

Top 10 signs of a long Vermont Winter

2015

(revised from 2001 version, [here](#))

Top 10 signs of a long Vermont winter

By Morgan W. Brown

This particularly cold, snowy, long, hard winter in Vermont has inspired the following done up in David Letterman style:

The Top Ten signs that you definitely know it has been a long winter, which dumped lots of snow -- even for Vermont, when:

10: One early Saturday morning, your family and neighbors thought you bought a snowblower and were out using it. Actually, even though there was at least two feet of snow left on top of it, the noise they heard was you out mowing the lawn.

9: Although there was a foot or more of snow on the ground and it was windy and cold outside, because it was officially spring, you lit up the barbeque in the yard and you as well as the family were later out there having a picnic.

8: You still go out the door of your abode automatically wearing your boots, heavy winter coat and carrying your shovel year-round expecting the worst.

7: You keep your snow tires on and your winter tire chains in the trunk of your car year-round just in case.

6: You have been using icicles as toothpicks, because the woodpile got used up way too early this year and everything else you could get a hold of like some of the furniture, newspapers

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and whatever, including the toothpicks, were tossed into the wood stove in a feeble attempt to keep warm.

How about getting a supply of plastic toothpicks next time, heh?

5: The local schools have notified parents in the area that because of all the snow days taken, there will be no summer vacation so the days can be made up.

4: The "part-time" Vermont "citizen" Legislature, which comes to Montpelier in January to do whatever it is they are supposed to be doing, still has not adjourned and gone home for the year yet. It must still be winter, heh?

3: For those living off dirt roads: You have to park the car two to four or more miles down, walking back and forth on foot to the old homestead, because the mud and the resulting ruts are at records depths, even for four wheel drive vehicles.

2: That there is actually a "top 10 signs of a long Vermont Winter" list; and,

1: You visit friends somewhere in East-Way-Rural, Vermont, who live on a narrow dirt road off another and off yet another dirt road.

They live in a great - to dream for - old rustic farm house that dates back to the 1800's and is completely off-the-grid (with no electricity or phone service; save for what they gain from solar panels these days).

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Never mind that there is three to four feet of snow remaining on the property when it is gone elsewhere only an hour or so away.

While there, you go to use the outhouse. When you lift the lid of the toilet, there is a record pile of you-know-what, way down at the bottom of the deep pit, which seems to far exceed the record snowfall.

Now that makes for deep conversation through a long snowy winter: "Never seen it piled that high there before. What a winter."

Morgan W. Brown lives in Montpelier.