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## Weather



**TODAY:**  
MIX OF SUN  
AND CLOUDS

HIGH OF -12  
LOW OF -18



**TUESDAY:**  
PERIODS OF  
SNOW

HIGH OF -7  
LOW OF -14



**WEDNESDAY:**  
MIX OF SUN  
AND CLOUDS

HIGH OF -9  
LOW OF -14



**THURSDAY:**  
SNOW

HIGH OF -6  
LOW OF -10



**FRIDAY:**  
MIX OF SUN  
AND CLOUDS

HIGH OF -3  
LOW OF -6

# Neither rain nor sleet nor snow

By Mable Hastings

It has always struck me as odd that the noun used and the image offered up in the unpredictable display of weather and the aspects of nature have long been described by embodying it in the image of a mother and referring to it as, Mother Nature. While the rebirth of fresh blossoms in spring, abundance of a garden's growth and the riches of a fall harvest may well describe the birthing, gestation and miracle of birth in all forms, the destruction of a flood, irreversible loss in fire, devastation in a mudslide or tsunami, really, in my opinion, does not reflect what lives in the heart and soul of a mother.

As a child in the 70's, I remember a "Chiffon" margarine commercial on television that professed with great warning, "It's not nice to fool Mother Nature!" As a kid it was funny and as with most kids, it didn't really resonate or hold much of reason for ponder way back then in my young brain or heart. This morning as I looked out and saw a car slide into the ditch (all were okay), this ad came into my mind and got me to thinking...who came up with the brilliant idea of referring to the elements as, "Mother Nature?"

The last few days in Potton and other areas too, weather has certainly exposed itself as unpredictable, uncontrollable and downright nasty. In Potton a hard-working farm family find themselves without a barn following fire and as basements flooded yesterday leaving destruction and damage in a variety of homes, today cars slide into the ditches in a heavy snowfall as the winds pick up promising an evening and night of less than ideal road conditions and likely new problems for those with flooded yards and basements.

The mother in me worries about where loved ones are during these types of storms. The mother in me wants to find a way to help neighbours who have experienced difficulty (and I am not alone in that thought). The mother in me wants to question why anyone would refer to nature's erratic display as a "mother?"

Regardless, it is times like these when the words "neighbour, friend, family" mean the most. Nature is powerful and we are not able to control or to always deny what comes no matter how hard

we may try or want to. But, the power and strength of love and friendship is often the best medicine and remedy in these difficult times. My own Mom's words now enter my brain, "These are the times when you will know who your friends are."

As the snow falls and the wind blows, if you can't get out, call a friend in need

or someone who is experiencing difficulty. The call may seem inconsequential to you and of little help but to the person, it may mean more than you can imagine or comprehend.

And to Mother Nature my apologies, I should have defended you along time ago.



PHOTOS COURTESY

One person returned home for lunch Friday to find her basement full of water, the highway culvert plugged and the house surrounded. Just one example of the many disasters that happened over the weekend caused by the weather.

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## Ben by Daniel Shelton

