

one parts per hundred million. The highest average level in 1975, 3.6 parts, was found at 1212 Drummond in Montreal. The lowest were low indeed — no sulphur dioxide was reported at stations in Saskatoon, Regina, Moose Jaw, Edmonton and Calgary.

Carbon monoxide is introduced into the air by the incomplete combustion of carbon-containing fuels — notably from auto exhausts. The maximum acceptable average is thirteen parts per million over an eight-hour period (the US maximum is a single reading of nine parts per million, which may not be exceeded more than once a year). The high annual average was found at 471 University, Windsor, Ontario (4.8 parts per million). The low was at the Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, City Library (0.7 parts per million).

Oxidants or ozone pollutants occur when hydrocarbons (such as auto exhaust fumes) are exposed to sunlight in the presence of nitrogen oxides. The proposed maximum tolerable level is fifteen parts per hundred million over one hour. The maximum average annual acceptable level is 1.5 parts. The high average for oxidants was registered at 67 College in Toronto (2.4 parts per hundred million); and the lowest, in Winnipeg and at Duncan and Décarie in Montreal (both one part).

Nitrogen dioxide is caused by high temperature combustion, such as that which occurs in auto engines. The proposed maximum tolerable twenty-four-hour level is sixteen parts per hundred million. The maximum acceptable annual average is 5.5 parts. The initial testing for nitrogen dioxide was at four stations in 1975. The highest was at 109th Street and 98th Avenue in Edmonton (4.8 parts per hundred million). The low (2.1 parts) was at 1125 Ontario in Montreal.

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THE GREATER PRAIRIE CHICKEN is now found predictably only on Manitoulin Island in Ontario, although sightings have been made in Saskatchewan. The conversion of grassland to farmland destroyed its habitat. Hybridization with the sharp-tailed grouse may be so extensive that the pure species no longer exists in Canada.

ARSENIC A study released in January by the National Indian Brotherhood, the United Steelworkers of America and the University of Toronto indicated that waste from two gold mines in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, contained dangerous amounts of arsenic. The report said arsenic was found in the hair of mine workers and Indian children in the area. An earlier government report had concluded that there is no health danger, though arsenic absorbed over a period of time can cause respiratory problems, nervous disorders, cancer and death.

THE WOOD BISON is fully protected but close to extinction. It is larger, darker and woolier than the bison of the plains, and once there were tens-of-thousands roaming across Alberta to the slopes of the Rockies. Hunters and the conversion of grassland to farms reduced the number to about three hundred by the late nineteenth century. In 1893 the remnant was given official protection, and the population climbed until it reached some two thousand by 1922. The herd was then hit by a sequence of diseases, and the remaining animals began mating with the bison of the plains. Today no more than three hundred of the pure strain survive, many in the isolation of Elk Island National Park in Alberta. The uncertain fate of the wood bison illustrates the difficulty of preserving a species once its natural habitat has been seriously altered.