



January's Snow Story 2011:

It was an extremely challenging month. Not the heavy winter predicted, but one snowfall of significant depth and several un-pushable occurrences were enough to keep us on our toes. Several under minimum snowfalls and freezing rains left very slippery properties needing our Antiice. See website for weather details.

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Tuesday, Jan 04: First snow of the year started at 9am with forecasts saying 40% in the afternoon whilst watching the flakes fall. Some areas became slippery by 1pm as the light flakes continued to accumulate till 2:30 pm. Started again at 6 pm for a short while. Total accumulations varied from 1-3cm by the lake up to between 1 & 2 inches towards Rutland/Airport.

Wednesday, Jan 05: Blowing snow started at 7:45 am and stopped by 11am. Only about 1 to 2 cm by the lake, but between 1 to 2 inches by airport again. Vernon had between 3 and 6 inches so Kelowna just squeaked by again.

Thursday, Jan 06: Very light snow started around 9:30 am with just above freezing temperatures. Most of Rutland and airport areas were scraped off and residual Antiice left our properties wet and or slushy. By 5pm some elevation properties became slippery enough with accumulations of freezing snow.

Tuesday, Jan 11: The beginning of the deepest snowfall Kelowna has had in a few years. Light snowfall started about 6 pm with around 2 cm accumulation by midnight. All surfaces have been sub zero for quite a while so snow stayed, unless previously Antiiced.

Wednesday, Jan 12: Continuous light snowfall left about 2" by 2am. Heavier snow started around 3 or 4am and left accumulations ranging between 17cm -7 inches (Kelowna) and a foot on the Westside by 6 am. Snow slowed down by around 10 am leaving another couple inches which made what we had pushed look sloppy. All equipment and manpower was taxed to the max to accommodate the extra time, and late start required to clear all. Most City roads were extremely slippery as the Antiice they used was more a salt brine which could not handle the cold temperatures of the road once diluted. Our Antiiced properties looked beautiful.

Thursday, Jan 13: light snow again about 6am which left around ¾ inch after 7am once it stopped. Warming weather throughout the day made all snow compacted and slippery, but by night wet and sloppy .....

Fri Jan 14 night & Sat morning Jan 15: Forecasts called for plus 2 temps, but temperatures fell from plus 8 to minus 1 between 3 and 10 pm. By midnight freezing temps caused all road surfaces to become extremely slippery. Black ice and refrozen slush made everything very dangerous. Global had to Antiice our malls and Priority One clients (RCMP, Fortis, IHA, etc.) as it was almost too slippery to walk until morning temps increased enough to restart the big melting process.

Thursday Jan 20: 2am to 5am Kelowna got just a tiny bit of all the snow that miraculously passed around our Valley. West Kelowna barely had a cm and greater Kelowna had around 3 cm. All the roads were extremely slippery and could barely be walked on. Our Antiiced lots were not compacting and tires had traction. Warm weather slushed off mostly everything by dark. By 8pm all surfaces were refreezing due to cold pavement temperatures, even though air was a few degrees above freezing.



Friday Jan 21: Snow started by 6:30 am and within an hour all surfaces were snow covered and extremely slippery. By 10:30 am most of the flurries stopped with between 2 and 3 cm accumulations everywhere. Warm temperature and afternoon sun just barely got things melting before all refroze by 5pm. Properties near the lake melted a bit faster than most places, but Rutland and higher elevations or shaded properties un-Antiiced were just plain dangerously slippery. Most properties had to be addressed this evening and early morning to be made safe.

Jan 22 Saturday morning woke to icy conditions everywhere. All shaded areas that were not Antiiced still had about ½ inch of rock hard frozen slush.

Jan 24 Mon morning had slightly freezing rain begin early. Warm temperatures and increasing amounts of rain volume helped prevent the rain spells throughout the day from freezing on the cold ground in most areas.

Jan 29 Saturday: forecasts called for rain, then 2 -10 cm of snow. It was raining since 8pm Fri night, but the temp was way above freezing all night. Early morning brought heavier rainfall. Fortunately we did not Antiice in accordance to forecasts for all would have been washed away. Black Mountain and the upper Mission DID get between 2 and 3 inches, whilst downtown Kelowna had only a bit of accumulating snow on wet pavement. Mid afternoon we saw a few more flakes but temperatures did not drop close enough to freeze until dark. We Antiiced just as the temperatures dropped enough for the rain/snow to start freezing on the ground. Everything not Antiiced froze, and stayed that way as temperatures remained sub zero into Feb.

#### **WEATHER WEBSITES:**

The only hourly weather data is from the airport. To retrieve the last 24 hrs of recorded temp & precept go to:

[http://text.weatheroffice.gc.ca/trends\\_table/pages/ylw\\_metric\\_e.html](http://text.weatheroffice.gc.ca/trends_table/pages/ylw_metric_e.html)

To find historical hourly data from the Kelowna airport:

<http://www.wunderground.com/history/airport/CYLW/2010/12/23/DailyHistory.html>

#### **FORECAST FOR YOURSELF:**

**BIG** picture satellite shows last 12hrs of weather movement over West North America. You can predict the weather if you can figure out how the World “breathes”:

[http://weather.unisys.com/satellite/sat\\_ir\\_enh\\_hem\\_loop-12.gif](http://weather.unisys.com/satellite/sat_ir_enh_hem_loop-12.gif)

**SMALLER** picture satellite shows just the coast and most of BC....from Castanet. Also gives you what someone else thinks the weather will be:

<http://www.castanet.net/weather/>

**ITS ON US** picture shows radar “noise” from the top of Silverstar Mountain in Vernon. This site can give us a pretty good idea of when exactly the weather will hit, and for how long – shows our valley really well:

[http://www.weatheroffice.gc.ca/radar/index\\_e.html?id=xss](http://www.weatheroffice.gc.ca/radar/index_e.html?id=xss)

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