

# Winter is here

By Melissa Hancock

News

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With 20 centimetres of snow and 19 millimetres of rain on Sunday, winter is unofficially here.

"November's gone, the leaves are gone and winter is here," said Sandy Radecki, an Environment Canada climatologist, during a phone interview with the *Times*.

November to December is considered to be a weather transition period where air masses typically move south and high winds are not uncommon.

The freezing rain that swept across the region on the weekend was also not a big surprise to Radecki.

"Areas close to the lakes will experience milder temperatures...and precipitation," she said.

Because the Great Lakes don't freeze over, she noted, temperatures in the shoreline areas will be higher than in other areas.

"Snow tires are good," she said with a laugh, adding that many drivers have been able to get away in recent winters without winter tires. "Don't drive like a maniac."

The University of Waterloo weather station estimates that nearly 20 cm of snow fell over the weekend, with about 19 mm of rain that fell on Sunday.

Environment Canada predicted that last night's temperature would stay at a steady -6 C. Only about 2 cm of heavy flurries were expected to fall overnight, and snow squall warnings were in effect for most of the day and early yesterday evening.

It is expected that we'll see flurries every

day this week. Today's expected high is -3 C and the sun is supposed to make frequent appearances.



The highs for tomorrow, Thursday and Friday are all expected to remain below zero. Thursday is expected to be the chilliest day this week with a low of -14 C and a high of -2 C, with cloudy skies.

The city's public works staff, according to city documents, will focus on 23 plow routes within Cambridge - eight of which are considered primary routes, including regional roads.

The city's fleet of snow removal vehicles consists of 28 plow trucks.

City documents also state that snow removal on sidewalks that are maintained by the city will be cleared 24 hours after a snowfall. However, residents are required to clear snow and ice from sidewalks outside their property, also within 24 hours of a snowfall.