



Now is the time to watch the aurora borealis. The best viewpoint is from the top of Hudson Bay, although almost any place in the Northwest Territories will serve. The northern lights are caused by electrons and protons bombarding Earth's atmosphere, and they rise and fall in an eleven-year cycle.

Down south, the electrons and protons hit the Van Allen belt head-on and bounce back into space. Up north, they glance off the slope of Earth's magnetic field and shimmer down in shifting veils of colour or livid arches.

A Scanning Auroral Photometer aboard ISIS-II, the Canadian-built satellite launched by the United States in 1971, photographed the blue disk, which circles the polar cap. The picture spanned time zones, and when it was taken it was midnight at the bulge. The green emissions are from oxygen; the blue, from ionized nitrogen.



SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

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DIMANCHE LUNDI MARDI MERCREDI JEUDI VENDREDI SAMEDI