

How long till spring?

By SMOKEY TRUMBLEY

I know there have been previous reports in the media about signs of spring showing. We read, saw, and heard reports of spring flowers blooming, birds singing in leaf, and other things happening months ahead of time. All these occurrences were caused by existing warm temperatures causing dormant plant life to come alive and really has nothing to do with Mother Nature telling her creatures "Spring is here". Man can culture and change plant characteristics, but Mother Nature's will has not learned to control, or even understand, how Mother Nature glides and takes care of her creatures.

Because of my interest in the weather and being fortunate to have ancestry who were likewise and taught me to read and understand nature signs, I feel that I do possess more knowledge than some people when it comes to predicting future weather - future climate of the four seasons, and even dates and times of the four seasons. Not once during my lifetime, have I known Mother Nature's Almanac to be wrong. To verify this, I'm sure there are readers who have followed my predictions in the past that agree with what I say.

I know the calendar shows that spring is officially only two weeks away. Nature signs say spring is here. Summer birds have returned from their winter habitat. These include: Red Wing Black Bird, Meadow Lark, Killdeer, and Robin. I also note, many species of water fowl that migrate south each fall, have returned. I know, there are people who believe in the old well-known expression, "If March comes, in like a lion, it will go out like a lamb, or visa-versa, if it goes in like a lamb, it will go out like a lion."

Well, March this year came in like a lamb... could it be the birds are wrong?

LOCAL SCENE

New snow in the high country during the past 36 hours has created the best downhill skiing, cross-country skiing and snowmobile conditions so far this winter. Silver Star Recreation Area received 24 centimeters, and Deek Lake Plateau including Gravel Hills area received 15 centimeters.

Dee Lake Lodge, Beaver Lake Lodge, and Posill Lake Resort are open year-round, and Posill Lake is available for the upcoming weekend. All three resorts offer housekeeping cabins, restaurants and bars, and are all open for the weekend. All three resorts are available by request. Cross-country skiers and meatis are available by request. Cross-country skiers and meatis are available by request at all three resorts. Lakes open to ice fishing in those areas are presently good to excellent and I cannot see that changing by the week.

Vernon Snowmobile Association has been grooming and packing trails at Silver Star, including the Ganezwell Trail to its second chalet above Armstrong. The Snowmobile Club grooming machines have been working cross-country ski trails as well, so super conditions exist up that way and members of both winter recreation clubs are assured a fun weekend ahead.

Members of the latter's Range Snowmobile Association will also enjoy new snow conditions this weekend. In fact, there may be just a little too much loose powder for good going until trails are broken in the meadows. March 5 will be an important day for hunters in the Snowmobile Club. There will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony that will officially open its new chalet. More on that next week.

Finally, fishermen planning to wet a line on our big lakes this weekend will have a successful outing. Only wind, and there is no mention of wind in the long range forecast, could be a spoiler. Every other sign is favorable. No change in melt/hoar for winter season - two to three ounces for rainwater, and deep for snow. I suggest the blue squid if overcast and green if the sun is shining. Pink squid is my choice for lake trout.

BEST HOURS
Saturday from 11:25 a.m. to 1:25 p.m. and Sunday from 12:35 to 2:35 p.m.

Gradin produces as a left winger

TORONTO (CP) - It took a switch in linemates and a new position to get Thomas Gradin to be more selfish with the puck, but the 25-year-old Swede would still prefer not to be a scorer.

Gradin, a centre turned left winger, scored three goals Wednesday night to lift the Canucks to a 5-2 National Hockey League victory over Toronto Maple Leafs.

Couch Harry Neale, intent on improving the Canucks' goal production, shifted Gradin from a centre to a left side of a line with Per-Olav Brasar and right winger Stan Smyl.

That line produced six scoring goals, but it was the manner in which Gradin's goals came that seemed to surprise the Leafs.

His goals were either from close-in or deflected.

In other NHL action Wednesday, Montreal downed Winnipeg 3-2, Quebec beat Washington 7-4, Edmonton led 5-3 with New York Rangers, Buffalo blanked Calgary 4-0, Pittsburgh beat Los Angeles 6-5, Detroit led 3-3 with Chicago and Boston led 3-3 with Minnesota.

when Gradin and Harold Snopce scored to break a 1-1 deadlock. Vancouver netminder Glen Hanlon was as impressive although not as busy as Rutherford.

Ivan Boldirev also scored for the Canucks, who were now three and had a tie in four games with the Leafs this season. Boldirev's goal, his 28th of the season, was his 600 career NHL point.

Wilf Palmentieri and Dan Maloney lallied for Toronto, and captain Darryl Sittler stepped in for an assist on Palmentieri's goal, giving him 483 career assists to a club record set by Dave Keon. Maloney's goal was his 18th of the year. He leads the team in power-play scores with 12.

The power-play goal was the first by Toronto in 15 manpower advantages.

Gradin said after the game he's not entirely happy with the strange circumstances and the new position.

"They've been telling me to shoot for three years," he said of

the uncharacteristic long-range shots. "I didn't tell myself to shoot more tonight. It just happened."

Still, he said he would prefer being back with his old linemates, both of whom are rugged wingers, "because my ability is more in the middle of the ice than along the boards."

Gradin scored 30 goals last season.

Neale is also getting help from an unexpected quarter. Hanlon wasn't supposed to figure much this season, but he has performed brilliantly in two straight games. The Canucks blanked Hartford Whalers 3-0 at home on Sunday and began an extended eastern road trip in Toronto with Hanlon in goal.

They play New York Islanders, Boston Bruins and Calgary Flames before returning home.

Knights take 2-0 lead in semi-final series

Pentiction Knights downed Revelstoke Rockets 2-0 Wednesday to take a 2-0 lead in their best-of-seven B.C. Junior Hockey League playoff series at Revelstoke.

In other semifinal play, Merritt Centennials defeated Kelowna Buckaroos 5-3 to take the lead in that series, which continues Friday at Pentiction.

Rutherford stopped 41 shots, including 22 in the second period.

with two goals, while teammates Brad C. Randy Maxwell, Corey Gage and Rick Trupp added assists.

Griffin scored for the Whalers 3-0 at home on Sunday and began an extended eastern road trip in Toronto with Hanlon in goal.

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WESTERN EXPRESS WINNING NUMBERS FOR WEDNESDAY Wed., March 4th

WINNING NUMBERS					WINNING NUMBERS								
2	3	2	7	1	9	2	3	3	9	3	1	1	5
3	9	7	6	8	0	3	3	9	7	7	9	6	5
2	0	3	5	3	6	9	1	4	5	6	6	8	4
1	8	9	7	0	0	9	1	8	9	6	9	2	4
3	7	6	7	7	0	7	3	1	3	4	0	3	7

If only the last six, five, four or three digits on your ticket are identical to and in the same order as the winning numbers above, your ticket is eligible to win the corresponding prize.

last 6 digits WIN	\$1,000
last 5 digits WIN	\$100
last 4 digits WIN	\$25
last 3 digits	Five dollars worth of Express Tickets redeemable by presenting the WHOLE TICKET to any participating retailer or by following the claim procedure on the back of the ticket.

REDEMPTION OF CASH PRIZES
Major Cash Prizes: Winners of major prizes may claim their prize by following the claim procedure on the back of the ticket.
Other Cash Prizes: Other cash prizes, up to and including \$1,000 may be cashed at any branch of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce in Western Canada, or by following the claim procedure on the back of the ticket.

In the event of discrepancy between this list and the official winning numbers list as certified by the auditors of the Foundation, the latter shall prevail.

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Enter & Win!!!

One of Two 5 Speed Bikes

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village green mall

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Village Green Mall

Coffee Tea & Spice

Enter Now... Enter Often

Rules:
Everyone is eligible to enter except employees of the Vernon Daily News, its affiliated entities. Prizes are made up of 2 five speed bicycles to be supplied by the mall. There will be one men's bike and one girl's bike. To qualify for the first prize, you must identify the names in each wheel set with the store where that person is employed. Each week the winners who have identified the names in each wheel set will have their names placed in the barrel for the final draw which will be on Saturday, April 11th. Entries cannot be postmarked any later than Wed., April 8th. All prizes must be mailed or brought to the Vernon Daily News office. Names and female names will be awarded the bike. There is no double entry. Entries will be accepted from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on all days except the day of the contest. These rules are considered to be understood upon entering the contest.

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Soviet skaters retain pairs title

HARTFORD, Conn. (CP) - The Soviet Union retained the pairs gold in the United States anticipated a men's title and the Canadian team was a buzz over the performance of Tracey Wainman and a possible top-five mark placing by Brian Pockar or Brian Orser at the world figure skating championships Wednesday.

Irina Vorobieva and Igor Lisovsky won the pairs gold medal with a scintillating performance. Flashing acrobatics in sequined, purple suits, Vorobieva, 22, and Lisovsky, 26, displayed the form that won them the European championship last month.

The Soviet Union now has won the pairs championship 15 of the last 19 years.

The silver medal went to East German team of Sabine Issa and Tassilo Thierbach, while Christine Riepel and Andrea Nischwitz of West Germany won the bronze.

Barb Underhill of Oshawa, Ont., and Paul Martini of Woodbridge, Ont., finished seventh.

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HOUSE PARES FAIR

NO BIG DEAL

At a news conference following the victory, Lisovsky almost looked bored.

"As far as the skating was concerned, I was not very satisfied," he said. "As far as the marks were concerned, that's another story."

Underhill and Martini, their medal chances wiped out by a fall Tuesday, came back with superlative free skate Wednesday night that erased the sadness of their short program.

"You can never come out of something like this with a negative attitude," said Martini.

New Management

The new management of the Fish Bowl would like to invite everyone down to view their recently renovated store.

While there be sure to look over the Bird and Small Animal display...

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Be sure to visit Reggedy Ann's before you finish your plans for your special day. You will be pleasantly surprised at their excellent selection of BRIDAL MATERIAL AND PATTERNS and by their great selection of WEDDING NOTIONS, that's a...

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Village Green Mall 542-8773

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