

## **The Wild Wacky Weather**

Is the weather "wilder" or "wackier" when compared to the recent past? Has the weather really changed, or is it our collective memory playing tricks with us? If the weather is changing, where is it going and what can we expect?

This course examines these questions and explores some of the basics of weather systems – highs, lows, fronts, precipitation, the fundamental role of the sun and our fragile atmosphere. We will consider some of the special effects of Lake Superior and other local features have on our weather and its predictions. We will be "out in the weather" to see and use some meteorological instruments - and we'll be watching the skies on a regular basis. It is mid-September and rumours of frost are in the air – prompting talk about how to predict frost and then protect threatened vegetables. After this course, talking about the weather will never be the same again.

**Co-ordinator:** Graham Saunders

Graham is one of Thunder Bay's better known weather men. His weather and climate background includes work for the Australian Weather Bureau and the Atmospheric Environment Service (Environment Canada). During the forest fire season the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources calls on him to forecast weather at large and complex forest fires, which often brings him uncomfortably up close and personal with these blazing forces. He teaches meteorology and other courses at Lakehead University and often makes presentations to gardeners, boaters, astronomers and other groups. He writes for several publications including regular columns in the Thunder Bay Chronicle-Journal and Weatherwise (published in Washington, D.C). Research includes climate change and its consequences for the boreal forest and changes in the frequency of severe weather. When Graham is not watching the skies or checking meteorological equipment, you can find him hiking his trails with his partner Kirstin.