

FASHION WRAP

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Sweaters

I don't know about all you chickadees, but this birdie wants to fly south! But since we're stuck in this snowbound province for the foreseeable future, we've just gotta stay warm - so, knowing how desperately difficult it can be to be warm and look chic at the same time, I hit the shops for a look see.

After traipsing over what used to be curbs and falling into a few snowbanks, I settled in on some cozy, toasty stuff - you know the sweaters that will wrap you up right into submission, so there'll be no "No thank yous" to the hot chocolate, bread puddings (love that stuff), and brownies. Why worry about your waistline (okay, worry a bit), when you've got some great cold weather clothes to drown out your Pilates teacher's chants?

And, it's okay to indulge a bit, 'cause you know that snow-shovelling for what seems like an eternity has got to burn something off...if not your generally sweet nature. And thankfully, sweater dressing was a bit hit this fall going into full-on winter, so getting surrounded by wool, cashmere and anything that looks like it came off someone's knitting needles (excepting mine, of course), will be all the rage.

For those of us who go for more youthful looks, a patterned sweater/jacket in a bright colour might just be the ticket - at least to an afternoon of shopping with the girls, if not to warmer climes.

I'm all over the purplish cozy knit numbers that tie with a bow in front myself - this one can pose as a jacket over trousers, jeans, and some skirts. And, the colour plumps up the grey tinge all our complexions tend to get (matching the skies, I guess.)

And, what's a walk in the park without some cooler-than-cool, but really warm headgear? Sure, Gossip Girl fans among us will always go for the knitted tam, but I'm a fan of the Great White North head covers - ear flaps and all. Kinda channelling some Scandanavian women I keep seeing in magazine ads - looking all pouty under their ear flaps. (Note to self, wear more lipstick and mascara on the days you're sporting this look.)

Now, as a final touch, rock the old down-filled puffy coat - with hood or not. I'm partial to the hooded varieties, as they block out the arctic winds if I forget my hat. Throw on a pair of colourful mitts or gloves, and you'll beat the abominable snowman at his own game sister friends.

Now you're totally safe in your warm cocoon - swathed in wool, possibly cashmere, down and layered up more than a three-tier cake looking for a birthday party.

So, who needs to vamoose south when you're toastier than a hot cross bun just out of the oven?

I DO!

But there's nothing wrong with looking hot while you're waiting for your ship (or plane) to come in!