

# The Subject Everyone's Talking About

Few topics are talked about more or affect us as much. Like it or not, the weather is part of our lives. Blizzards bring tourists to our state to ski. Cold spring nights followed by warm spring days are responsible for Vermont's famous maple syrup crop. Droughts and frost damage the gardens we grow. Everyday, the weather, good or bad, helps determine what we do.

Without question the weather has helped to shape Vermont's history. It is said that if it were not for a powerful thunderstorm on July 8, 1777, Vermont's founders might not have stayed in session in Windsor to finish writing our state's first constitution. This

and many other events are tied to the Vermont climate.



## WEATHER FORECASTING THE OLD WAY

**Weather in Vermont is as unpredictable today as it was when Vermont became a state. Our ancestors looked to the color of the sky, the direction of the wind, the behavior of their farm animals and many other signs to help them forecast the weather. Following are a few old weather proverbs. Try to learn some of them and see how well they really work.**

Evening red and morning gray  
Are sure signs of a fine day.  
Evening gray and morning red  
Will bring rain upon your head.



Flies will swarm before a storm.  
Rain long foretold, long last;  
Short notice, soon past.

Crows gathered around the ground  
A sign that rain will soon come down.



Halos around the moon or sun  
Mean that rain will surely come.



When spiders' webs in air do fly  
The spell will soon be very dry.

If clouds be bright,  
'Twill clear to-night;  
If clouds be dark,  
'Twill rain, do you hark?



When bees to distance wing their flight  
Days are warm and skies are bright;  
But when their flight ends near their home  
Stormy weather is sure to come.

A cow's tail to the west  
Is weather coming at its best.  
A cow's tail to the east  
Is weather coming at its least.



When smoke descends,  
Good weather ends.