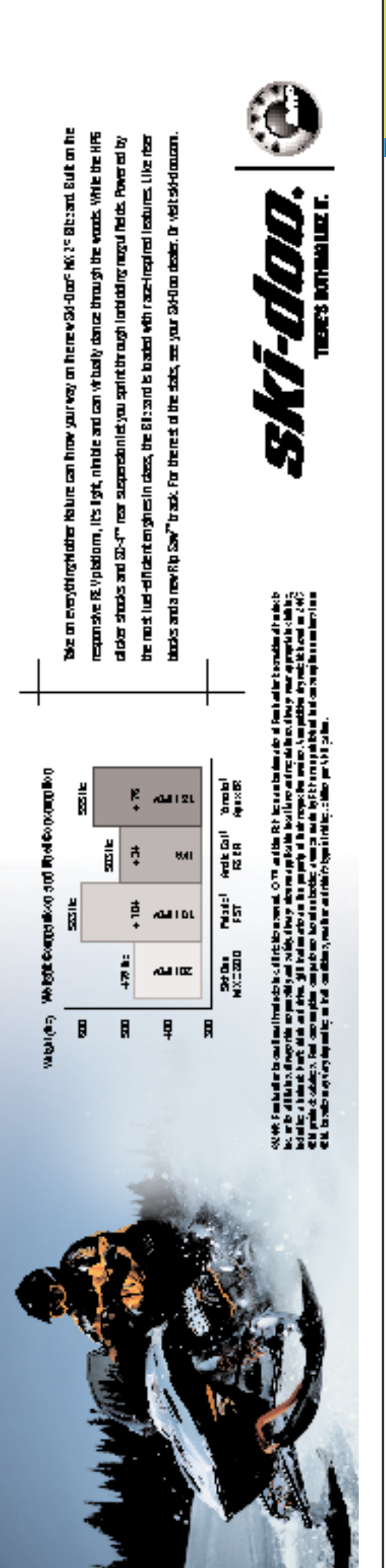

RAZOR'S EDGE

Nature Agreeing with Farmers Almanac but not the Government!

According to the weather know-all book, we're in store for a colder than normal winter, especially in early and late parts of December, January and February. Snowfall in southwestern Ontario will be slightly above the norm, however we're told to expect a bit less than normal in the rest of the province. Let's hope they're wrong on the latter.

Acting as the 'nay-sayers' in all this is Environment Canada, who are predicting a warmer winter, thanks largely to an El Nino forming in the Pacific Ocean, which sends warm, moist air across North America, pushing the cold air to the Arctic.

So who will be right? Well, if you pay attention to nature – and folklore – we're in for a great winter! I was having a 'cold one' with my neighbours this summer, as we were being dive bombed by wasps in swarms in rivalry with by black flies and mosquitoes. "Gonna be a bad winter," one neighbour said. I didn't see a connection, but they all agreed!

Another sign was the trees bending due to the abundance of seeds and nuts. They were also bending thanks to some wicked storms, but that's another story. Some say when the squirrels are busy early in the fall gathering food for the winter, it's a sign of a bad winter (good winter for sledders). This phenomenon holds true at my house, as my cats have brought home more trophy squirrels than ever before.

My farming friends told me the corn husks are thicker and tougher this year, translating into a good winter for the sport. And of course the mice have already taken up residence in the attic of most houses, much to the dismay of owners and resident cats who sit and stare at the walls for hours.

Now experts and scientists claim all this is nonsense, but I believe nature knows. We rely on the weatherman – who's more often wrong than right – and not what's going on outside. I'm no expert, but it seems Mother Nature's creatures and my neighbours are agreeing with The Farmers Almanac.

Whether you pray, dance, or will the snow to arrive, you can rest assured it will come. When and how much is a different story, but hey, if nature and the book say there will be snow…you can count on it! And, especially if my farmer neighbours say it, I'm happy I bought my permit early.

See you on the Trails.
Razor