

Powerful winter storm socks U.S., Canada

by UPI

TORONTO - A strong winter storm that roared across the U.S. Midwest and northern states Friday slammed into Canada, closing schools and snarling traffic. High winds and blowing snow prompted all major colleges and universities in the Toronto area to close for the day and racing was canceled Friday evening at Woodbine race track, The Toronto Star reported. The storm was expected to drop up to 8 inches of blowing snow before the precipitation turned to freezing rain and ice pellets around midnight. About 150 flights were canceled at Toronto's airport and more than 500 flights never got off the ground at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport. Environment Canada predicted "great quantities of snow" with reduced "visibilities to nearly zero," The Montreal Gazette said. However, Montreal's cleanliness and maintenance director told the newspaper cleaning up a snowfall of less than a foot wouldn't cause any unusual problems for city crews.

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