,000 to clean up, which was recoverable because the flood was deemed a disaster.

As the family watches weather and flood reports from the United States and waits, a home-made "for sale" sign sits near the front driveway. But they aren't expecting many walk-throughs during the wet spring.

"It's not a good time to sell right now," Rene laughs.

The Free Press will continue to follow the story of the Leclairs and Beaudette through spring breakup.

Girl, 12, critical and on respirator after accident at pool in city hotel

A 12-YEAR-OLD girl was in critical condition on a respirator last night after she was found at the bottom of a hotel swimming pool, Winnipeg police said.

"The extent of her injuries is unknown," duty Insp. Al Drohomereski said.

The accident occurred at the Airliner Hotel, 1740 Ellice Ave., shortly after 11 a.m. yesterday.

Police and a manager at the hotel said there were people in the pool and at poolside when the accident happened, but no other details were being made

In Brief

public.

It is believed her parents were at the pool with her.

"There were lots of people there. I don't know how she fell," said a man who identified himself as the day manager at the Airliner. He refused to give his name.

By 2 p.m., the pool had reopened to guests but no one was sitting there and no one was swimming.

Police probe death

Winnipeg police are investigating the death of a woman whose body was found in the 200 block of Maryland Street, said Insp. Al Drohomereski last night.

Police were called to the scene about 3:30 p.m.

The investigation is continuing pending an autopsy to determine whether the death was from natural causes.

The woman was believed to be in her 30s, but her identity was not released.

Jews want audit

Canadian Press

TORONTO — The Canadian Jewish Congress wants the federal government to perform an audit of close to 250 files of alleged Nazi war criminals who have been living in Canada.

It has been 10 years since a royal commission report by Justice Jules Dechnes was released, said Irving Abella, chairman of the congress' national war crimes committee. "What has happened to those files?" Abella asks.

Legals

RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF RITCHOT
PUBLIC NOTICE
REGARDING THE 1997 FINANCIAL PLAN

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to subsection 162(2) of The Municipal Act that the Council of the Rural Municipality of Ritchot intends to present its financial plan for the fiscal year 1997 at a public hearing in the basement of the St. Adolphe Inn at 324 Main Street, St. Adolphe, Manitoba on the 14th day of April, 1997 at 7:00 p.m. Council will hear any person who wishes to make a representation, ask questions, or register an objection to the financial plan, as provided.

Copies of the financial plan are available for review and may be examined by any person during the regular office hours of the municipal office at 352 Main Street, St. Adolphe, Manitoba.

Y. Sabourin
Chief Administrative Officer
Rural Municipality of Ritchot

March 29th, 1997

MUNICIPALITÉ RURALE DE RITCHOT
AVIS PUBLIC
CONCERNANT LE PLAN FINANCIER POUR 1997

Le public est avisé de ce qui suit: Conformément au paragraphe 162(2) de la Loi sur les municipalités, le Conseil de la Municipalité rurale de Ritchot tiendra une audience publique concernant le plan financier pour l'exercice 1997, au sous-sol de St. Adolphe Inn, au 324, rue Main à St. Adolphe, (Manitoba) le 14 avril 1997 à 19 heures. Le Conseil entendra alors toute personne intéressée à présenter ses observations, poser des questions ou formuler une opposition au sujet du plan financier.

Les personnes intéressées peuvent examiner une copie du plan financier au bureau municipal, situé au 352, rue Main à St. Adolphe, durant les heures normales de bureau.

Le directeur général
Y. Sabourin
Municipalité rurale de Ritchot

le 29 mars 1997

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LOCAL

no problem

■ Losing the right to vote is no problem, former Hong Kong residents say /A3



SPECIAL EDITION
BLIZZARD

SPORTS

for Canada

■ National team beats U.S. to win world women's hockey title again /B7



The Weather

Snow continuing. High -10. Low -15. Details on page B12

Celebrating 125 years
Winnipeg Free Press

Monday, April 7, 1997

Inside



Mario to hang 'em up

Tired of the way the game is officiated, tired of the limelight and tired of playing a sport that made him wealthy but didn't make him happy, Mario Lemieux has announced he will retire at the end of this NHL season/ B16

Investigation faulted

A man kidnapped by Owen Dulmage in 1951 says the incident was not taken seriously even though authorities knew Dulmage had photos of other boys in bondage at the time. Dulmage was sentenced to a year in jail for the incident. Meanwhile, police plan to search a property where the convicted kidnapper's family lived in the '50s, after finding only cow bones at another site/ A8

Polishing caretakers

Landlords are running a course to help polish up caretakers, giving them the training they need to meet the demands of the '90s/ A5

U.S. pushing for peace

With the Mideast peace negotiations seemingly on life-support, U.S. President Bill Clinton is planning to push Israel towards confidence-building gestures with the Palestinians in order to restore faith in the ailing process. After meeting Jordan's King Hussein in Minnesota Sunday, Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu was to meet Clinton Monday/ A9

Attack terrifying

A Point Douglas man is seething after a neighbour's large dog crashed through his metal gate, grabbed his sunning cat in its jaws and killed it, terrifying people who witnessed the attack. Garth Pancrest said the dog is dangerous and should be destroyed. The dog's owner has been charged with allowing it to attack the cat, but a city animal services officer said nothing more can be done unless the dog attacks a human/ A3

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■ Snowfall a record 37 centimetres ■ Vehicles clog city streets

Our worst storm ever

Weekend blizzard paralyzes Winnipeg

By Allison Bray
Staff Reporter

THE WORST storm in Manitoba history virtually shut Winnipeg down Sunday, closing the airport, shopping centres, all surrounding highways and knocking out hydro and phone service in some areas.

One man died of a heart attack as he shovelled snow during the weekend blizzard, which dumped a record 37 centimetres of snow by 11 p.m. Sunday.

■ Storm adds to U.S. flood woes / A4

The storm seriously delayed response times for police, fire and ambulances as emergency responders tried to cope with streets clogged with snowdrifts and abandoned vehicles.

It surpassed records for most precipitation in a 24-hour period — including the legendary March 4, 1966, blizzard — and set new records for worst April storm since Environment Canada began keeping records in 1876.

The storm, which began at about 4 p.m. Saturday and had dropped 37 centimetres of snow by Sunday night, surpassed both the Nov. 7, 1986, blizzard, with 35 centimetres of snow and the March 4, 1966, blizzard with 25.6 centimetres. It passed directly over Win-

Weather conditions close all city schools

All Winnipeg schools will be closed Monday due to severe weather conditions.

The University of Manitoba, Red River Community College and the University of Winnipeg were also planning to cancel classes and reschedule exams.

City snowplows will be out in full force Monday morning to clear residential streets and back lanes, but officials were asking all motorists to stay off the roads wherever possible. Only single lanes were to be plowed on residential streets.

All highways out of Winnipeg were closed Sunday, and RCMP were advising that they were not patrolling the areas.

For information on selected routes, contact the Department of Highway Information line.

No mail will be delivered Monday, Canada Post said.

Transit services were cancelled Sunday night at 10 p.m. Some routes were expected to reopen Monday morning, but travellers should check with Telebus at 986-5700.

The Winnipeg International Airport remained closed all day Sunday, and was not expected to reopen until early Monday morning. Travellers are advised to check with their individual airlines before leaving for the facility.



Kim Murray, left, and Miaka Artz dig out their vehicle on Portage Avenue as Jodis McCain drives.

nipeg and extended to a 300-kilometre radius outside the city as far south as South Dakota and east to Atikokan, Ont.

Another four to five centimetres of snow was expected overnight Sunday and temperatures were forecast to stay below normal, with daytime highs of about -5 C, until Wednesday or Thursday.

Due to the density of the snow, Environment Canada meteorologist Mark Gerlyland said the weekend accumulation of actual snow was not nearly as high as in the previous storms.

"About one-third of precipitation fell as ice pellets, so it's much more compact," he said.

Continued
Please see ABANDONED/A2



City snowplows team up to clear downtown Portage Avenue.

400 stranded at border
Emerson opens town hall, private homes to travellers

By Chris Smith
Free Press Staff

EMERSON — ABOUT 400 weary motorists were stranded a second day Sunday night as high winds and snow kept Highway 75 to Winnipeg closed.

About 125 of those bedded down in the Emerson Town Hall. The others were billeted in private homes or were stranded early enough Saturday afternoon to get a room at the hotel or motel.

"Thursday morning, we were in shorts playing golf" in Dallas, Tex., said Nelson McIntyre math teacher Brian Cameron, one of those who spent the last days of spring break killing time in the Emerson town hall.

Travellers who spent Saturday night on mattresses on the town hall floor or even in their vehicles parked outside were hopeful early Sunday that the winds would abate and they would be able to hit the road. Every radio news-

cast lessened their hopes until RCMP Const. Raymond Pichet confirmed the worst at 2:45 p.m. — the highway would not open Sunday.

The storm was the ninth time this winter that Town of Emerson emergency service volunteers have been called out to aid motorists stranded by the weather, said Pat Ihmy, the town's Emergency Measures Organization coordinator.

She said 327 people were registered at the town hall and 202 of those were billeted with town residents. Others were billeted without being registered, and she estimates 400 were stranded.

Brent Kletke of Morden was stopped at the border Saturday just a half-hour's drive from home, where there were three snowmobiles sitting in the front yard.

"It's kind of ironic," said the drilling contractor.

Kletke slept in his truck Saturday night, a 3/4-tonne diesel, and got six and a half hours' sleep, better than

most others at the town hall. Many of the stranded travellers were children or teachers.

Bonnie Smith, a home economics teacher at Highbury, was stranded with her husband and two children. They were able to get mattresses and bedding for the children in the hall and she and her husband slept in their van Saturday night, running the engine most of the night.

Emerson volunteers worked around the clock at the hall finding available bedding from town residents and mattresses from the RCMP lockup.

The local IGA store stayed open late Saturday so people could buy groceries and opened again Sunday for an hour or so to accommodate stranded motorists. The owner had to be picked up by snowmobile when his four-wheel drive truck became stuck at his home. Pastor Fred Thomson of Emerson Baptist Church worked behind the meat counter as one of his many weekend volunteer duties.

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Digest

CONSUMER WATCH

Double-duty phone

FORT WORTH, Texas — A Texas company has developed a product it hopes will change the way people use the telephone.

Uniden America, a subsidiary of the Japanese phone maker, will soon introduce a gadget called Axis. With an estimated price tag of \$299 to \$399 US, Axis will combine a telephone with an e-mail access machine aimed at computer-shy consumers.

The product was developed at Uniden's facility in the Centreport complex in east Fort Worth.

The machine includes a corded or wireless phone; a 15-centimetre, foldable gray screen and a small keyboard. Users can program Axis to automatically dial into the Internet and download e-mail to be read later, leaving the phone line free. Axis also has an electronic calendar and address book.

Gadgets like Axis could flourish as more people warm up to the Internet, analysts say. But Uniden, best known for its wireless phones, will face pressure from a host of big names in the up-and-coming category casually labelled "smart phones" or "screen phones." Intellidata, a Virginia company, rolled out its screen phone in November. And Panasonic, like Uniden, recently displayed a demonstration model at a preview show.

"Certainly the race has begun," said Bill Ablondi, market analyst with International Data Corp. in New York. "We will see numerous additional entries — kind of a primordial soup from which the strong species emerge."

Rival manufacturers will also fight over the innards of the machines. Diba Corp., a new company recently labelled "the toast of Silicon Valley" by an industry magazine, has been hawking a screen phone operating system that will compete with Uniden's. Of the roughly five companies expected to produce a screen phone, Diba claims to have crafted supply deals with three.

Consumers won't know the difference between the operating systems, but Diba is hoping its design will win the battle.

DEATHS

SWEDENSKI, Walter.
TWERDOCHLIB, Adela (Adeline) 89, widow of Adam Twerdochlib.
WIELER, Tena (Katarina), 94, widow of Frank WIELER.

Classified Death Notices D11

LOTTERIES

PICK 3

Winning number Sunday was 605.

LOTTO 6/49

Winning numbers Saturday were: 2, 3, 15, 19, 44 and 45. Bonus number was 34. The jackpot of \$5,112,342 was won by 1 ticket. 8 winners in the 5 out of 6 + bonus number category win \$114,884 each. 356 winners in the 5 out of 6 category win \$2,065.30 each. 18,423 winners in the 4 out of 6 category win \$76.50 each. Wednesday's jackpot is estimated at \$2,100,000.

THE PLUS

Winning number Saturday for the main prize of \$100,000 was 629061.

POGO

Winning numbers Saturday were: 6, 12, 19, 31, 37 and 38. Bonus number was 16. The jackpot of \$250,000 was not won. There were no winners in the 5 out of 6 + bonus number category. 11 winners in the 5 out of 6 category win \$183.30 each. 486 winners in the 4 out of 6 category win \$29 each.

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CANADA POST SALES AGREEMENT NO. 563395

Recycled newsprint is used in the production of this newspaper

Abandoned cars slow crews

Continued from A1

But the snow that did fall created chaos for anyone trying to get to work, drive or just walk around on Sunday.

Drifting snow left even major city streets impassable, except for some drivers with four-wheel-drive vehicles.

Abandoned vehicles clogged intersections and side streets, creating chaos for fire, police and emergency crews.

"We're having problems accessing a lot of residences," said Stan Stone, duty staff inspector for the Winnipeg Ambulance Service. "A lot of secondary streets are clogged with snow and abandoned vehicles, which is causing us much grief."

Stone said emergency response time was twice the usual four- to five-minute wait Sunday as ambulance drivers had to wade through the snow to answer calls.

"We have had crews in cars for 12 hours without a break, having to carry people knee-deep through the snow."

To make matters worse, he said, the department was inundated with calls Sunday, about 100 over a 12-hour period. Many were frivolous, such as concerns over vomiting and stomach aches.

As many seniors or people with heart conditions try to dig themselves out Monday, Stone said he expected the department would be inundated with emergency calls. On Sunday, a spokeswoman at Grace General Hospital reported a man suffered a fatal heart attack while shovelling snow.

Deputy Fire Chief Ken Sim said the storm also created havoc for fire crews, which were having trouble gaining access to fires.

"Our biggest problem is trying to get to suburban and residential streets," Sim said. "They're virtually impassable."

However, both Sim and Stone said the situation should improve Monday. Fire and ambulance crews started using front-end loaders Sunday to cut a swath through the snow for emergency vehicles.

The heavy snowfall is also being blamed for the collapse of a 40-by-40-foot section of roof on the Sears warehouse at 1725 Inkster Blvd. Sunday morning. The collapse ruptured water and gas lines in the area, but they were turned off within half an hour without incident. There were no injuries.

Winnipeg police duty Insp. Brand Catton said police were also having trouble getting around Sunday. "We're attending major calls, but often it takes us a while to get there."

Catton said the department was flooded with calls from stranded motorists requesting rides.

The storm shut down Winnipeg International Airport until 2 a.m. Monday, leaving hundreds of travellers stranded, and closed all highways in and out of the city.

Major stores, shopping centres and businesses normally open on Sundays were closed and classes were cancelled.

The storm caused electrical power outages in some areas of Winnipeg and



Richard Temple walks down Portage Avenue Sunday. It was easier than on the clogged sidewalks.

southeastern Manitoba, according to Manitoba Hydro spokesman Glenn Schneider.

He said numerous rural communities between Winnipeg and Steinbach experienced sporadic blackouts throughout the day Sunday due to ice on power lines.

There were also extended outages in Winkler, Altona and Dominion City, south of Winnipeg, since early Sunday morning.

The storm left hundreds of motorists scrambling for alternative transportation. Although city transit buses were running Sunday until 10 p.m., service was sporadic.

Taxis were running only a limited number of cabs in emergency situations only.

Bob McDonald, spokesman for the city's streets and transportation department, said snowplows were able to plow only major streets Sunday.

"Unless someone lives close to a bus route or major street, they'll have quite a bit of a problem," he said of the Monday commute to work.

McDonald said the city would try to get as many buses on the streets as possible Monday. But he said the plethora of abandoned cars was thwarting snow-clearing efforts. Abandoned cars will be towed to nearby side streets or driveways to enable

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OC 176	CANCELLED	ANNULE

Monitor at airport Sunday tells story of delays and cancellations.

plows to get through, he said.

"If people come back for their vehicle and don't see it, look in the general vicinity," he said.

McDonald said homeowners on residential streets could expect to have their streets plowed by Monday, but only one lane would be plowed.

All three Winnipeg Transit tow trucks got stuck Saturday night and

Sunday morning trying to free the 50 to 70 buses that got stuck. But thanks to the efforts of some volunteers with four-wheel-drive vehicles, some stranded motorists were able to get around.

Most hospital emergencies were open, but some hospitals were cancelling elective surgeries slated for Monday.

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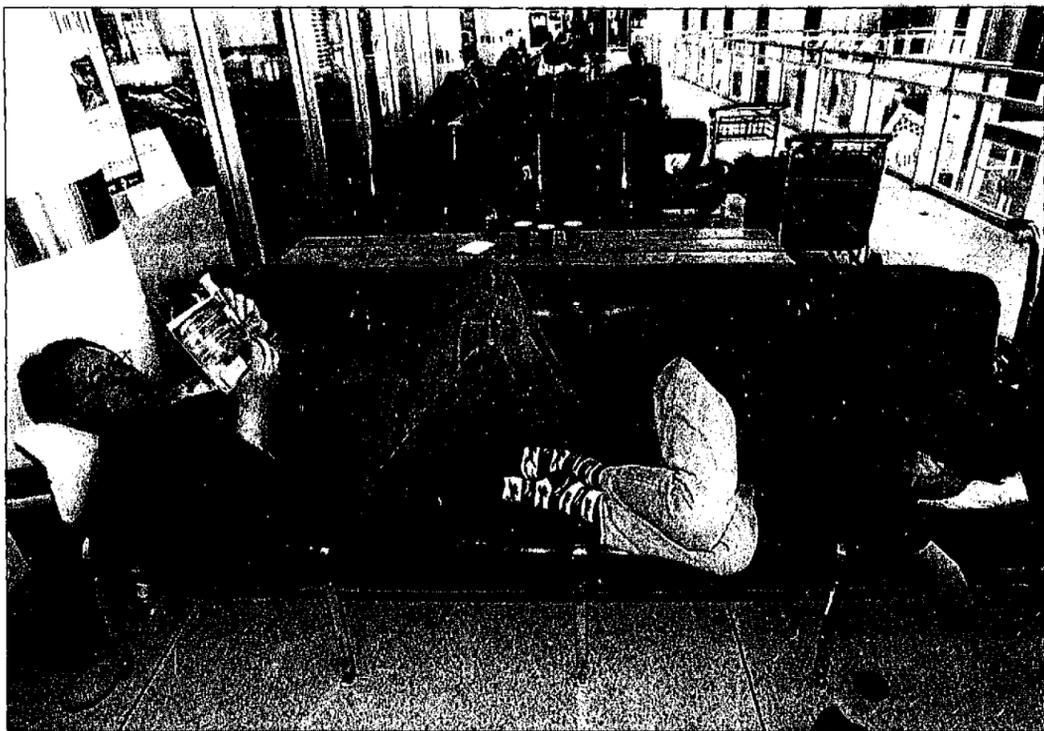
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In our B3-1A CK Week flyer, Save 20% on all swimwear over \$50 on page 23 excludes Speedo. Secret's "Virtual Skin" pantyhose on page 30 is not available in all stores. Christopher Rand & Grenadier swimwear offers on page 49 should not have read "Sale". Charter Collection Royal Supreme pillows & mattress pads on page 87 will be late - rainchecks will be available at the store.
In our B3-2 Home Sale flyer, Natural Harmony bedding collection on page 10 should have read "Last 5 Days! Sale ends Sun., Apr. 13." GE caller ID adjunct box on page 25 should have read "Our reg. \$9.99. Sale, each \$9.99." Kids' Disney Mickey T-shirts on page 27 should have read "Save 45%. Our reg. 14.99. Sale 7.97 each."
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Ottawa resident Nick Warman and his wife, Ruth Goldstein, laid claim to a bench at the airport.

Airport no five-star hotel, spent travellers, staff learn

By Andrew Maxwell
For the Free Press

AMBITIOUS 4X4 owners charged \$80 for a ride out of Winnipeg International Airport Sunday as arriving Winnipeggers opted for one more journey rather than spend the night at the blizzard-bound facility. Others whose departure was delayed lamented the fact that instead of sitting on a tropical beach, they were killing time at the local airport. "We should be basking in the sun," said Jake Peters, whose flight to Fort Myers, Fla. was cancelled when the airport shut down at 4 a.m. Sunday. "It's just one of those things — you

can't do anything about the weather." Competition was fierce for a comfortable space to catch a few winks Sunday, said Cliff Falk, stranded after arriving from a holiday in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. "You couldn't find a place to sleep last night," he said as his son, Curtis, passed the time playing hockey with a miniature souvenir hockey stick and hackey-sack. "Every bench was full. People were sleeping on the floor." Flightmates slept wrapped in beach towels and Mexican blankets, he said. Stranded Ottawa resident Nick Warman was among the last passengers to land at the airport before it closed. He said the descent was frightening, but the landing was picture-perfect.

"(The approach) was like going across corduroy, but the actual landing was smooth as can be," he said. Relieved passengers treated the Greyhound Airlines pilot to a round of applause after landing, he added. Airport employees worked multiple shifts but managed to keep their composure, Warman said. Luggage-cart collector Shane Crawley, in his 24th hour of work Sunday, said a few hours of sleep was all he needed. "I don't feel bad, actually," he said, sporting much more than a five o'clock shadow. "I've been drinking a lot of Coke, so I'm pretty wired, actually. Another 12 hours and I might be kinda rough."

Blizzard adds to flood woes in Minn. town

National Guard evacuates residents as streets lie under metre of water

By Kim Guttormson
Staff Reporter

BRECKENRIDGE, MINN. — This small town at the source of the Red River was again under siege from the elements Sunday, as a blizzard compounded the damage left by record flood levels.

The National Guard evacuated much of the town of 3,700 — which was under 1.2 metres of water in some places — to neighbouring Wahpeton.

"It's not good right now," Breckenridge emergency co-ordinator Jack Thompson said Sunday morning. "We're evacuating like mad."

Saturday, as the town flooded after a day of ceaseless rain, the residents began to hope for snow and its lower precipitation level — and they got it.

The U.S. Weather Service was predicting more than 10 centimetres of snow would hit the area, on top of the 38 millimetres of rain it received. As well, winds gusting to 80 kilometres per hour reduced visibility to a metre and made even walking almost impossible.

Crest

The Red River was also supposed to crest Monday at a height of up to six metres. While river crests usually begin to drop within hours, hydrologist Wendy Pearson says this one will probably hang on until midweek.

"There's so much runoff still upstream because of the rain and the snow melt already out there," says Pearson, who works for the U.S. Weather Service. "The rivers keep draining in."

Wahpeton closed its roads to all

but emergency traffic. Streets had to be plowed to allow the National Guard to ferry Breckenridge evacuees to the high school. Jerry Lein, Wahpeton public works director, said the dikes surrounding the town were holding, adding they'd have to maintain them for at least a week. Because of all the rain, the town's storm sewers were backing up to some streets and into basements.

Pounding rain

Breckenridge's disaster began Saturday evening when the pounding rain and wind weakened the dikes surrounding the town, eventually breaking through and driving a torrent of muddy water down the streets.

Within an hour, sections of the town could only be navigated by National Guard trucks, as the water lapped at their undersides. Early in the day, "dike walkers" checking on how dikes were holding up donned life jackets for safety. By early evening, they were called off because it was too dangerous to walk the crumbling mounds of clay.

Residents near the broken dikes waded through the strong stream to shore up the sandbags surrounding their homes, hoping for the best.

The snow began during the night while volunteers worked at protecting the town's water plant. Residents of the local nursing home were moved on to the high floors of the hospital next door.

Staff co-ordinating efforts from the city hall were driven to work Sunday morning by the National Guard.

"I didn't think I'd ever come to work in a humvee," Beverley Wilson said. "If I walk out of city hall, I'm in water up to my waist."

U.S. neighbours immobilized by raging storm

Big winds whip snow; roads closed

By Kim Guttormson
Staff Reporter

WAHPETON, N.D. — High winds that whipped the snow before it had a chance to hit the ground immobilized North Dakota and south-eastern Minnesota Sunday.

The storm is heading east and everything but the edge of the system was likely to miss Manitoba Monday, Lee Anderson of the U.S. Weather Service said.

Winds gusted up to 80 kilometres an hour, reducing visibility to a few metres and temperatures hovered around -12 C. It had eased by late afternoon, but Anderson said there would still be flurries Monday and below-zero temperatures.

Major highways in North Dakota were closed Sunday, including Interstate 29 from Fargo to the Canadian border and US Highway 83 from Bismarck to the border.

Flash flooding from the rain on Saturday made travel on I29 south and the eastern part of U.S. 83 dangerous.

The North Dakota Department of Transportation was advising people to stay off all roads unless it was an emergency and planes were grounded.

Anderson said the Fargo and Grand Forks areas were the hardest hit, with reports of up to 15 centimetres of snow.

The southern part of the state — around Wahpeton and Breckenridge — was looking at up to 10 centimetres of snow on top of the nearly four centimetres of rain it got Saturday.

The blizzard worsened flood conditions in the area, and the weather service said the river crest would remain until midweek because of the additional precipitation and upstream runoff.

Local television said schools across the state were closed Monday and only emergency personnel were required to return to work.

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Classifieds

Apartment Finder. See page A9 for this new feature.

SPORTS



Canadians on the verge

St. James Canadians are a win away from the MJHL championship /B1

SPECIAL EDITION BLIZZARD

BUSINESS

Charged up

A Winnipeg businessman believes a new line of products will be a real winner /A10



The Weather

Mainly sunny skies. High -7. Low -14. Details on page B13

Winnipeg Free Press

Celebrating 125 years

Garbage Day 3 School Day 5

Tuesday, April 8, 1997

Inside

GETTING BACK

Our apologies

INSIDE today's newspaper is the paper we would have delivered to you yesterday had there been no blizzard.

Inside you will find the Monday paper with stories our reporters prepared, but which we decided not to print because we knew it would be impossible to deliver it to a meaningful number of subscribers, boxes or stores.

Also, we are delivering you the Sunday newspaper which reached only a small proportion of our readers.

We are sorry we were unable to get Sunday and Monday newspapers to you. Both today's paper and Monday's paper have been printed in two sections rather than the usual four. This was so our presses could print two days' papers at once.

'Just be careful'

The last time Terry Acoby's mother saw him, she told him "to just be careful." Several hours later — early Friday morning — the 18-year-old was dead in a pool of blood on Young Street after several young gang members beat him to death /A4.

The world loves us

We may curse our lot and fight among ourselves, but an overwhelming majority of people in the world like Canadians and admire our way of life, a survey says /A7

Make no waves

It should be smooth sailing for Prime Minister Jean Chretien as he meets with U.S. President Bill Clinton in Washington over the next two days. The election-bound Chretien, who arrived in Washington yesterday for his first official visit, is likely to use the trip to polish his image /B15

Today

IN YOUR CITY & PROVINCE

- Manitoba Chamber Orchestra: Malcolm Forsyth's Evangeline, 8 p.m., Westminster Church.
The Glace Bay Miners' Museum: MTC Mainstage, 8 p.m.; \$8 to \$39.
WAHL hockey finals: River East Rogues vs. Transcona Steamers, 7:30 p.m., Roland Michener Arena.

INDEX

Local /A3,4,5,6
Canada & World /A7,8,16 B15

Table listing various sections and their page numbers: Business (A10), Classified (B12), Comics (B7), Computers (A14), Deaths (A2, B11), Diversions (Crossword, NetReader, and Ann Landers) (B8), Editorials (A15), In Memoriams, Births (B12), Jumble (B13), Movies (B6), Sports, Record (B2,4,5), TV Listings (B8)



Jennifer Reichert and some of her neighbours dig out their cars on Boyd Avenue yesterday after a front-end loader opened one lane.

KEN GIGLIOTTI/WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

...TO NORMAL

South begins shovelling out after worst storm of century

Staff

WINNIPEG AND almost all of Southern Manitoba were digging out yesterday from the worst storm in the province's history. "It's the largest storm we've ever had in Winnipeg," said Environment Canada meteorologist Michel Bisson. "We don't have any other storms that beat it. We've beat all kinds of records," he said, referring to total accumulation of snow, duration and records for spring storms.

By early yesterday morning, after resembling a ghost town for almost two days, Winnipeg slowly came alive again.

The airport reopened, snowplows cleared major routes, and stranded travellers were finally allowed to trickle back home on icy highways.

Residents, business people and city workers spent the day digging out of an even bigger snowfall than that of the massive March 4, 1966 blizzard. That storm hit when there was still a lot of snow on the ground.

This weekend's later but more severe storm came after half the snow in the city had melted.

Continued Please see STORM/A2

INSIDE sidebar with items: What's open, what's closed /A9; Manitoba starts digging out /A6; Season disaster for truckers /A10; Snow-clearing budget nearly blown /B16



KEN GIGLIOTTI/WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

Tammy Lajeunesse uses spray paint to show that Elite Communications on St. James Street is open.

It's back to Square 1 for flood forecasters

By Manfred Jager Urban Life Reporter

PROVINCIAL FLOOD forecasting engineers say they will know by midweek how bad the Blizzard of '97 has made the Flood of '97.

"This storm has erased all the gains of the past 10 or 11 days," said provincial flood spokesman Larry Whitney. "Any additional precipitation we get now will drive us closer to the flood situation we faced in 1979 or even 1950."

Whitney said the water resources branch of the Natural Resources



Department will conduct a thorough snow survey by aircraft this week.

Rick Bowering, an official with the branch's surface water section, said the new forecast will require a lot of work.

"It will mean a complete reworking of all the factors. It's not simply a mat-

ter of adjusting the numbers," he said. Flood forecasters may also set a new Red River crest date for Winnipeg.

Wendy Pearson of the U.S. Weather Service said that the source of the Red — at Breckenridge, Minn. — hit a record level Sunday. That, coupled with the new snow, makes it "very possible" record levels will be set all along the river.

In the middle of Sunday's blizzard in Breckenridge, the river crested at just over 5.7 metres — one-third of a metre over the record high set in 1989.

Pearson said the crest is expected to hit Fargo over the weekend.



Large advertisement for Ken Blanchard's 'Mission Possible' and 'Raving Fans' seminars. Includes text: 'Manage TODAY, plan for TOMORROW', 'turn your customers into RAVING FANS!', 'Winnipeg Convention Centre, Wednesday, April 30, 1997, 8:30 A.M. - 3 P.M.', and contact information: 'For more information or to purchase tickets call 697-7183'.

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Hello, police? I'm outta smokes

Lines swamped with requests for fast food, rides to airport

By Randy Turner
 Staff Reporter

IT WAS a life-threatening blizzard, and Winnipeg police were swamped with hundreds of calls. Emergencies? Well, if you're out of smokes . . . "There wasn't so much 911 abuse, but people phoning the non-emergency

lines with the audacity to get rides to the airport or to get cigarettes," said 911 staffing co-ordinator Alexis Lloyd. "In some businesses, people phoned demanding we pick up fast food and deliver it to their business. "This is just ludicrous. People think the police do everything." There were 536 emergency calls at the peak of the weekend blizzard and a

total of 1,439 non-emergency calls. Emergency crews were responding only to life-threatening situations. One parent called to ask police to drive her kid to work, Lloyd said. Others wanted snowmobilers ticketed. But Lloyd noted that most callers were legitimate and some even offered assistance. "There is a good side to this," she

said. "We had so many wonderful people volunteer their 4X4s (trucks). All these drivers helped us greatly." Lloyd said volunteer drivers such as Floyd and Holly Monkman transported health-care workers and delivered medicine to shut-ins. The Monkmans took to the streets in their Buick, making about 75 calls and burning about \$100 in gas.



WAYNE GLOWACKI/WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

Plaridel Orcullo digs out car on Mountain Avenue yesterday.

Several school divisions to remain closed today

- Both Winnipeg and St. Vital school divisions will remain closed again today, citing safety concerns for children walking to school on streets and sidewalks that haven't yet been plowed. "We're really concerned about the safety of the children. Many areas are nowhere near being cleared," said Winnipeg School Division chairwoman Anita Neville. "We have concerns re staff getting to school. Some will and some won't."
- Norwood School Division will remain closed today because too many staff have been unable to return to the city after school break, board chairwoman Brenda Leslie said last night.
- Seven Oaks School Division's John Wiens said last night all schools will be open today, but the school buses will not be running.
- Transcona-Springfield School Division is keeping its rural schools closed today, but urban schools will open without bus service.
- St. James-Assiniboia, River East, Fort Garry, St. Boniface and Assiniboine South school divisions plan to be open today, but buses will not be running.
- University of Winnipeg will be open today. Exams scheduled at 9 a.m. or 1:30 p.m. yesterday will be held at the same time and place Saturday, and exams scheduled for last night will be rescheduled for 2 p.m. Sunday in the location that was previously scheduled. Any students with conflicts should contact their instructors today.
- University of Manitoba will be back to normal today, said spokesman Bob Raeburn. However, he urged staff and students to take the bus instead of driving, wherever possible; parking lots have been plowed, but snow piles have reduced the number of available spaces.
- Red River Community College will be operating normally this morning. There may be a small reduction in available parking spaces in the north lot because of snow piles.
- Each day-care centre will make

- its own decision on whether to open, Manitoba Child Care Association spokeswoman Debra Mayer said. She advised parents to call their centre this morning to check.
- Greyhound Bus Lines expects no disruption in regular service today. A spokeswoman said buses have been running in and out of Winnipeg since 7:30 a.m. yesterday with no problem.
- Municipal arenas and indoor swimming pools should be operating at normal hours today, though program participants should check ahead.
- Public library branches normally open today should be operating at their normal hours, spokeswoman Heather Graham said, "as long as staff can get through."
- Winnipeg Transit director Rick Borland said bus service will be virtually back to normal this morning, though riders should call the appropriate Telebus number to check on any problems.
- Handi-Transit will only be able to service streets that have been plowed, Borland said. He asked that Handi-Transit riders with appointments whose streets haven't been cleared "call at least two hours ahead to cancel, if you know we can't get there."
- Borland also appealed to neighbours to clear walkways, sidewalks and snow piles to help Handi-Transit riders get to the bus. It will be several days before Handi-Transit gets back to normal, he said.
- Residential mail delivery will depend not only on the city's plowing side streets, but also on residents shovelling a path to their mailboxes, Canada Post spokesman Brian Garagan said.
- Because many Winnipeg streets don't have sidewalks, letter carriers will judge if a street has been plowed enough for them to walk safely while hoisting 16 kilograms of mail, he said. Shovel your walk if you want your mail, Garagan advised. "Can he get to your house? They have to use their common sense."



WAYNE GLOWACKI/WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

Flying again

The Winnipeg International Airport slowly came to life yesterday after being shut down by the weekend blizzard. Arriving passengers were quick to grab baggage from carousels, while those who spent the night stranded at the airport were eager to be on their way.

Storm chills civic debate

Legislature opens to dismay of some rural Tory MLAs

By Paul Samyn and Kevin Rolason
 Staff Reporters

THE BLIZZARD didn't shut down the Manitoba legislature yesterday, but city councillors were quick to use the snow as an excuse for a day off. As the province's MLAs struggled to find ways to get to the Legislative Building, their civic cousins decided it was best to cancel scheduled meetings. Finance chairman Amaro Silva said yesterday's committee meeting was postponed until Friday to be fair to citizens scheduled to make presentations. But four-wheel-drive vehicles, city buses, airplanes and the kindness of strangers helped MLAs from all corners of the province to keep no-shows to a minimum on Broadway. "I think Manitobans in general are very resilient people," said Premier Gary Filmon, who drove 250 kilometres from Minaki, Ont., to get to work. "They always like to rise to the challenge and I don't think the members of the legislature are any different." Environment Minister Jim McCrae left Brandon Sunday morning at 6:30 a.m., only to hit a roadblock outside Portage la Prairie. A motor home of Winnipeg-bound travellers took pity on him during a 24-hour wait, feeding and warming the snowbound minister. Liberal MLA Gary Kowalski took the highly unusual step of asking for an exemption from the suit-and-tie dress code after arriving in the chamber wearing a black snowmobile suit. Kowalski, who was jogging to work

from his Maples home until catching a ride with a stranger, said it was stupid to call MLAs to work. He said it would have made more sense to wait a day rather than force MLAs — especially those from rural areas — on to roads when police were warning against travel. Rural Tories Glen Cummings, who drove in from Neepawa, and Albert Driedger of Steinbach were both angry they had to take their chances on the highway to get to the Legislative Building. "It's crazy," Driedger said. When question period began at 1:30 p.m. there were about 20 MLAs missing. By late afternoon, only about five were still AWOL. The legislature was scheduled to sit until midnight.

Jack Marquardson, a spokesman for the city water and waste department, said Day 5 garbage collection will occur as scheduled tomorrow. For twice-a-week commercial customers, waste normally picked up on Monday will be picked up today. Today's pickup customers will have their waste collected tomorrow. The city's landfill sites were closed yesterday, but are expected to reopen today.

Hang on, Day 3 — the trash truck's finally coming

LITTLE HELEN Harvie's parents have their fingers crossed that the garbage truck will arrive today — Helen's disposable diapers have been piling up since March 28. The Harvies live on Cambridge Street, one of the areas where Day 3 garbage pickup was cancelled yesterday because most alleys were still impassable. Because of the Good Friday and Easter Monday civic holidays, the last

garbage and recycling pickup for Day 3 residents was 12 days ago on Friday, March 28. Yesterday, the city decided to pick up Day 3 garbage and recycling materials today, which would normally be the Day 4 pickup day. The city's water and waste department decided to skip Day 4 collection until next week to give a break to Day 3 homes. Otherwise, Day 3 residents would have gone 18 days without pickup.

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 APR. 10

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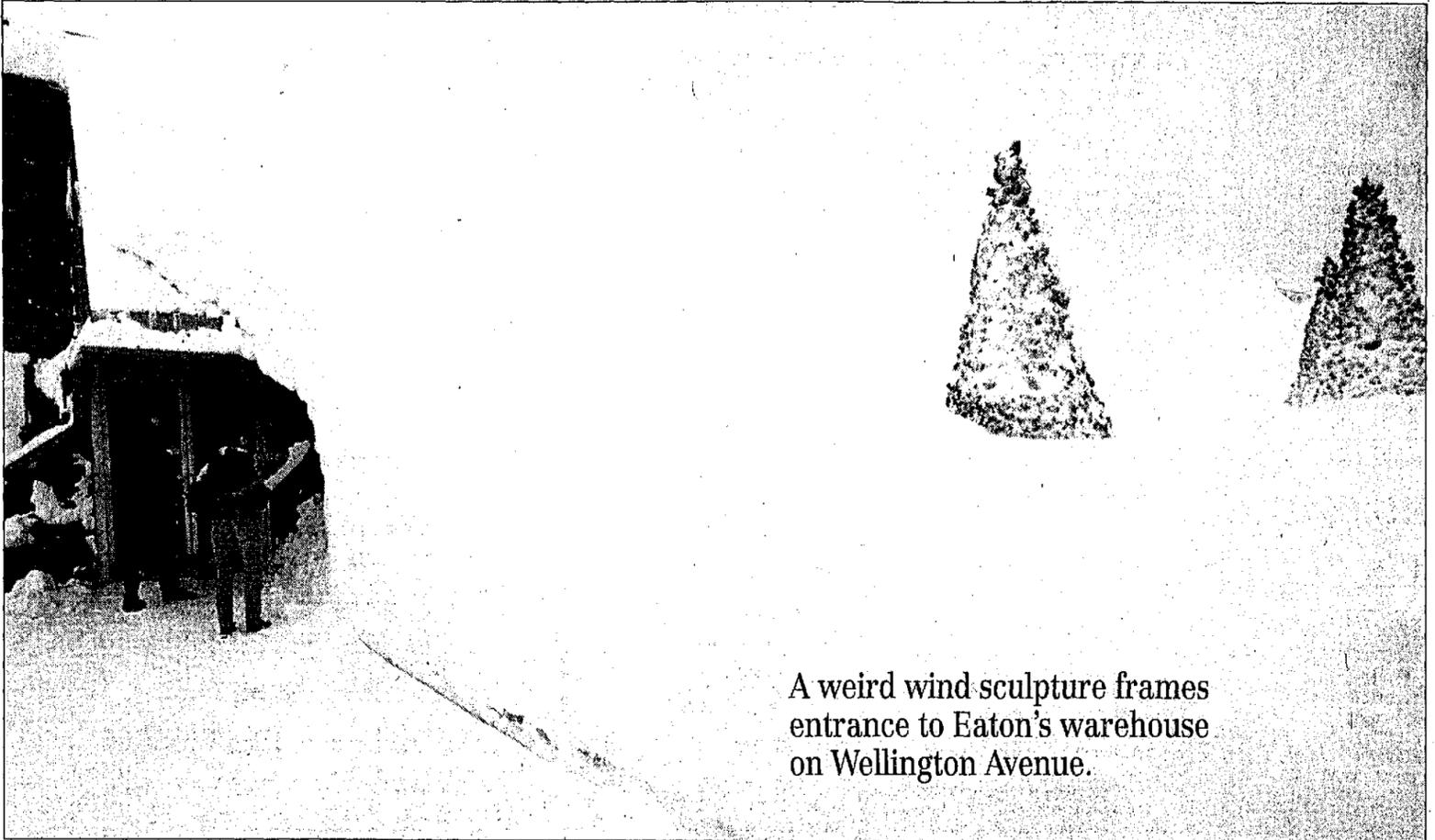
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STORM OF THE CENTURY



A weird wind sculpture frames entrance to Eaton's warehouse on Wellington Avenue.

WAYNE GLOWACKI / WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

SPRING THAW? HA!

Manitobans begin slow process of digging out after the storm

By Paul Wiecek
Staff Reporter

ON MOUNTAIN Avenue yesterday morning, Plaridel Orcullo was digging his car out from a one-metre snowdrift — for the second time in 24 hours.

"I dug yesterday and then the snowplow came last night," Orcullo said.

"Now I dig again."

It was the same scene all over Winnipeg and much of southern Manitoba yesterday as motorists who had abandoned their cars during the height of the blizzard returned to find them buried in snow.

On the Trans-Canada Highway east of the city, Rob McDonald and his wife Lianne were busy yesterday morning shovelling their car out from a two-metre snowdrift that completely buried the family car. They were forced to abandon it late Saturday night on the inside lane just west of the Perimeter Highway overpass.

McDonald said the car got stuck when he was forced to turn around by the RCMP, who had closed the highway Saturday evening.

"It was like a disaster movie out here," he said.

McDonald said he had no hope of digging the car out yesterday but simply wanted to make sure it was visible, lest a snowplow come by and simply sweep it away.

McDonald's car was just one of a couple of crises he was dealing with yesterday.

"We're from Dufresne and we haven't had any hydro since last night and we've got a baby in the house," McDonald said. "Plus the mother-in-law's out of cigarettes."

"Talk about your emergencies." Throughout the city yesterday, abandoned cars sat on boulevards or even in the middle of many streets, dwarfed by monstrous snowdrifts, as monuments to the

sheer ferocity of the blizzard.

Rob Eaton did his part to hold up Canada Post's reputation, digging out his mail drop-off box on St. Mary's Road with a borrowed shovel yesterday morning and then trundling off with a full bag — and a prayer — once the mail arrived.

"I'm going to try the apartments and other places that I can get to but I'm not sure how much I'll actually get to deliver," Eaton said, adding he had something even better than snowshoes to help him brave the drifts.

"When you've got feet as big as mine, you don't need snowshoes."

At Deacon's Corner, located on the Trans-Canada east of the Perimeter, waitress Heather Ritchie was still serving up bacon and eggs at 11 a.m. yesterday, a full 36 hours after she had reported for what was supposed to be a nine-hour shift.

'Busy'

"I started Saturday night at 11 and it's been busy ever since," Ritchie said.

At the height of the storm Sunday, Ritchie estimated there were semi-trailers backed up along the highway for several kilometres in both directions, and many of the stranded truckers sought refuge at the restaurant.

So too did at least two families.

"There were babies with cribs," Ritchie said. "We had people camped out in the back. Another family bunked in the non-smoking section. It was quite a time."

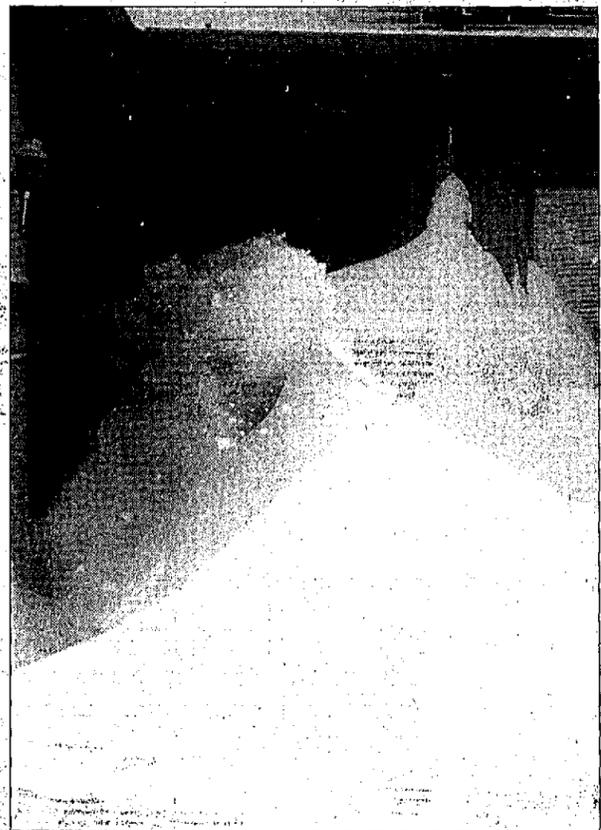
By late yesterday morning, traffic was getting through along the Trans-Canada east of the city although visibility was poor because of the high winds.

At the Eaton's warehouse on Wellington Avenue, a fairly steady stream of shoppers marvelled at a 20-metre snowdrift which blew up against the south side of the building and turned the front entrance into a cavern.



Bob Buckle begins a long and arduous task.

JOE BRYKSA / WINNIPEG FREE PRESS



Errol Funk had to dig his way out of his Winnipeg home

JOE BRYKSA / WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

Mail carrier Eaton upholds Canada Post's reputation.



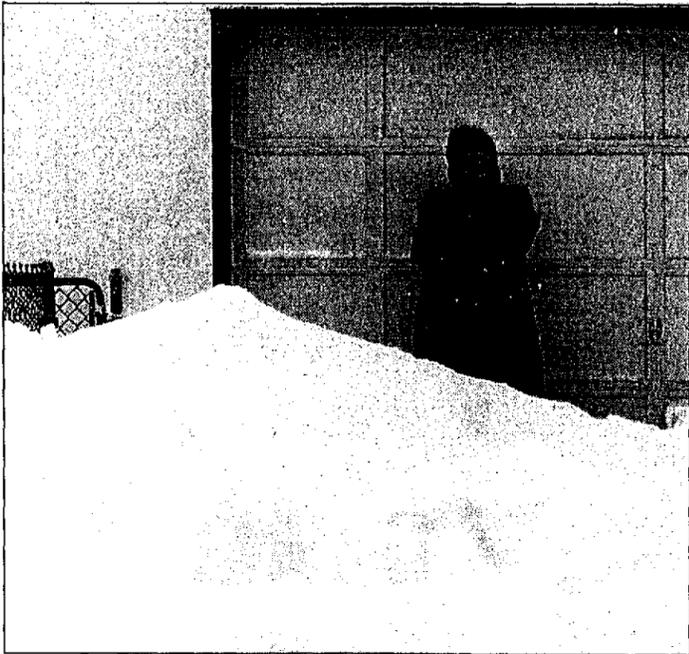
WAYNE GLOWACKI / WINNIPEG FREE PRESS



McDonald (left) shovels so clearing crews can see his car.

WAYNE GLOWACKI / WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

STORM OF THE CENTURY



WAYNE GLOWACKI / WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

Jim Milne takes a breather outside his Moncton Avenue home.

BLOWN AWAY

Snow-clearing budget all but gone; lack of equipment hampers cleanup

By Kevin Rollason
City Hall Reporter

THE WEEKEND blizzard cost city taxpayers about \$3 million, virtually all that was left in the 1997 snow budget. The cleanup is being somewhat delayed because the city can't get access to as much equipment as usual. Some commercial equipment has left the city because of spring road restrictions or to work on spring construction.

Bob McDonald, a spokesman for the civic streets and transportation department, said the city budgeted \$17.5 million for snow removal this year and before the weekend blizzard had spent about \$12 million.

"Normally, it takes \$5 million to clean the snow away between October to December," McDonald said.

"It is probably a certainty we'll have to have an extra appropriation in the fall to our snow-removal budget."

Yesterday, city crews were expected to finish plowing bus routes and back alleys and streets where Day 3 garbage and recycling pickup are to be carried out today.

Plows were beginning to do residential streets, but the city is only planning to open a single lane on those.

That may be all the plowing they get, McDonald said.

"At this time of year we've got to seriously consider whether we, the taxpayer, are getting good value for our plowing dollars, especially when hopefully, a week from now we'll have warmer weather."

McDonald noted the budget also

includes amounts for clearing ditches and culverts, work which cost \$1.5 million last year.

Last year, the city spent \$24 million on snow removal.

Coun. Bill Clement (Charleswood-Fort Garry) said the snow budget is a non-issue.

"When the snow comes, the bottom line is we have a policy and when the policy clicks in we go and plow; it's that simple. The budget doesn't mean anything from that aspect," Clement said.

But he said the shortage of equipment is a concern.

"It's a major problem right now," Clement said.

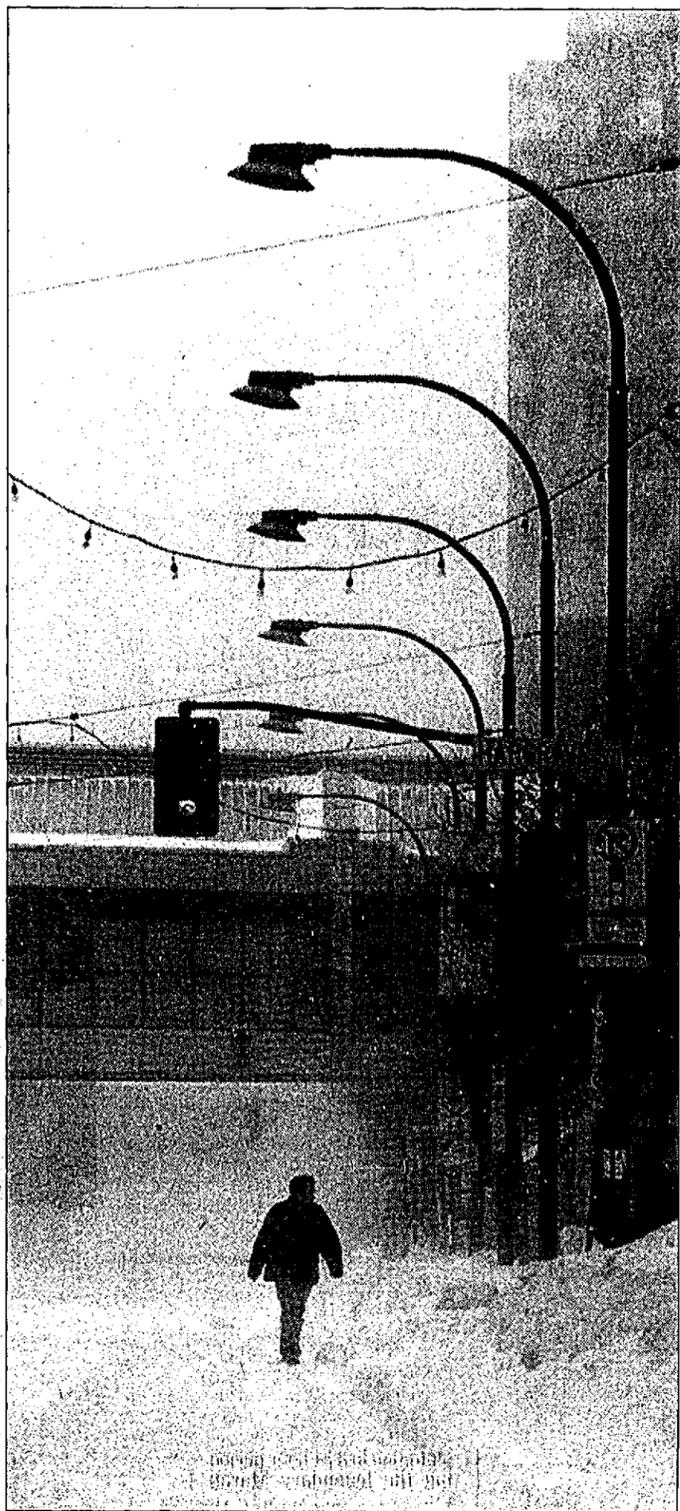
During a normal winter storm, the city uses up to 300 pieces of heavy equipment. So far this time, the city has only been able to scare up 226 pieces of equipment.

During the spring, vehicles are restricted to 60 kilograms per centimetre of tire width instead of the usual 90, so heavy equipment tends to leave town.

"The bottom line is we have every piece of equipment available on the streets and we're doing the best we can and we probably had the worst blizzard in well over 40 years," Clement said.

McDonald said all sandbag production for flood-prone areas has been halted temporarily so 12 front-end loaders can be redeployed to remove snow.

Public meetings scheduled this week to inform people about the city's flood plans and teach homeowners how to build dikes have been postponed. They are expected to be rescheduled next week.



JEFF DEBOY / WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

Wind and snow turn Portage Avenue into a sea of white.



WAYNE GLOWACKI / WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

Workers clear snow from storm-damaged roof of Sears warehouse on Inkster Boulevard.



KEN GIGLIOTTI / WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

Colin Traverse, 13, helps Allan Grabinsky free his girlfriend's car on Sherbrook Street.



Ken Kinrade and wife, Amber Lawson, show off newborn son, Tommy, born at St. Boniface General Hospital at the height of the blizzard.

JOE BRYKSA / WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

You'll find a Lifestrider treadmill for sale today.



leaves line

Modest Blue Bombers defensive lineman Stan Mikawos officially retires /D1



ARCTIC GROUP ON HOT TRAIL

A Winnipeg-based packaged-ice firm is on the acquisition trail in the U.S. /B4

terrible day

Canadian veterans and young people alike are still moved by Battle of Vimy Ridge /A5



The Weather

Mainly sunny skies Light NW wind. High -10. Low -15. Details on page D6

Winnipeg Free Press

Celebrating 125 years

Garbage Day 5 School Day 6

Wednesday, April 9, 1997

Inside



Blood runs in Hebron

Two Jewish students shot a Palestinian to death in Hebron yesterday, sparking riots in which two more Palestinians died and about 100 were wounded. It was one of the worst days of violence in more than two weeks of Israeli-Palestinian clashes /B1

Tough talk

Prime Minister Jean Chretien took a hard line yesterday with U.S. congressional leaders on dealings with Cuba. "If you want to have an isolationist policy, that's your business. But don't tell us what to do. That's our business" /B1

Farmers up in arms

As hog operations proliferate in the RM of La Broquerie, neighbouring farmers are raising a stink because their assessments are going up as much as 400 per cent. But they're getting little sympathy from RM or provincial officials /A4

Housing market grows

Rising consumer confidence and government incentive programs are behind a strengthening housing market, local officials say. Both housing starts and the sale of existing homes were up in the first three months of this year /B4

Saviour or curse?

The Winnipeg Women's Health Clinic is disappointed that Ottawa has approved a new form of birth control. The clinic says Depo-Provera is a health risk to women /A9

Today

IN YOUR CITY & PROVINCE

- Dang Thai Son: Eckhardt-Gramatte Hall, U of M, 8 p.m.; \$12 to \$19. Ruth Telchroeb: McNally Robinson, Grant Park, 8 p.m.; free. MJHL hockey finals: St. James Canadians at OCN Blizzard, 7:30 p.m.

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Hole in snow a killer

Big, strong boy, 13, asphyxiated in freak accident

By Catherine Mitchell Staff Reporter

AN OAKBANK-AREA teenager died in a freak accident Monday night while playing in his yard on a snowdrift.

Ronald James Schol, 13, was asphyxiated after apparently tumbling head-first into a hole he had dug in his yard. He was pronounced dead hours later at Concordia Hospital.

His mother, Marie Devisser, said yesterday she hoped parents could learn something from the tragic death of her big, strong son, known as Jim.

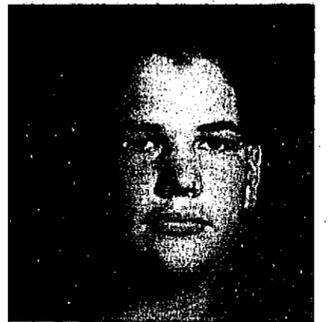
"No matter how strong, confident or how old the child is, never leave them alone," Devisser said yesterday from her Springfield Road home.

Devisser's bungalow just outside the small town northeast of Winnipeg was almost hidden by the massive drift swept into the front yard by the

record-breaking weekend storm. Jim was playing on that drift after supper when the accident happened.

He dug a vertical hole in the snow about 1.5 metres deep and almost a metre wide and somehow became wedged into it, Oakbank RCMP spokesman Dana Worsnop said. "For some reason, he went down in the hole head-first and couldn't get himself out."

Continued Please see DAD/A2



Jim Schol: wedged in hole



St. James students hike through piles of snow to catch bus on Portage Avenue yesterday.

And next on the cleanup schedule...

Snow plow crews have completed all regional streets in Winnipeg, Bob McDonald, spokesman for the civic streets and transportation department, said yesterday.

These include major routes like Portage Avenue, as well as all transit bus routes and collector streets.

McDonald said that as of yesterday afternoon, about 90 per cent of Day Three refuse and recycling collection back alleys and residential streets had been plowed.

McDonald said the schedule for the rest of city snow plowing is:

- Most of Day Four back alleys and streets for today's pickup. The remainder of the residential streets and back alleys completed by Thursday morning rush hour. Starting Thursday a return to plow in regional streets to the curb. Stranded cars hammered plow from

doing this earlier. McDonald said a decision will be made today whether or not to plow sidewalks.

"It costs \$300,000 to \$500,000 to plow all the sidewalks and so we really have to consider if we're getting good value for the taxpayers' dollar," he said, adding the cost of street cleanup is still estimated to be between \$2.5 to \$3 million.

"It is very short relief at best because it takes two weeks to do the sidewalks and in seven days it will be melting."

Winnipeg Transit was a popular mode of transportation yesterday.

"During the peak periods on most major routes we were running very full," said transit director Rick Borland. "On many major routes we were unable to pick everyone up. Certainly in the peak periods, it was

very much standing room only. Rob Campbell, manager of Dr. Hook Towing, whose company has the police towing contract, said his trucks are still too busy with contract customers to be able to help stranded motorists.

"We've been extremely busy," Campbell said, adding his tow-truck operators are pulling 14-hour shifts. "This is probably the last cash crop with winter this season, so if the guys want to, they can make a lot of money."

INSIDE: Disaster brings out the best in Manitobans. Baby blizzard in 9 months? Please see stories on A8

Another blast may be on the way

Storm omen raises alarm

By Melanie Verhaeghe For the Free Press

JUST WHEN you thought it couldn't get any worse, Environment Canada says it might.

Another Colorado low in the making may be headed north, and it "has the potential to be significant," said Phil Wright, a meteorologist with Environment Canada.

"It's in the right place at the right time. It could be big."

But don't hit the panic button yet. Wright said it's too soon to tell what direction the new storm will be heading. "By the weekend we'll know if we're going to get it or not."

What they do know is that two weather models — one from Europe and one from the United States — have both predicted the low will hit South Dakota and Nebraska next week around April 15 to 18.

A Colorado low is an intense low-pressure system that develops in the foothills of Colorado.

This storm is the same size and intensity as the storm that hit Winnipeg last weekend.

The European model predicts six days in advance, and the American model predicts seven to 10 days ahead. The Canadian model can predict five days in advance, and Wright said it has started to show that conditions are right for another storm to develop.

198 high-risk kids cost system \$7.9-M

By Ruth Telchroeb Social Affairs Reporter

A STUDY of Manitoba's 198 highest-risk kids shows they are costing the province \$7.9 million annually for treatment and other services.

The children were identified by four government departments — Justice,

Family Services, Education and Health — as part of a review done by the child and youth secretariat on how to improve services to troubled kids.

Doris Mae Oulton, director of the secretariat, said that information gleaned from examining this group of children reinforced their conclusion that earlier intervention and better co-ordination between government

departments is the key. "These kids may be costing that much because we didn't do enough earlier on," Oulton said.

"Early intervention is what makes the difference."

The secretariat, which was set up in October 1994, has just released its first major policy document summarizing strategies developed by five commit-

tees that reviewed services to children.

The profile of the 198 highest-risk children revealed that almost 70 per cent of the children were in the care of child-welfare agencies, while half were of aboriginal ancestry.

Continued Please see 4,500 KIDS/A2

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Digest

CONSUMER WATCH

No more party line

To keep cordless conversations private and to prevent unwanted intrusions by eavesdroppers, neighbourhood busybodies and other cordless telephones, Cobra Electronics has developed and incorporated Private Call technology into its new models of Intenna cordless phones.

Private Call scrambles all cordless telephone voice signals, rendering them unintelligible to anyone who picks up these signals on another cordless phone, baby monitor or scanner.

In addition to Private Call, Cobra's newest 25-channel cordless phone — the CP-2507 — combines the advantages of a built-in antenna and advanced circuitry to minimize transmission noise.

The CP-2507 has a suggested retail price of \$119.95 US.

DEATHS

- ALEJANDRO**, Beatriz de Borja, 64, widow of Domiciano Alejandro.
- ANDERSON**, Emma.
- BAKKEN**, Elsie, 84, widow of Orville Bakken.
- BARRETT**, Jean Beryl, of Manitou, widow of Bill Barrett.
- BILLINSKY**, Barbara, 94, widow of Stephen Billinsky.
- BUCHANAN**, Alice (Eleanor), 91.
- BURGESS**, James Kenneth, 83, husband of Esther Burgess.
- COOPER**, Inez May, widow of Bert Cooper.
- FINNEN**, Fannie.
- GARVIE**, Naomi, 86, widow of Cliff Garvie.
- GATES**, William Harold, 93.
- GIBSON**, Natalie (Nancy), 67.
- HATHAWAY**, Margaret Elizabeth Ann.
- KNOWLES**, Alice G., 73, of Carman, widow of Leo Clifford Knowles.
- KREITZ**, Christina, 104, widow of Henry Kreitz.
- LEBLANC**, Marie-Anne, 86.
- MAITLAND**, David Mitchell, husband of Lucienne Maitland.
- McMULLEN**, Ken, 74, of Victoria, B.C., husband of Elsie McMullen.
- MEYERS**, Erna, 86, widow of Alexander Meyers.
- MORRONE**, Venanzio, 73, husband of Mafalda Morrone.
- MROZ**, Carrie, 90, of Beausejour.
- OGRYZLO**, Parasceva (Pearl), 101, of Dauphin, widow of Nick Ogrzyzlo.
- PLESCHKO**, Victor, 76.
- ROBERT**, Marius, 79.
- ROBERTSON**, Donna Gail, 51.
- ROBERTSON**, Marie Georgina (Jean), 89.
- SARRAILLON**, Rose, 85, widow of George Sarraillon.
- SANFORD**, Victoria Pauline, 73, wife of Alfred Sanford.
- SCHOL**, Jim, 13.
- SHIFFMAN**, David I., 75, husband of Margaret Shiffman.
- SLATER**, Ethel M., widow of James Alexander (Alex) Slater.
- STEMPNICK**, Michael, 77, husband of Rose Stempnick.
- SWEDENSKI**, Walter.
- TANGEN**, Agatha, widow of Roy Tangen.
- THORNHILL**, Mollie, wife of Frank W. Thornhill.
- WAKS**, Eileen, 72, of Fridley, Minn., wife of Frank Waks.
- WOROBAY**, Michael, husband of Helen Worobay.
- YASKIW**, Anna, 96.

OUR MISTAKE

The five-year GIC rate for the Royal Bank is five per cent. An incorrect figure appeared Saturday.

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4,500 kids at risk: report

Continued from A1

Almost 70 per cent had been physically abused, 65 per cent had been sexually abused and more than half of their parents were substance abusers.

Almost all of the children were described as aggressive, having behavioural problems and difficulties in school.

Thirteen per cent were involved with a gang. Thirty-five of the children had been moved more than 11 times, while another 48 kids had had six to 10 placements.

In addition to the 198 children with the most severe emotional/behavioural problems, another 4,300 high-risk kids have been identified, Oulton said.

Major recommendations to improve programs for high-risk children include:

- Developing early intervention programs for preschool-age children.

- Developing programs to prevent fetal alcohol syndrome.

- New programs to prevent teen pregnancy.

- Integrating social services into community schools

- Systemic reform, including better co-ordination of all services to children.

While the report stresses that no new money is needed — just a more effective use of existing funds — Oulton said \$500,000 has been earmarked to launch a variety of demonstration projects over the next year.

The four government departments involved have also pledged to provide matching funds, she said.

But Oulton acknowledged that an investment of new funds will be needed to set up broadly based

High-risk kids cost \$1.4 million a day

HERE ARE some facts from the child and youth secretariat's strategy report on high-risk children in Manitoba:

- Manitoba spends \$1.4 million a day on high-risk children and youths.

- Manitoba has the highest teen pregnancy rate in Canada; an adolescent pregnancy usually costs nearly \$20,000 in the first year.

- 50 to 75 per cent of girls who become pregnant under age 18 were sexually abused.

- The province spent \$71 million in 1995-96 providing welfare to people who became single parents as teenagers.

- Manitoba has the highest per-capita rate of young children in care in Canada.

- Keeping a youth in a correctional facility costs the public \$46,000 annually.

- Placing a youth in a residential-care facility costs between \$48,500 to as much as \$125,000 annually.

- Abuse in the first six years of life results in irreversible changes to the physical and chemical structure of the brain.

- Poor school performance is the best predictor of adolescent and adult delinquency; of the 540 adults sentenced to prison in Manitoba in 1995, only 12 had completed high school.

early intervention programs. "If decision-makers can realize that the essential health of the province depends on this, the commitment will be there," she said. "I wouldn't be in this job if I weren't pretty optimistic."

Studies have shown that for every dollar spent on early intervention with young children and their parents, taxpayers will save \$7 later as a result of reduced teen pregnancy rates, less criminal activity and fewer single parents on welfare, she said.

Tomorrow: Stamping out poverty

Band launches lawsuit over dam

THE LITTLE Saskatchewan First Nation is suing the province and the federal government, claiming that operation of a nearby dam has nearly destroyed cattle-ranching and farming on the reserve.

More traditional activities, such as hunting and trapping, have also been affected, according to the Court of Queen's Bench lawsuit.

Band lawyer Gerry Doak

said the problem dates back to construction of the Fairford Dam in the early '60s and the Portage Diversion Project.

He said the Interlake reserve, located just north of Gypsumville, becomes waterlogged when the dam is opened to accommodate the swollen Fairford River.

Doak said the suit was filed after several meetings with the province failed to produce any headway

Eaton's workers handed pink slips

More than 100 employees of Eaton's warehouse in St. James received layoff notices last week. Eaton's issued layoff notices last Friday to 119 employees of the Wellington Street facility effective July 11.

Officials at the struggling retail giant said yesterday the warehouse's retail operations will remain open, but it is under review.

Diplomat resigns senior post

Canadian Press

OTTAWA — Career diplomat Gordon Smith is calling it quits after three decades in public life helping bring peace to the high seas and humanitarian relief to Africa.

Smith, 55, deputy minister of Foreign Affairs since 1994, is stepping down this summer, a spokeswoman for the Foreign Affairs Department said last night.

No reason was given for the resignation.

Dad couldn't pull young Jim from lethal hole

Continued from A1

Jim's step-uncle, Albert Devisser, said his nephew was fond of playing in the snow, building quinzhees and snow forts, a skill he picked up from Cub Scouts a while ago.

Devisser said about a half-hour after Jim went out to play, his stepfather, Sydney, went to look for him and found him in the hole.

Jim was a big boy for his age, Albert Devisser said, standing about 5 feet 8 inches tall and weighing more than 160 pounds.

Devisser said his brother couldn't pull Jim out because he was wedged in with his arms alongside his body, so Marie had to come out to help.

The municipal ambulance arrived at 7:20 p.m. and attempted life-saving techniques. Police arrived about 20 minutes later, Worsnop said.

In Oakbank yesterday, news of the accident was beginning to filter into the coffee shops and among shoppers.

'Tragedy'

"What a tragedy. This is devastating," said a mother of three young children, who would identify herself only as Patty. She said the accident gave her a new view of the dangers lurking in the yard.

But postal worker Gary Bonikowsky, a father of three grown children, said Jim's death struck him as an act of God that no parent could really have guarded against.

"You've got to give kids the right and the ability to grow up on their own. You

have to guide and teach them," Bonikowsky said, dropping off packages at the local post office.

"All you can do is sympathize and empathize. I don't think there's really any way you can prevent that from happening."

Kids Jim's age were shocked at the news.

'Pretty scary'

Dale Jackson, a Grade 8 classmate, said his friend was a smart, nice guy who loved the outdoors, especially snowmobiling and snow-fort building.

"It's pretty scary because you really wouldn't expect anything like this to happen," said 12-year-old Sarah Raho, shopping with her mother, Pat.

Worsnop said the investigation is essentially complete with the post mortem results in.

"It's very tragic, getting a young boy to pass away like this."

He said that despite the "freakish" nature of the accident, it was a warning for parents, because children are fond of digging forts in snowbanks or climbing along ridges in ditches — under which lurks the water from the spring melt.

Yet, he conceded: "It's pretty hard to watch your kids every minute of the day."

It is natural for parents to become more at ease as children get older, Marie Devisser said.

"He was bigger than me in size," she said quietly. "You get it in mind that they are capable of looking after themselves."

United Way calls for war against poverty

THE UNITED Way of Winnipeg is calling for an all-out attack on poverty, warning of increased crime, violence and social unrest unless the problems of Manitoba's growing numbers of poor and disadvantaged are addressed.

In a highly unusual step for the organization, the 47-member agencies of United Way have issued a report expressing concern about increasing levels of anger and despair among young people, even in children as young as six and seven years of age.

"This hopelessness translates itself many times in involvement in gangs, petty crime and prostitution," states the 26-page document tabled in the

Manitoba Legislature yesterday.

The United Way report said poverty and lack of employment opportunities have had a particularly acute effect on young people, resulting in increased discrimination against youth, more prostitution by very young boys and girls and growing involvement in gangs.

It notes governments, in the quest for deficit reduction, are decreasing and shifting funding for programs. That is forcing many more people to turn to social agencies for basic needs such as food and clothing. In turn, this makes it increasingly difficult for the agencies to provide care, the report states.

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