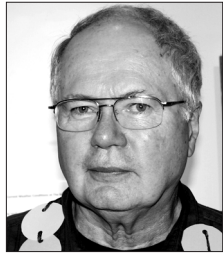


Cape Breton Weather Celebrating Celsius



by Bill Danielson

It's the holiday season, so this column deals with the Celsius temperature scale. Gloria in ex Celsius, I always say.

Anders Celsius, an 18th Century

Swedish scientist, invented the temperature scale that bears his name. Lucky coincidence: think how confusing it would be if he had invented the Fahrenheit scale. Of course, anyone can invent their own temperature scale, just as anyone can invent their own language. But unless it catches on with a lot of other people, it won't be very useful. It turns out that Anders

designed a particularly simple, appealing scale. He decreed that ice water's temperature was 0 degrees on his scale, and boiling water was 100. Then he divided the scale between these points into 100 steps, known as degrees.

Celsius's scale for measuring hot and cold has mostly replaced an earlier system developed by Dutch scientist Gabriel Fahrenheit. Fahrenheit defined ice water at 32 degrees, and body temperature at around 100; on this scale, boiling water came out to be at 212F.

Once the scale of choice for weather reports over much of the world, now Fahrenheit is used in only three small nations: Belize, the Cayman Islands, and the United States – and in those countries, only for surface weather conditions. In all other nations, and at all elevations, air temperatures are reported in Celsius.

Of course, the Fahrenheit scale hasn't completely disappeared in Canada. Oven temperatures, recipe

directions and thermostats speak Fahrenheit, so it helps to be bilingual in temperature. Most of us switch easily between temperature's two languages. You hear things like "The temperature in the parking lot was 30 degrees, but in the mall it was a nice cool 75." This makes sense only if you realize that the 30 is in Celsius,

facts; they evoke feelings and memories as well. Mere mention of the number "100" stirs me with excitement; it's a number that soars above the others, whereas 38 just plunks along, undistinguished, between 37 and 39. At 100, it's so hot we need a third decimal place to represent the heat. For humans, 100 separates

healthy from feverish. And 100 on a test is perfection.

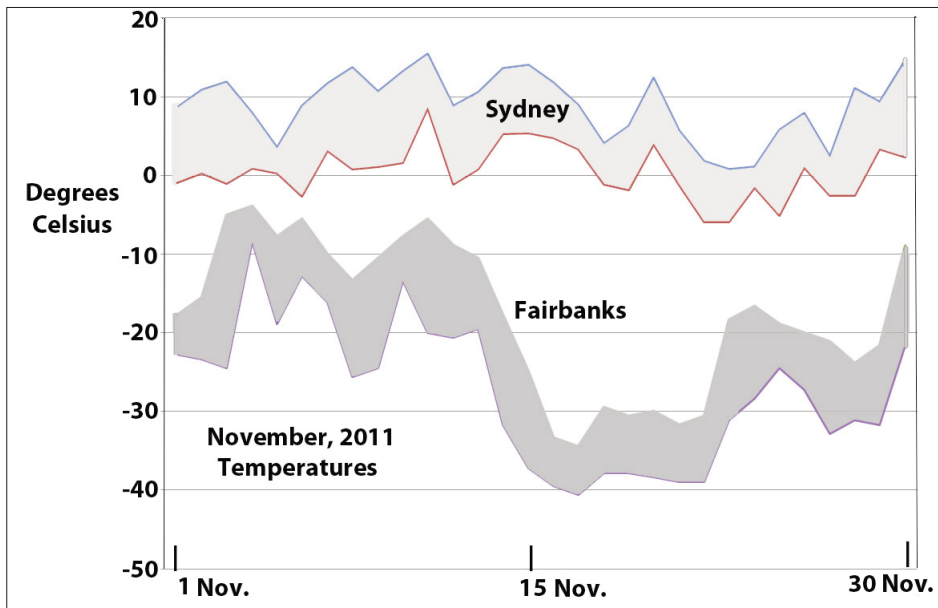
On the other hand, negative numbers leave me cold. "Minus 5" on a test question sends chills of failure. To me, the minus sign in a temperature of negative 5 really says "NOT really 5 below zero, please." Those minus signs sting my skin like tiny arrows. (I'm glad I don't live in Minas Basin.)

In the past few weeks those negatives have returned to Cape Breton. On the graph, the upper band shows this November's temperatures in Sydney. Even though it was relatively mild, the temperature dipped into minus numbers on many days, especially later in the month.

But it could be worse! Sydney's November looks downright tropical compared to Fairbanks, Alaska, where I spent the month. The Fairbanks temperature remained below zero Celsius the entire month, and throughout one 7-day period it never rose above -30C. A thermometer on the University campus showed a nippy -35C at noon on November 16th.

We can thank Cape Breton's mid-latitude location and its maritime setting for our generally moderate temperatures. These factors temper excess Celsius craziness.

Most of the time.



Sydney-Fairbanks November 2011 temperatures



The temperature on November 16th in Fairbanks. Yikes!

the 75 in Fahrenheit. It also reminds me of an old cartoon, featuring two sweltering Swedes, back in the time Celsius was living. A thermometer in the background registers 100 Fahrenheit. One man is saying, "Let's go to Celsius's house; it's only 38 there."

I totally understand that guy's thinking; 38C does sound cooler than 100F, even when you know that they are the same temperature. The fact is, some numbers are more than just cold

County 4-H volunteers recognized

Big Baddeck

4-H is a successful organization as a result of the volunteer efforts of adults



Joan Peterson, of Big Baddeck, was recently recognized for 20 years of volunteering with 4-H.

within communities who freely give of their time, energy, and skills to youth. Each year, the Canadian 4-H Council recognizes leaders who have reached a five year milestone in their leadership tenure.

This year a number of volunteers from across Cape Breton Island are being recognized for their efforts to club, county and provincial 4-H programs.

Leaders in the region receiving Leadership Awards in Victoria County 2011 include: John Marston Berk, Baddeck Valley 4-H, 5 years; George Maufort, Baddeck Valley 4-H, 5 years; Marlene Maufort, Baddeck Valley 4-H, 5 years; Joan Peterson, Baddeck Valley 4-H, 20 years.

4-H leaders are the backbone of the 4-H program. The tenure of these leaders is significant both in time and in the difference they have made in the 4-H careers and in the lives of youth in their local community. Their continued support of youth through the 4-H program is more appreciated.



We want to take this opportunity to wish one & all a very Joyous Christmas at this special time of year!

The Village of Baddeck Commissioners and Village Staff



Best Wishes to One & All from

KILKARE TRANSPORT LTD

Thank You For Your Continued Support!

We hope everyone has a very Merry Christmas and a happy & safe holiday!



David, Nick, Danielle & Staff

