

Real Desjardins shovels golf balls at the Expogolf 2003 show at the Palais des congrès yesterday ...

Is it summer yet?

'I'M TIRED OF SNOW'

Visitors to golf, bicycle shows are counting the days

KINDA JAYOUSH
THE GAZETTE

Fed up with the snow yet? You're not alone.

"Winter has been too long," complained Martin Dupues, shopping at the Bicycle Show Expodium on Wheels at the Palais des congrès yesterday.

"I want summer to come soon. I have plans to go camping with the bike every weekend."

Environment Canada has said March will be another colder-than-usual month, with temperatures around 10 degrees Celsius below the average for this time of year. The daytime average for the beginning of March is zero, and the overnight low minus 9C.

"As March has started like this, I would say temperatures will remain cold until the end of the month," said meteorologist Gilles Brian.

To make matters worse, Montreal had about 15 centimetres of snow overnight Saturday and yesterday.

"I'm tired of snow. It keeps coming back," said Linda Lines, accompanied by her two young children at the bike show. "We do not have a car so we use bicycles as our main transport."

Visitors toured the stands of 50 exhibitors, trying out bicycles and checking cycling equipment and clothing.

"I am fed up with the winter right now," said Conrad Cornellier. "It does not look like it will end."

Dominic Brian, meanwhile, tried to stay positive.

"The stuff here reminds me of the summer and we are really looking forward to it. This is why I came here," he said.



JOHN MAHONEY THE GAZETTE

... while Vincent Letellier shows his form on a skateboard ramp at the Bicycle Show Expodium on Wheels in the same building.

"I try to be positive and hope it is going to turn a little warmer."

Meanwhile, dozens of visitors flocked to Expogolf 2003, another show at the Palais featuring 250 kiosks representing 350 companies.

Charles Michaud said he tolerates cold winters but goes somewhere warm when it comes to playing his favourite game.

"I am very much in touch with reality. I know it is winter time and so I am just shopping for the summer," he said. "I miss the sport, though, and I am going to South Carolina next week to play golf."

Brian from Environment

Canada said temperatures have dropped because of a cold air mass from the Arctic sweeping through southern Québec.

A daytime high of minus 10C is forecast for today, with a low of minus 14C for tonight - about 10C below normal for this time of the year.

The cold snap is expected to last until tomorrow.

Tomorrow and Wednesday should see a high of around minus 4C and a low of about minus 9C. About 3 centimetres of snow is expected to fall on Wednesday.

kjayoush@
thegazette.canwest.com

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Back in Montreal, kids
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smontgomery@
gazette.canwest.com