

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1

1961 Summerside had 53.6 cm of snow, the greatest 1-day amount for any station ever in P.E.I.

New Year's Day

2

1872 The first synoptic telegraphic weather reports were received at Toronto from Kingston, Port Dover, and Port Stanley and then forwarded to Washington to begin a daily exchange of weather data between Canada and the United States.

3

100 years ago today
In the Vancouver area, a recently completed bridge between Lulu and Sea Islands collapsed under the pressure of ice coming down the Fraser River. Local officials were not unduly upset. The bridge was still under guarantee.

4

1965 Freezing rain and drizzle lasting 38 hours struck Gander, Nfld., on the 3rd. Telephone communications with the outside were severed for several days.



5

1989 A violent storm with gusts to 120 km/h brought 20 cm of snow and blizzard conditions to Cape Breton Island. In Newfoundland, the storm drove high tides into the streets of Placentia and forced the evacuation of about 20 people.

6

1966 A spectacular temperature change occurred at Pincher Creek, Alta. Thermometer readings were -24.4° at 7 a.m., 0.6° at 8 a.m., and -21.7° at 9 a.m. The temperature remained steady until 3 p.m. and then rose to 2.2° for the rest of the day.

7

1989 While a blizzard dumped 28 cm of snow on Winnipeg, forcing the closing of the Trans-Canada Highway and interrupting air travel, farmers across the Prairies rejoiced as thick accumulations of snow eased fears of another year of drought.

8

1989 The sudden arrival of warm weather, along with heavy rain and high winds, caused the ice to break up on Lake Simcoe near Barrie, Ontario. Hundreds of ice fishermen were caught by surprise, and 14 had to be rescued by helicopter.

9

1876 Flowers and trees began to bud as southern Ontario and southern Quebec enjoyed a third week of unusual winter warmth. Temperatures were often well into the teens, particularly between Dec. 31 and Jan. 2, with Hamilton topping out at 21.6°.

10

1901 More than 105 cm of snow fell in the first 10 days of the month at New Westminster, B.C., causing the roof of the streetcar barn to collapse and forcing a shutdown of interurban service to Vancouver.

11

1987 While Easterners were digging out of yet another snowstorm, Calgarians were mowing their lawns, riding their bikes, and sunning themselves in outdoor cafés. The temperature soared to 16.5°, about 2° higher than at Las Vegas.



12

1918 Temperatures in Windsor and Detroit slid from -3° to -27° in 12 hours. Winds were clocked at 106 km/h, producing an estimated wind chill temperature of -60°.

13

1975 At Hall Beach, N.W.T., a temperature of -46° and 61 km/h winds conspired to produce a wind chill of 3183 W/m² or an equivalent temperature of -91°.

14

1950 For the first time in the history of Vancouver's weather records, the temperature reached 0°F (-17.8°C). This temperature has been equalled once since then, on December 29, 1968. Weather records have been kept in Vancouver since 1898.

15

1971 A chinook blew into Lethbridge, raising the temperature from -20° to 1° in one hour.

16

1961 Heavy rains over a 150-hour period ended along the B.C. coast and lower mainland. Seymour Falls received 530 mm, of which 350 mm fell on the 14th and 15th. The Trans-Canada Highway east of Vancouver was flooded.

17

1974 Canada's greatest 1-day snowfall, 118.1 cm, was recorded at Lakelse, B.C.

18

Weather Quiz
Which of the following holds the record for the biggest 1-day snowfall in a western Canadian capital city? Winnipeg, Regina, Edmonton, or Victoria? (See inside back cover for answer.)



19

1943 At Vancouver, 30 cm of heavy, wet snow fell overnight. Streetcars rode up on ice packed in the tracks and slithered off the rails. Over a 2-day period, at least a dozen of them were immobilized by broken axles.

20

1979 St. John's was isolated for a 2-week period as a result of a winter storm on the 19th, followed by snow, fog, drizzle, low ceilings, and limited visibility from the 23rd to Feb 1. Air Canada lost \$0.5 M.

21

1935 The lower Fraser Valley of B.C. was completely paralyzed as rain and freezing rain on top of a 120 cm snowpack caused collapsed power lines and flooding and washed out bridges and roads. Both the CNR and CPR lines were out of operation for 9 days.

22

1943 At Spearfish, South Dakota, the temperature rose 49°F (-4°F (-20°C) at 7:30 a.m. to 45°F (7.2°C) at 7:32 a.m.

23

1987 Along Quebec's North Shore more than 30 cm of snow was whipped into huge drifts by fierce 130 km/h winds. At Baie-Comeau and Sept-Îles, signs and TV antennas were blown down. A hospital was also extensively damaged and a transport truck overturned.

24

1987 Winter continued to punish eastern Canada. In Ontario, temperatures were in the -20s to -30s. A storm off Newfoundland produced 18 mm of freezing rain over 18 hours at Gander, and 132 km/h gusts at Port-aux-Basques. Heavy snow and rain fell in New Brunswick, and Halifax drained water from its flooded streets.

25

1987 Freezing rain glazed the highway between Edmonton and Calgary. At Iqaluit (Frobisher Bay), N.W.T., a blinding blizzard lasted 12 hours with zero visibility.

26

1879 A violent Atlantic storm ravaged Nova Scotia. On Cape Breton Island, high tides caused considerable shoreline damage. Inland, gale force winds toppled trees and telegraph wires and piled the snow into mountainous drifts, blocking traffic on all roads.

27

1938 The Honeymoon Bridge at Niagara Falls collapsed after a massive ice jam pushed it off its abutments. The ice, which piled up in the river after a storm on Lake Erie on the 23rd, also took out the Maid of the Mist docks and damaged a power plant.

28

1954 Called a weather freak, a tornado struck White Point Beach, N.S., near Liverpool at 22:40, accompanied by heavy hail and lightning. Damage was local.

29

1931 Warm, dry weather covered the Prairies. At Edmonton, the temperature rose to 12.8°. At Regina, on the 31st, it was 8.9°, a city record for the month. Near Provost, Alta., a farmer decided to cut his wheat. In Regina, a newspaper office displayed a recently caught grasshopper.

30

1989 A southward plunge of arctic air brought blizzard conditions to most of Alberta. At Lethbridge the temperature dropped from 12° at 4 p.m. to -9° at 5 p.m. A record 1-day January snowfall of 32.6 cm created chaos in Edmonton, where new power consumption records were also set.

31

1814 Londoners set up stalls and entertainment booths on the frozen Thames, where they held a frost fair for the next 5 days. On February 5, the ice began to break up. Several people were killed, and large ice floes caused heavy damage to moored vessels.

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

1 1989 After a record January snowfall of 432 cm, Stewart, B.C., was left with 161 cm of snow on the ground and drifts piled to the rooftops of houses. The town's luck changed in February, however, as only a trace of snow fell during the entire month.

2 Don't pay any attention to groundhogs looking for their shadows. A study of weather records over a 10-year period at Toronto showed that groundhogs were right only 30% of the time in predicting the end of winter.

3 1947 Snag, Y.T., had the lowest temperature ever recorded in Canada, -63°. The freezing of one's breath produced hissing, and fog persisted above dog teams.

Groundhog Day



4 1916 The Centre Block of the Parliament Buildings was an ice-encrusted ruin after being destroyed by a fire during the night. Firemen's coats were frozen stiff and soldiers' uniforms were white with frozen spray as they fought the blaze in -16° temperatures and brisk winds.

5 1716 A thaw set in, frustrating King Carl XII of Sweden's plan to invade Denmark by marching his troops across the ice on the narrow strait separating the two countries. (For more weather that changed history, see **Weather Flashes** at the back of the calendar.)

6 1978 Regina's 4-day blizzard was underway with blowing snow and 100 km/h gusts. By the 9th, snowdrifts reached the rooftops and many livestock perished. The city was snowbound, but total storm snowfall was only a trace at the airport.

7 1892 For the second time in 3 days at Verkhoyansk, USSR, the temperature fell to -68°, the coldest ever recorded in the northern hemisphere. This temperature was again equalled on February 6, 1933, at Oimekon, USSR.

8 **100 years ago today** High temperature for the day at Edmonton was -21.1°. The Edmonton Bulletin commented that "Coal mining is brisk this winter owing to the steady cold weather...With plenty of cheap coal winter loses its terror."

9 1934 It was bitterly cold in southern Ontario and for only the second time in recorded history, Lake Ontario froze over completely. The first was in February 1875. Even in severe winters, Lake Ontario is normally less than one-quarter ice covered.

10 1989 Warm air from the north, of all places, drove the temperature at Norman Wells, N.W.T., to a new February record of 5.8°. On the 13th, the temperature reached 6.0° at Komakuk Beach, Y.T., on the shores of the Beaufort Sea, while Ankara, Turkey, was a cool 1.0°.



11 1935 The mercury at Ifrane, Morocco, dropped to -24°, the lowest temperature ever recorded in Africa.

12 1894 Southern Ontario was struck by a heavy snow and windstorm. Although Toronto received only 16.5 cm of snow, gale force winds blew it into 2-3 m drifts, stalling about 40 streetcars and forcing passengers to walk home in biting winds and -12° temperatures.

13 1784 Ice flows blocked the Mississippi River at New Orleans and were sighted in the Gulf of Mexico as far south as 28°N.

14 1982 The world's largest offshore oil rig, the Ocean Ranger, sank off Newfoundland with the loss of 84 lives and at a cost of \$60 M. Maximum wind speed was estimated at 145 km/h and highest waves at 21 m.

Valentine's Day

15 1954 The mercury rose to 18.3° at Windsor, Ont., the city's highest February temperature ever. Three men in bathing suits waded in the Detroit River to win a \$2 bet. Over other parts of southern Ontario, heavy rains brought extensive flooding and caused some highway closures.

16 1876 A 3-day snowstorm dropped 66 cm of snow on Quebec City. Violent winds blew away 2 chimneys and part of the roof of the National Assembly building and demolished 2 houses.

17 1979 A severe blizzard that began on the 8th ended at Iqaluit, N.W.T.; -40° temperatures and 100 km/h wind gusts created wind chills as high as 3999 W/m² (-123°) and made outdoor travel extremely hazardous.



18 1965 An avalanche killed 26 workmen and injured 20 near Stewart, B.C. Prior to the avalanche, a great storm raged for several days, dropping an estimated 4.3 m of snow.

19 1884 A massive outbreak of 60 tornadoes killed an estimated 800 people in the southeastern U.S. Georgia and the Carolinas were the hardest hit.

20 **Weather Quiz** Is it ever too cold to snow? (See inside back cover for answer.)

21 1879 A severe snowstorm struck the Maritimes. Gale force winds caused massive drifting, and 2 trains were embedded in snowdrifts for more than a day. Charlottetown received 43 cm of snow and 2 churches on the island were blown down.

22 1878 Over 30 mm of rain fell over southern Ontario on the 21st and 22nd, causing severe flooding. At Port Hope, ice floated down the streets and the post office was flooded to a depth of more than a metre. A railway bridge and several buildings were also washed away.

23 1981 Mopping up operations continued at many localities in eastern Ontario and southern Quebec after record high temperatures, heavy rains, and ice blockages caused flooding in the Rideau River at Ottawa and the Rivière aux Chiens at Ste. Thérèse. Temperatures reached 12° at Ottawa and 15° at Montreal.

24 1987 A very intense low with 110 km/h winds buffeted the Newfoundland coast. Nineteen persons were rescued in rough seas after abandoning ship 800 km south of Cape Race.

25 1958 The temperature at Winnipeg reached 11.7°, a new record for the month. Winter returned with a vengeance the following day when freezing rain and strong winds knocked out power for up to 8 hours over a 60-km wide area from Winnipeg south to the American border.

26 1979 The last total solar eclipse viewable in North America until August 21, 2017, tracked across Hudson Bay, northern Quebec, and Newfoundland. There was good viewing weather in the west but not in southwestern Ontario.

27 1958 A severe ice storm struck St. John's, cutting heat and light to thousands of homes between February 27 and March 2. Freezing precipitation was recorded for 43 hours.

28 1886 A 72-hour snowstorm dumped more than 100 cm of snow on Father Point, Quebec. A train near Trois Pistoles was buried under 3-metre snowdrifts.

MARCH

1980 Canadian sun-seekers were frustrated by unusually cold weather in the southern States. Snow fell in Florida, and the temperature at Miami dropped to 0°. A 35-cm snowfall at Norfolk, Virginia, brought its seasonal total to 106 cm, slightly less than the average for Regina.

1976 A week after the worst ice storm in 40 years in southwestern Ontario, 2,000 hydro customers still had no power. One third of London was without electricity on March 3 and many streets were blocked with broken limbs and downed wires.

A day for record March lows in many cities: Toronto: 26.7° in 1868; Winnipeg: -38.9° in 1873; Edmonton: -40.0° in 1888; and Halifax: -23.3° in 1920.

1971 Montreal was marooned for 2 days by 47 cm of snow and 100 km/h winds.

1987 Thick fog and freezing temperatures produced icy roads on Montreal's bridges over the St. Lawrence. Condensation freezing on cold surfaces caused numerous traffic jams and accidents that injured more than a dozen people.

1879 In southern Manitoba, a thick ice crust formed over the snow after a sudden temperature drop. When the wind rose, "great plates of ice 10 to 20 feet square were lifted and broken into smaller pieces which were...blown along like icy cartwheels."

1989 Two fishermen were rescued by a Canadian Forces helicopter about 1 km from shore after being stranded for 2 1/2 hrs on an ice floe in Lake Erie.

1976 Chinooks blew across southern Alberta on 30 days during a 35-day period in late February and early March, causing heavy soil erosion.

1988 Newfoundland was struck by its worst blizzard of the winter. At Gander, winds of 80-105 km/h whipped a 38-cm snowfall into huge drifts, burying parked cars and making driving hazardous. At Heart's Content, conditions were so bad that snowplows had to be taken off the road.

1979 The Thames River at Chatham, Ontario, flooded when rapidly melting snow was held back by ice floes. Hundreds were evacuated, 40,000 ha of rich farmland was flooded, scores of livestock were drowned, and 400 buildings were submerged.

1986 Treacherous icy conditions were encountered in southern parts of Quebec and Ontario, as a glaze of ice formed on many roadways. Rush-hour traffic in Toronto was in chaos until the roads were salted.

Weather Quiz
Ray Bradbury wrote a famous science fiction novel called *Fahrenheit 451*. What would it be called in Celsius? (See inside back cover for answer.)

1989 A very large solar flare caused auroral displays that could be seen as far south as Jamaica and produced a province-wide blackout in Quebec. It was the 4th largest solar storm since 1932.

1989 After a week of torrential rain, much of the southern portion of Malawi in southern Africa was flooded. Crops and livestock were destroyed, communications severed, and 50,000 people left homeless.

44 BC The Ides of March, and Julius Caesar was assassinated on the steps of the Senate in Rome. The gods expressed their displeasure in the usual fashion: Italy experienced violent thunder, hail, and snow storms, as well as extensive flooding, during the rest of the month.

1868 An intense thunderstorm accompanied by hail and furious gusts of wind caused considerable damage along Toronto's lakeshore.

1987 After a 2-day snowstorm, up to 50 cm of snow covered New Brunswick and parts of P.E.I. and Nova Scotia. Winds gusting to 75 km/h created huge drifts, disrupting all transportation. The storm caused 8 deaths, and schools and businesses were closed for days.

1980 A record deluge of 74 mm fell at Saint John, flooding basements and forcing many residents to vacate their homes. A flood watch was in effect for several days.

1936 An early snowmelt, heavy rains, and an ice jam downstream caused the St. John River to rise 8.9 m above normal at Fredericton. At the height of the flood, the water rose 0.3 m per hour and ice entered downtown Fredericton. A sudden ice surge caused the railway bridge to collapse.

100 years ago today
Spring was in the air at Fort Qu'Appelle, Sask. The snow was disappearing fast, and maximum temperatures were near or above freezing: 2.9° on the 19th and -0.5° on the 20th. The Qu'Appelle Cricket Club (membership \$1.00) met to make plans for the coming season.

1876 A raging snowstorm over eastern and southern Quebec disrupted train travel and the mails. Two-day snowfalls totalled 28 cm at Ottawa, 50 cm at Montreal, and 45 cm at Quebec City.

1968 How dry is dry? Calgary had the lowest relative humidity ever recorded in Canada: 6%. The air temperature was 18° and the dew point -20°. Calgary's normal afternoon relative humidity in March is 59%.

1972 A severe storm resulted in record 24-hour precipitation totals at Halifax, with 90.1 mm at the airport and 82.6 mm at the Citadel.

1954 A twister lifted cars and flattened garages in Burnaby, B.C.

Spring: 16:19 EST

World Meteorological Day

1989 Atlantic Canada's worst storm of the winter struck Cape Breton and eastern Nfld. on Easter weekend. Snowfall totalled 35 cm in Cape Breton and 20-40 cm in southeastern Nfld, with St. Lawrence reporting 59 cm. 100 km/h winds caused road blockages and flight cancellations.

1921 The fishing schooner *Buenose* was launched at Lunenburg, N.S., under overcast skies with NW winds at 8 km/h and a temperature of 13.8°.

1987 Halifax's ice-free port was ice-full as easterly winds pushed pack ice into the harbour for the first time in 27 years. Marine traffic, including the Dartmouth-Halifax ferry, was disrupted. The ice finally moved out 2 days later.

1989 Very mild temperatures and rain triggered a rapid ice break-up and flooding on several rivers in southern Quebec. About 1000 persons had to be evacuated, numerous homes were damaged by ice and floodwaters, while many others were isolated by submerged highways.

1946 The temperature at Ottawa rose to 26.7°, the highest ever for the month. A prolonged dry spell and 50 km/h winds contributed to a \$2 M fire which destroyed 22,000 cords of pulpwood at the E.B. Eddy plant in Hull and severely damaged the Alexandria Bridge.

1986 It was a glorious Easter weekend at Windsor, Ont., as the temperature soared to 29.6°, a city record for March. While holidayers enjoyed tennis, windsurfing, and other outdoor activities, the fire department was busy dousing grass, brush, and railway boxcar fires.

1989 It was the dullest March on record at Victoria, with only 87.4 hours of sunshine, compared to a monthly average of 144. Rain fell on 24 days during the month, also a new record. The cool, damp weather put the daffodil harvest at least 3 weeks behind schedule.

SUNDAY

MONDAY

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THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1 1914 Seventy-seven sealers froze to death during a violent storm on the ice off the SE coast of Labrador. At the height of the storm, from March 31 to April 2, the temperature was -23° and winds were from the NW at 64 km/h.

2 1987 Flood waters and ice took out railway bridges at Perth-Andover, N.B., on the 2nd and on the Ste-Anne River east of Trois-Rivières, Quebec, on the 1st. In 1986, the covered bridge at Anse-St-Jean on the Saguenay (the one on the \$1000 bill) met a similar fate.

3 1898 After being delayed for weeks by snowstorms, gold seekers took advantage of clearing weather to cross the Chilkoot Pass between Alaska and Yukon. More than 60 were killed by an avalanche when unstable accumulations of new snow broke loose from the peaks above.

4 1989 For the first time in the team's history, the Montreal Expos were able to open their season at home, thanks to the new roof on the Olympic Stadium. It was passable baseball weather: cloudy with sunny breaks and intermittent showers and a high of 17.3°. Final score: Mets 10, Expos 6.

5 1989 While floods and ice jams occurred along the Red River in Minnesota and North Dakota, Manitoba farmers prepared for the worst flooding since 1979. Thanks to abnormally dry April weather, however, the threat did not materialize.

6 1896 The first modern Olympic Games opened at Athens under threatening skies. Variable weather caused the postponement of several events during the games, but fine weather prevailed for the closing ceremonies on the 15th.

7 1878 Nearly 2 weeks of rainy, snowy weather ended at Saint John, leaving the unpaved streets ankle-deep in mud. During a 12-day period, the city received 79 cm of snow, mostly toward the end of March, and 54 mm of rain.

Daylight Saving Time



8 1989 Green, yellow, and purple clouds lit the sky over Hudson Bay, after NASA scientists launched a rocket that released barium ions into the upper atmosphere. Skies were clear at Churchill, with the day's temperatures ranging between -13.2° and -19.9°.

9 1947 The famous Tri-State Tornado tracked 356 km through Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas, killing 169, injuring 980, and causing \$9.7 M damage. By comparison, the total loss of life in Canada's 28 worst tornado disasters since 1850 is 162.

10 1989 Above-normal temperatures and below-normal precipitation over the Great Lakes Basin brought about a substantial drop in water levels since the fall of 1986. By April 1989, Lake Huron had fallen 1.2 m below its October 1986 level.



11 1989 While California fried in extremely high temperatures, the eastern U.S. shivered through abnormally cold weather. More than 30 cities set new record lows for this date. Wilmington, N.C., received its latest measurable snowfall in 110 years of records.

12 1865 The St. Lawrence River rose 3 to 4 m, inundating areas in and around Sorel, Trois-Rivières, and Berthier, Que. Forty-five persons drowned. Strong winds and river ice inflicted much damage.

13 1858 Toronto Island was formed when strong lake winds breached the narrow isthmus connecting the harbour's outer peninsula to the mainland. Winds were ENE at 40 km/h over the city but much stronger over the water.

Good Friday

14 1955 A rare April snowfall of 7.2 cm covered the ground and daffodils at Victoria.

15 1904 Up to 25 cm of heavy, wet snow fell on southern Ontario, paralyzing streetcar service in various localities. In Toronto, wet snow freezing in switches derailed 3 streetcars and tied up 80 others.

16 1984 Coastal B.C. residents cleaned up after an intense windstorm (124 km/h gusts at Terrace) damaged power lines and buildings, capsized fishing vessels and sailboats, and fanned forest fires. Damage was estimated at several million dollars.

17 1987 Very strong winds swept across the southern Prairies. Gusts in excess of 100 km/h raised blowing dust and blew over several tractor trailers west of Lethbridge. North of Calgary the mild winter and unharvested grain fields produced the worst infestation of field mice in 40 years.

18 1976 Montreal had one of its warmest April days ever as the temperature climbed to 28°. The Hotel Bonaventure started its Great Easter Balloon Race early after balloons began to pop in the heat. At Ottawa the temperature reached 30°, an April record.



19 1860 A tornado struck Aurora, Ontario, killing cattle and demolishing houses. Nearby Lake Wilcox was half emptied by the twister.

20 **Weather Quiz**
Can lightning strike out of a clear, blue sky? (See inside back cover for answer.)

21 **100 years ago today**
It was a cool, cloudy slightly damp day in Winnipeg, with a high of 11.7° and a trace of rain. Although the weather was uninspiring, the prices were good: ladies' French kid button boots sold for \$2.25 a pair, or \$3.00 if you wanted the expensive ones.

Easter Sunday

Easter Monday

22 1842 Torontonians couldn't decide whether to go swimming or skating as the thermometer climbed from 21° at 1:30 p.m. to 32°, Toronto's highest ever for April, at 3:35. The wind then switched to north and by 8:00 p.m., the temperature was down to 18°. The following evening there was frost.

23 1897 The Red River flooded large tracts of southern Manitoba. Every street in Morris was submerged and St. Jean was covered with a metre of water. At Emerson, only the CPR station was left dry.

24 1989 Warm air over central North America brought the temperature at Portage La Prairie to a pleasant 24.2°, the highest so far for the year on the Prairies. Farther south, Salina, Kansas, reported 40.6°, a new April high for the state.

25 1959 The Canadian icebreaker *D'Iberville* became the first ship to enter the St. Lawrence Seaway, as it took a group of MPs, senators, and journalists on a preview trip through the first locks. Cool, overcast weather and scattered showers dampened the fun a bit. The maximum temperature at Montreal was 18.9°.



26 1989 Members of Operation Polar Bridge, the Soviet-Canadian transpolar ski expedition, reached the North Pole where they were greeted by Soviet and Canadian dignitaries. It was a marvellous day at the Pole, with clear skies, a temperature of -24°, and 3-5 km/h winds (from the south, of course).

27 1989 The hottest spot in Canada was Ft. Simpson, N.W.T., where the temperature reached 22.8°. The day before, Carmacks, Yukon, was the national hot spot, with a temperature of 23.0°.

28 1757 From the Hudson's Bay archives for York Factory: "Severity of weather froze beer in cellar."

29 1987 Balmly weather during the 3rd week of April left residents of northern New Brunswick unprepared for a surprise snowstorm that socked the area with up to 30 cm of snow. Bathurst was hardest hit by the storm, which forced schools to close early and caused a rash of accidents.

30 1888 In what may have been the world's worst hailstorm, 246 people were reported killed in India by hailstones as large as baseballs.

APRIL



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SATURDAY

6 1536 Jacques Cartier sailed for home after spending a severe winter near Quebec City. He and his men suffered from the intense winter cold and scurvy; 25 died before spring arrived.

7 1989 Wet snow fell over much of southern Ontario. With afternoon temperatures just above freezing, most of it melted as it fell, but accumulations up to 15 cm were reported in the Niagara Peninsula. St. Catharines, with 8 cm, had its heaviest May snow ever.

8 1904 As a result of heavy late winter snows and a sudden thaw, Brandon was isolated by its worst flood since 1882. Downtown streets were under 1 m of water and several houses were washed away.

9 1886 Halifax recorded its greatest rainfall for one day in May: 127.3 mm.

10 1953 A freighter sank in Lake Superior with the loss of 17 seamen. Winds blew at 100 km/h.

11 1989 Freezing rain and strong winds downed power lines at Yellowknife, forcing downtown businesses to close for the day. Farther west, Ft. Simpson received 20 cm of snow.

12 1934 The Great Dust Bowl Storm darkened skies across the United States from Oklahoma east to the Atlantic coast. In Iowa, 22 dust storms occurred between May 4 and June 10, covering fenceposts with 1 m drifts. During this period, black rain fell in New York and brown snow in Vermont.

13 1989 The temperature at Dauphin, Man., rose to 30.7°, as more than 150 forest fires raged in the province and warm, dry, windy weather hampered firefighting efforts. In Saskatchewan, winds pushed a major fire to within about 20 km of Prince Albert.

14 1986 A blizzard with 80 km/h winds and knee-deep snow surprised south-central Alberta. More than 1 million people were affected by the 2-day blizzard, described as the worst spring storm in Alberta's history. Less than a week later, temperatures climbed into the mid-30s.

15 1876 A violent flash of lightning struck and demolished a schoolhouse at Rondeau, Ont., killing 1 boy and injuring 2. Fortunately it was lunch time, and most of the children were playing outside the school.

16 1986 About 100 people were airlifted from the Indian community at Winisk, Ont., as melting snow and heavy precipitation caused the Winisk River to flood. Only 7 of 60 buildings remained intact. Some structures had been moved as much as 5 km.

17 1939 King George VI and Queen Elizabeth's trip to Canada was delayed by sea fog and ice floes about 500 km east of Cape Race, Nfld.

18 1980 Mt. St. Helens in Washington erupted sending smoke and ash 24 km into the air. The plume reached the East Coast in 3 days and circled the world in 19 days. A thin ash layer fell in the Okanagan Valley, and visibilities were reduced to a few km across the Prairies.

19 1780 This was eastern North America's famous Black Friday, when smoke from western forest fires obscured the daytime sky. Noon was almost like nighttime, chickens went to roost, and people were fearful of divine wrath.

Mother's Day

20 1826 The Red River at Winnipeg approached its highest recorded level ever. The flow was estimated to be twice that of the peak flow in 1950. Settlers were unable to return to their homes until the 15th of June.

21 1953 Tornadoes in SW Ontario caused 5 deaths and 41 injuries. Property losses totalled \$8 M in Sarnia as 12 blocks of the business district were levelled. Soldiers were called in and the riot act was read.

Victoria Day

22 **Weather Quiz**
On average, how many tornadoes occur in Canada's populated areas each year?
a) 5
b) 30
c) 75
d) 150
(See inside back cover for answer.)

23 1988 A squall line with winds up to 100 km/h swept a wall of dust across parts of central Alberta. In Lethbridge, traffic accidents were blamed on poor visibility caused by the dust. Near Athabasca, north of Edmonton, the winds breathed new life into a forest fire, which almost engulfed the community of Ferguson.

24 1876 A sudden squall on Lake Erie capsized the barque *T.C. Street* near Port Dover, drowning 6 of the crew.

25 1977 The Maritimes experienced an unusual heat wave. Temperatures near 35° caused apple trees to bloom a week ahead of normal.

26 1705 In Berlin, Germany, an unusual late May snowfall on the 25th and 26th was so heavy that even the larger boughs of some trees broke under the weight of the snow.

27 1765 From the diary of Alexander Rose, an army Lieutenant stationed at Quebec City: "The mercury rose to 85 °(F)...At a place down the river called Mount Louis was a heavy storm of snow which continued the whole day." Rose had observed a classic weather front.

28 **100 years ago today**
At the Lakehead, the Port Arthur weather station recorded a maximum temperature of 28.3°, equalling for the 3rd time the highest May temperature recorded thus far in the station's 13-year history.

29 1986/87 Montreal was hit by 2 hailstorms exactly 1 year apart. Both caused damage in the millions to trees, gardens, roofs, windows, and cars. Damage from the 1986 storm, the more destructive of the two, was estimated at \$50-75 M.

30 1961 The most intense rainstorm ever in Canada, 250 mm in under 1 hour, occurred at Buffalo Gap, Sask. Accompanied by heavy hail and strong winds, the torrents of water washed out roads, eroded fields, and even stripped bark from several large trees. The land was stripped clean of soil and vegetation.

31 1988 At New Delhi, the temperature reached 45° and dust clouds hung in the air like fog as northern India suffered through a killer heat wave. In some parts of Rajasthan state, temperatures reached 49°. More than 280 deaths were attributed to the heat.

MAY

JUNE

1 1988 Canadian and Soviet members of Operation Polar Bridge arrived at Ellesmere Island, completing their 79-day, 1700-km ski trip across the North pole from the USSR. A reception was held at Eureka Weather Station. Weather at Eureka was sunny with light winds and a late afternoon temperature of 4°.

2 1953 Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. It was a cool, blustery day in London, with a noon temperature of 13°, partly cloudy skies, and 45 km/h winds.

3 1976 Severe thunderstorms, with 8-cm hailstones in some areas, struck south-central Saskatchewan. Damage to crops, buildings, trees, towers, and trailers was estimated at \$6 M.

4 1961 Regina was in the 2nd day of a 10-day heat wave. June '61 was one of the hottest months in western Canadian history.

5 1988 A storm and possible tornado struck before dawn near Camrose, Alta., snapping trees and phone poles, tearing roofs from houses and silos, and injuring horses and cattle. Damage totalled at least \$3 M.

6 1944 After a 1-day postponement, improving weather permitted Allied armies to land in Normandy. Seas were slightly choppy with brisk winds, partly cloudy skies, and cool temperatures. General Eisenhower successfully gambled that clear weather would last long enough for the establishment of a beachhead.

7 1988 Regina imposed water rationing after a daily water consumption record of 245 million litres was set the previous day. Temperatures were above 35° for 4 days.

8 1836 From the journal of Alexander Ross, at the Red River settlement: "On the 7th of June we had a heavy fall of snow and on the following day the ice was the thickness of a penny piece in the water."

9 1988 June was a month of contrasts. Temperatures ranged from 43.5° at Kincaid, Sask., to -1° at Truro, N.S. While drought conditions prevailed on the Prairies, St. Lawrence, Nfld., received 341.3 mm of rain during the month. 44.6 cm of snow fell at Alert, NWT.

Environment Week

World Environment Day

10 1752 Benjamin Franklin performed his famous kite-flying experiment in a thunderstorm, narrowly missing electrocution but successfully proving that lightning was a form of electricity.

11 **100 years ago today** Definitely not gay nineties weather in Toronto. The city was drenched by 45.7 mm of rain. Temperatures were a bit on the cool side for this time of year with a high of 21.7° and a low of 11°.

12 1878 A violent hailstorm, "with hailstones as big as pigeon eggs," struck near Lachute, Que. The storm delayed a train on the Montreal, Ottawa, and Occidental Railway for 10 minutes and cracked windows in one of the passenger cars.

13 1930 A mixture of blowing dust and heavy rain produced a rain of mud at Provost, Alta. Buildings were left caked with grime.

14 1988 Toronto recorded a temperature of 35.2°, the city's highest for this day since its weather records began in 1840. Water consumption reached a 1-day record of 2.384 billion litres. With reservoirs running low, water restrictions were imposed.

15 1919 Alcock and Brown landed at Clifton, Ireland, completing the first non-stop crossing of the Atlantic by air. They left St. John's, Nfld., the day before in clear skies with a temperature of 15° and SW winds at 32 km/h.

16 1979 At Quebec City a deluge of 78 mm in 2 hours broke the city's short duration rainfall records for 30 min, 1 hr, 2 hr, and 24 hr.

17 **Weather Quiz** Which Canadian province or territory holds the greatest number of national weather records? You have twelve guesses. (See inside back cover for answer.)

18 1815 British, Prussian, and Dutch armies under the Duke of Wellington defeated Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo in Belgium. It was rainy and cold when dawn broke, but the weather had cleared by 11:30 when the battle began.

19 1959 A small intense storm moved inland over Nova Scotia into Northumberland Strait. Several salmon boats were swamped and 33 fishermen were lost.

20 1860 High winds and hailstones, some as large as 5 cm, hit Osborne in SW Ontario, flattening crops, uprooting trees, blowing down fences, and lifting roofs off barns and houses.

21 1942 At Tirat Tsvi, now in Israel, the mercury climbed to 53.9°, the highest temperature ever recorded in Asia.

22 1988 During a violent thunderstorm, winds blew down a house at Coteau Station, Quebec, while torrential rains triggered a landslide which derailed a train at nearby Coteau Landing.

23 1988 Rain helped bring a forest fire under control in New Brunswick, but thunderstorms associated with the same system caused power disruptions in Nova Scotia. A powerful flash of lightning made a hole in the runway at Yarmouth airport.

Father's Day

Summer: 09:33 EDT

24 1880 *O Canada* with music by Calixa Lavallée and words by Adolphe-Basile Routhier, was given its premiere performance in Quebec City. It was partly cloudy and cool at Quebec, with a midday temperature of 17°.

25 1988 At Iqaluit, Baffin Island, light snow welcomed travellers on a charter tour from Toronto.

26 1952 A spectacular 15-minute hailstorm at Kemptville, 50 km south of Ottawa, broke 5000 windows, killed 500 fowl and pets, damaged 200 cars, punctured 100 metal roofs, and ruined 15 acres of test crops.

27 1988 Heavy rain in Yukon caused highway closures. Repairs to some roads took as long as 3 weeks. Three years before, Whitehorse recorded its all-time 24-hr rainfall record, 53 mm, on this day.

28 1914 Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria was assassinated in Sarajevo, Bosnia, setting in motion a chain of events that led to World War I. Otherwise, the day was fine, with sunny skies over Sarajevo, moderate breezes, and a midday temperature of 26°.

29 1963 A remarkable 1-day snowfall of 111.8 cm occurred at Livingston Ranger Station, Alta. For several years this stood as the greatest 1-day snowfall ever recorded in Canada.

30 1938 After a tornado and cloud burst, the water was 30 cm deep in the streets of Neidpath, Sask.

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1 Except for the outer coasts of B.C., Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, and P.E.I., July is the hottest month (in terms of average temperature) everywhere in Canada.

2 1843 An alligator was reported to have fallen during a thunderstorm at Charleston, S.C.

3 1988 Heavy rains deluged central and northwestern Alberta. Stoney Plain, near Edmonton, received 72 mm in 1 day. Families on the Assumption Indian Reserve, 100 km west of High Level, were forced to evacuate their homes.

4 1976 At 1 a.m. local time, Israeli commandos landed at Entebbe, Uganda, in a light rain with no moon and no stars to rescue 105 hostages in one of the most daring military exploits of modern times.

5 1876 Violent thunder squalls uprooted trees and downed telegraph wires in southern Ontario. In Hamilton, artillery officers had their lunch interrupted when their mess tent collapsed. Several workers narrowly escaped injury when a brick wall was blown down.

6 1988 Heavy rains again hit central and northern Alberta, beginning on the 5th. Edmonton rec'd 84 mm in 24 hours, its wettest day in 25 years. Floods forced the evacuation of 2000 people at Slave Lake. Some localities recorded rainfall totals as high as 161.4 mm in 48 hours.

7 1988 The mercury hit 37° at Toronto, the city's hottest day since Sept. 2, 1953, when the temperature reached 37.8°. During the week 11 monthly maximum temperature records were broken in central and southern Ontario and 33 daily and 2 monthly maximum temperature records fell in Quebec.

Canada Day

8 **100 years ago today** In Montreal it was the hottest day of the month, with a high of 31.7° and a low of 18.3°. Showers brought 2.5 mm of rain.

9 1988 A violent thunderstorm near Astle Crossing, N.B., knocked down trees and dumped hailstones the size of ice cubes.

10 1913 The warmest temperature ever recorded in the United States, 56.7° occurred in Death Valley, California, at a place with the ironic name of Greenland Ranch. This is also a record high for the western hemisphere.

11 1988 Strongly acidic rain with a pH of 3.3 (approximately the acidity of apples) was reported at Sutton in southern Quebec. The rain originated in air from southern Ontario and New York state, where extremely high pollution levels had been reported a few days before.

12 1936 Manitoba's highest temperature, 44.4°, was recorded on this day at Emerson during the great heat wave of 1936. Ontario's highest, 42.2°, was recorded at Atikokan on the 11th and 12th and at Fort Frances on the 13th. (See **Weather Flashes** at the back of the calendar for more.)

13 1988 Mud and rock slides, caused by heavy rains, closed the Alaska Highway at several locations in Yukon and northern B.C. Continuing heavy rainfall prevented the reopening of the highway until early on the 17th.

14 1878 A wind and hailstorm struck the Winnipeg area, breaking thousands of panes of glass and flattening crops and gardens.



15 1928 Near Constance, Sask., hailstones as big as teacups lashed a ranch, killing more than 750 animals, including 3 horses. A shepherd escaped injury by covering his head with a saddle.

16 1941 British Columbia's warmest day ever. Lillooet and Lytton recorded 44.4°. On the same date, Victoria had its all-time high temperature of 36.1°.

17 1878 During a violent thunderstorm at Quebec City, several ships broke their moorings and drifted down the St. Lawrence. The ship *Tivoli* ran ashore at Sillery and the brig *Neptune* grounded at Cap Blanc.

18 1938 Douglas (Wrong Way) Corrigan landed his small plane in Ireland, 28 hours after leaving New York, supposedly en route to California. Corrigan blamed his compass, but skies over New York were clear enough for him to have detected his error visually. Suspicion is that he intended to fly to Ireland, but lacked clearance for the transatlantic flight.

19 1986 900 Edmonton residents fled their homes as the N. Saskatchewan River rose 11.6 m, causing the area's worst flooding since 1915. Vast areas of northern and central Alberta farmland were submerged, and 2 people died.

20 1878 A violent thunderstorm with strong winds and hail uprooted trees, destroyed crops, and smashed windows at Napanee, Ontario. In another storm, the schooner *Mountaineer* was blown ashore near Port Elgin on Lake Huron and totally wrecked.

21 1983 The coldest day in history. At Vostok, Antarctica, the temperature dropped to -89.6°, the coldest air temperature ever recorded in the world.



22 1986 Morning temperatures hovered near the freezing point in Atlantic Canada. At Gander, Nfld., and in New Brunswick and P.E.I., this was the coldest July since 1962, and at Sydney it was the coolest July ever.

23 **Weather Quiz** How wide is a tornado funnel? (See inside back cover for answer.)

24 1975 A tornado demolished half the town of St. Bonaventure, Que., killing 4 and causing \$1 M damage. 100 buildings were destroyed and the town's water tower was knocked down.

25 1956 Emerging from thick fog off the Massachusetts coast, the Italian liner *Andrea Dorea* collided with the Swedish liner *Stockholm*. The *Dorea* sank and 52 people lost their lives.

26 1578 From the journal of Martin Frobisher: "In this storm there fell much snow with such bitter cold air that we could scarce see one another...Every man persuaded himself that the winter must be extreme where there be found so unseasonable a summer."

27 1878 Violent gales swept the Great Lakes. The schooner *Portage* went to the bottom near Port Burwell, Ont., with her cargo of 400 tons of coal. In Georgian Bay, the schooner *New Dominion* grounded near Midland.

28 1988 A period of severe weather began in southern Manitoba. At Rosa, winds gusted to 90 km/h and hail accumulated to depths of 8-10 cm.



29 1981 They were cleaning up in Calgary after an intense 15-minute hailstorm the previous day did \$100 M damage.

30 1978 A tornado, a rare event in the Northwest Territories, was sighted 80 km NE of Yellowknife.

31 1987 In 1 hour of rage and fury, a series of tornadoes struck Edmonton, killing 27, injuring more than 200, and leaving 400 homeless. The storm, the most destructive in Canadian history, toppled transmission towers and blew apart a giant oil tank. Damage was estimated at \$250 M.

JULY



AUGUST

1 1988 Heritage Day celebrations were washed out in Calgary, which received 65 mm of rain in 24 hours. It was the wettest August 1 in Calgary's history.

2 1986 Farmers in Ontario's Niagara Peninsula and Holland Marsh regions estimated that a 25-minute hailstorm the previous day had cost them \$20 M. Golfball-size hailstones damaged fruit and vegetables that were nearly ready for market, including 20% of the bumper peach crop.

3 1985 After more than 380 mm of rain fell on Parkman, Sask., 2 brothers made the best of a bad thing and went waterskiing on their wheat field.

4 1988 As yet another heat wave dominated southern Ontario, thieves stole 10 air conditioners from a Scarborough dealer. "These days," said a police spokesman, "those things are priceless."

5 **100 years ago today** It was hot, muggy, and wet at Quebec City. With a high of 30°, it was the hottest day of the month, and a rainfall of 26.7 mm did little to cool things off.

6 1791 On the previous day at Fort Churchill, Man., William Jefferson recorded a temperature of 42.2°. Since we don't know how Jefferson's reading was taken, we can't be sure if it surpasses Churchill's modern record of 33.9°, set on July 4, 1975.

Civic Holiday



7 1971 At Whitecourt, Alberta, baseball-size hail, driven at a 45° angle by 80 km/h winds, fell for 15 minutes, damaging every roof and window in town. Aluminum roofs and sidings were punctured, neon signs were shattered, and 6 planes were destroyed. The hail lay in 20-cm drifts for 2 days.

8 1979 A severe tornado struck Regina, causing \$11 M in property damage. Wind gusts reached 117 km/h.

9 1960 Vancouver experienced its hottest day ever. The day's high was 33.3°.

10 1976 Hurricane *Belle* tracked northward across Long Island N.Y. to Gaspé, Que. Precipitation lasted 72 hours, from the 8th to the 11th. Edmunston received the greatest amount, 179 mm.

11 1880 A violent hailstorm devastated farming areas near Galt, Ontario. At Dumfries, hail drifts 60 cm deep still lay on the ground the next day.

12 1988 Following a hailstorm, the surface temperature of Lake Superior dropped from 14° to 8° in one day, forcing Vicki Keith to postpone her bid to swim across it. Three days later she completed the 35-km swim in near-perfect conditions.

13 **Weather Quiz** Which one of Canada's major cities is the hottest? Which is the coldest? (See inside back cover for answer.)



14 1988 Thunderstorms, spawned by record-breaking temperatures, brought high winds, hail, and torrential rains to southern Quebec. At Rouyn, gusts were clocked at 138 km/h, while roads were washed out at St. Malo and Thetford Mines.

15 1877 A tornado scattered fenceposts along the Waterloo road, near Guelph, Ontario. Observers compared the scene to a badly constructed corduroy road.

16 1981 A torrential downpour (128 mm) left Saint John, N.B., and Sydney, N.S., with new 24-hr rainfall records. Major highways were flooded, bridges were washed out, and ferry service disrupted.

17 1878 A severe rain, wind, and hail storm crossed southern Quebec between St. Lambert and Laprairie, destroying trees and damaging several barns. "Pieces of ice" 2-3 cm in diameter were reported.

18 1876 A rare marine tornado crossed St. Paul's Island off the northern tip of Cape Breton Island. One man was killed and five buildings were totally destroyed.

19 1942 5000 Canadian troops landed in France in the early morning in the heroic but ill-fated Dieppe Raid. Weather conditions at dawn were perfect: clear skies, light WSW winds, and calm seas. The midday temperature was approximately 21°.

20 1987 Prairie weather was significantly cooler and wetter than normal, with record daily low temperatures being set in several localities. The slump in beer sales was so great that it forced a temporary shutdown of Carling O'Keefe's Calgary brewery.



21 1816 During the "year without a summer" a heavy snowfall on this date covered fields in eastern Canada. (See the story in **Weather Flashes** at the back of the calendar.)

22 1746 From the Hudson's Bay Company archives for Churchill: "Hail Stones 4 3/4 inches in circumference."

23 1986 An Arctic cold wave swept into Yukon. Dawson set a new record low temperature for August of -8.4°. A killing frost and a dusting of snow were evident everywhere. Inuvik received 10 cm of fresh snow.

24 1875 Capt. Matthew Webb entered the water at Dover to begin the first authenticated swim of the English Channel, arriving at Calais 21 3/4 hrs later. He enjoyed clear skies, calm seas, and no wind for most of the swim, but battled adverse tides and choppy seas in the final hours.

25 1988 Intense thunderstorms in the Okanagan brought strong gusty winds which capsized several boats on Lake Okanagan. Severe turbulence flipped a small plane over in flight. The pilot was able to regain control.

26 1870 A tornado near Belleville, Ontario, uprooted trees, unroofed barns, and swept away fences. Thousands of minute toads were seen scattered for several miles along the Kingston Road.

27 1973 A hailstone weighing 290 g and measuring 114 mm across—the largest ever documented in Canada—fell at Cedoux, Sask. Its mass on impact was estimated at 450 g.

28 1986 Strange weather was occurring in Ontario. At Timmins, snow fell for the first time on record during a summer month. Hail was reported at Port Hope and St. Catharines, and waterspouts were sighted over Georgian Bay.

29 1583 Canada's first recorded marine disaster took 85 lives when the *Delight* was wrecked on Sable Island during a storm.

30 1988 Vicki Keith completed a 51-km swim of Lake Ontario, setting a new women's world distance record for the butterfly stroke (38 km) and becoming the first person to swim across all 5 of the Great Lakes. Conditions were ideal, with calm waters, light winds, and water temperatures in the 17-19° range.

31 1967 At Yarmouth, N.S., fog occurred on 85 of the 92 days of June, July, and August.



SEPTEMBER

1 1860 In Ottawa, the Prince of Wales (the future King Edward VII) laid the cornerstone of the Parliament Buildings. Dignitaries undoubtedly appreciated the day's fine weather all the more after a sudden shower the previous evening had drenched them and the Prince at the official welcoming ceremony.

2 1912 The first Calgary Stampede opened under partly cloudy skies. Winds were light from the north and the day's high was a slightly cool 19°.

3 1988 Daily and monthly temperature records fell as warm weather covered the southern half of B.C. Vancouver recorded its warmest September day ever, with a temperature of 29.3°. At Lytton, the mercury soared to 39°.

Labour Day

4 1988 A sudden storm, with 90 km/h winds and waves 2-storeys high, hit the Gulf of St. Lawrence, taking by surprise more than 300 herring boats, which had put to sea in spite of gale warnings. At least 20 vessels were in distress. One boat sank, one overturned, 5 others grounded, and 3 fishermen drowned.

5 1988 Possibly the worst forest fires in North America this century raged out of control in the western U.S., devastating 1.6 million ha of forest, including half of Yellowstone National Park. Prolonged drought was partly responsible for the problem. Returning rains and early snows later in the month helped firefighters regain control.



6 1988 Flood waters in Bangladesh began to recede after it was struck by the worst flood in its history. Nearly three quarters of the country was inundated, at least 1000 killed, and 28 M left homeless. Only a year before, severe floods had killed 600 and damaged 2 million homes.

7 1979 Maritimers cleaned up after Tropical Storm David struck the region on the 6th, causing floods and property losses of \$1 M. Wind gusts exceeded 100 km/h on Grindstone Island.

8 1900 A hurricane and storm tide struck Galveston, Texas, in what was probably the worst natural disaster in U.S. history. The city was covered with 2.5 to 4.5 m of water. More than 6000 people were killed and 3600 houses destroyed.

9 1919 Alexander Graham Bell's experimental hydrofoil, the cigar-shaped HD4, set a world water speed record of 114.04 km/h on Cape Breton's Bras d'Or Lakes. Cape Breton weather was cool and cloudy with light northerly winds, and the water was calm. The high at Sydney was 13°.

10 1813 Early in the morning, Laura Secord left her home at Queenston, near Niagara Falls, and walked 32 km to Beaver Dams to warn of an American attack. According to later accounts, the day was sunny, very hot, and humid.

11 1988 High level smoke from the Yellowstone forest fires produced hazy skies over southern and central Ontario. Two commercial airliners made emergency landings at Toronto after smoke entered the aircraft, alarming passengers and activating cockpit smoke sensors.



12 1986 Residents of southern Ontario and Quebec mopped up after record-breaking rains fell on the 10th and 11th. Up to 150 mm fell in Toronto and over 100 mm in the Ottawa Valley and southern Laurentians. Nearly every city reported power outages and flooded basements and roads. An 11 m dam burst at Lachute, Que.

13 1878 A tropical storm, accompanied by torrential rains, moved into southern Ontario from the Carolinas. Toronto received 78.5 mm of rain on the 13th and a 4-day total of 127.5 mm. Flooding was widespread across southern Ontario. In Toronto, 5 bridges across the Don River collapsed.

14 1658 In the midst of a great storm, Sir Isaac Newton amused himself by measuring the difference between how far he could jump against the wind and how far he could jump with the wind. He was trying to calculate the wind speed.

15 **100 years ago today** Residents of Saint John, N.B., made the best of a cool, drizzly day. High for the day was 16.7°, and precipitation totalled 26.2 mm.

16 1988 A spectacular thunderstorm and torrential rains lashed the lower mainland of B.C., pitching 25,000 homes into darkness, causing floods, and snarling traffic. Hail added to traffic problems on the Lion's Gate Bridge. Strong thunderclaps set off burglar alarms, and telephone equipment failures were common.

17 1876 Significant rains finally came to southern Ontario, ending a 6-week drought and extinguishing many bush fires.

18 1875 An early snowstorm struck eastern Quebec. At Rivière-du-Loup 30 to 40 cm fell, accompanied by gale force winds. Telegraph poles were downed, and fruit and ornamental trees heavily damaged. Snow 60 cm deep was reported on the road between Quebec and Malbaie.

19 1663 From the diary of Samuel Pepys: "Waked this morning with a very high wind, and said to my wife, 'I pray we hear not of the death of some great person, this wind being so high.'"



20 1845 The Adirondack Tornado traversed an incredible 443 km, producing waterspouts across Lake Ontario and Lake Champlain. Damage to trees was extensive across northern New York, Ontario, and Quebec.

21 1942 A massive rainstorm hit the Maritimes on the 20th. By the 21st, Halifax had had 239 mm of rain, a 1-day record for eastern Canada. After 4 days, totals exceeded 350 mm at Stellarton, N.S., and 275 mm at Charlottetown.

22 1877 At Pictou, N.S., an Atlantic storm inundated the harbour, sweeping away part of a wharf. Schooners at anchor were dashed about, and one of them was driven ashore.

23 1934 Snow shovels were out in Edmonton after a storm dumped 22.1 cm of snow.

Autumn: 0:55 EDT

24 1985 An intense storm tracked across the Arctic. Wind gusts reached 106 km/h at Rankin Inlet. In Yukon, winds toppled hundreds of trees and caused power outages. In the Beaufort Sea, huge waves eroded a man-made island and levelled a drilling rig.

25 1950 The Great Smoke Pall, fed by muskeg and forest fires in northern Alberta, spread across North America. On the 26th not only a blue moon but also a blue sun was observed over eastern Canada, the northeastern U.S., and Great Britain.

26 1958 John Dieltenbaker became the first Prime Minister to visit Yukon. It was partly cloudy at Whitehorse with light winds and a maximum temperature of 11.1°.



27 1959 Typhoon Vera, the worst storm in Japanese history, devastated the island of Honshu, killing nearly 5000 people and leaving 1.5 million homeless.



28 1988 The first major fall storm slammed into B.C.'s north coast with 100 km/h squalls and heavy rains. Record September rainfalls were reported at Port Hardy, 99 mm, and Terrace, 106.6 mm, while at Kitimat, 196 mm fell in a 27-hr period, causing flooding and washing out bridges.

29 1899 Winnipeg recorded its coldest September temperature ever: -8.3°. Other September record lows were set on this day in Vancouver (0.0° in 1950) and Montreal (-4.0° in 1980).

30 **Weather Quiz**
Red sky in the morning, sailors take warning. Red sky at night, sailor's delight. True or false? (See inside back cover for answer.)

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

1 **100 years ago today**
The sun shone on Sir John A. Macdonald as he spoke to crowds at a picnic in Halifax. It was a cool but otherwise fine day for picnicking and politicking, with clear skies, light winds and an afternoon high of 14.4°.

2 Some days are more eventful than others, but October 2 is noteworthy because nothing happened on this day. To the best of our knowledge, this date is devoid of major storms, unseasonal heat or cold waves, or untimely frosts and snows. Today's forecast is for no surprises. Enjoy it!

3 1986 Sunny weather over Newfoundland made for excellent viewing of a partial solar eclipse.

4 1851 Fearing arrest because of a fishing dispute, American fishermen chose to ride out a gale rather than seek refuge in Charlottetown harbour. Seventy vessels were wrecked and 150 to 300 fishermen drowned in what became known as the "Yankee Gale."



5 1825 A long, dry summer contributed to the outbreak of the Miramichi Fire which burned out 15,500 km² of land north of the Miramichi River and destroyed the towns of Douglastown and Newcastle. Casualty estimates ranged from 200 to 500 dead.

6 1963 Temperatures across southern Ontario soared into the thirties. Windsor reached an October record of 32°, while Camlachie, near Sarnia, hit 33°. Firemen in these areas were kept busy putting out grass fires.

7 1737 A tropical cyclone struck the Bay of Bengal and the Ganges delta, killing more than a quarter of a million people and sinking 20,000 boats. A 12-m wave inundated islands and lowlands. This is probably the worst hurricane tragedy on record.

8 1988 Up to 4 cm of snow fell at Halifax and Saint John, setting new records for the earliest occurrence of measurable snow at these localities. Previous records were October 9, 1902 and 1943, for Saint John and October 17, 1939, for Halifax.

Thanksgiving

9 1956 A day later, fans were still talking about how Don Larsen had pitched a perfect game—the only one in World Series history—to give the Yankees a 2-0 victory over the Dodgers. Weather at Yankee Stadium on the 8th was also perfect: light winds, clear skies, and temperatures near 18°.

10 1875 A wind and rainstorm struck Nova Scotia, flooding roads, carrying away bridges, wrecking 3 ships, and sweeping away thousands of dollars worth of cordwood and logs. Rainfall at Halifax reached 112 mm, the city's greatest 1-day total for October.

11 1984 Gale winds pounded NW Vancouver Island, the Queen Charlottes, and parts of the North Coast. Winds at Cape St. James reached hurricane force (120 km/h) with gusts to 165 km/h. Ten-metre waves capsized 8 fishing boats and drowned 5.



12 1988 Parts of southern Ontario were blanketed with up to 30 cm of snow. At Alliston, north of Toronto, trees were heavily laden with wet snow. Power was disrupted when the snow melted, and branches suddenly sprang up, knocking out power lines.

13 1930 At Halifax the temperature reached 31.1°, making it the warmest October day in the city's history.

14 1988 Heavy ice formed early along the Alaskan north shore, blocking the southward migration of a group of California grey whales near Point Barrow. The whales were in danger of drowning until American and Soviet rescuers cleared a passage to the open sea for them.

15 1954 Hurricane *Hazel* tracked across the Lake Ontario basin on the 15th and 16th. 214 mm deluged Toronto during 72 hours. Wind and flood damage was extensive and exceeded \$25 M. Eighty people lost their lives. More words have been written about *Hazel* than about any other single Canadian weather event.

16 1785 Black rain fell over much of eastern Canada. Intense darkness and yellowish clouds were thought to be a result of forest fires over western and central Ontario.

17 1880 A fierce autumn gale sank the steamer *Alpena* in Lake Michigan with a loss of more than 80 persons. At least 2 other ships went down in the Great Lakes with further loss of life.

18 1984 Between the 16th and the 18th a snowstorm traversed Alberta and Saskatchewan. At Edmonton over 150 accidents were reported and flight schedules were in disarray. October snowfall at Edmonton was a record 54.1 cm. Regina's 42.8 cm was also an October record.



19 1988 Heavy rain fell across the Maritimes, flooding roads and basements. Truro received 102 mm in 24 hrs, setting a new monthly record.

20 1920 Appropriately, it was wet almost everywhere in B.C. as voters in a provincial plebiscite rejected prohibition. It even rained in Kamloops, one of the driest localities (weatherwise) in the province.

21 1988 High altitude winds from Hurricane *Joan* carried swarms of African locusts into Dominica, St. Lucia, Jamaica, and 5 other Caribbean islands. In Africa, the locust infestation was so bad that clouds of the insects blotted out the sun over Khartoum, Sudan, on September 26.

22 1988 An east coast storm dropped 21 cm of snow during a Saturday afternoon CFL game in Ottawa. The amount of snow easily surpassed the previous October record of 16 cm set in 1962. Montreal Dorval and Mirabel also reported October records with 28 and 21 cm respectively.

23 1918 *The Princess Sophia* grounded on Vanderbilt Reef off the B.C. coast and sank 2 days later. High seas, low visibility, and 90 km/h winds prevented rescuers from reaching the ship. All 343 on board perished. The only survivor was an English Setter that swam ashore.

24 1945 B.C.'s lower Fraser Valley was in the midst of a 3-day rainfall that caused mud slides and diversions of mountain streams east of Abbotsford, disrupting electric railway service. From the 23rd to the 25th, Chilliwack received 248.4 mm of rain.

25 1920 It was drier than a temperance tea party as Nova Scotia voted yes for prohibition. Not a drop of rain fell anywhere in the province on voting day.

26 1983 A severe rain and snow storm accompanied by winds gusting to 130 km/h struck Cape Breton Island and P.E.I. Thousands were left without electricity for up to 15 hours.



27 1988 At Kamloops, B.C., the first fall frost arrived later than it ever had before, surpassing the previous late frost record, set on October 21, 1979. Kamloops also established a new record frostfree period of 200 days. The previous record was 187 days, set in 1980.

28 1879 Rain and increasing easterly winds reached the southern Maritimes, foreshadowing the arrival of a massive fall storm. During the next 2 days, the storm inflicted heavy damage, destroying buildings, sweeping away bridges and wharfs, and wrecking or damaging more than 100 vessels. Several lives were lost.

Standard Time

29 1929 A mild depression moved over New York City, bringing increasingly cloudy skies in the afternoon and rain on the 30th. A much deeper depression settled over Wall Street as share prices plummeted, launching the great stock market crash of 1929.

30 **Weather Quiz**
Can you see a rainbow at night? (See inside back cover for answer.)

31 1988 Cape Dyer, on the east coast of Baffin Island, received 43 cm of snow, bringing the total depth of snow on the ground to 112 cm.

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

1 1956 The temperature reached a balmy 23.3° at Halifax (a city record for November). Two women students from Dalhousie cooled off by swimming 400 m across the Northwest Arm in 10° water.

2 1988 A windstorm with gusts to 100 km/h hit the Quebec City region, breaking tree limbs and damaging roofs. Meanwhile, a 75-cm snowfall in the Laurentians, north of Trois Rivières stranded 35 hunters, some of whom had to be evacuated by helicopter.

3 1988 Fort Nelson, B.C., received 38 cm of snow in total during the first seven days of the month, more than it normally receives for all of November. Travel on the Alaska Highway was very difficult.



4 1980 Vancouver Airport established its all-time November maximum: 18.4°.

5 1975 Winnipeg recorded its highest-ever November temperature: 23.9°. Residents took advantage of one last chance to go golfing, play tennis, or mow the lawn.

6 1969 A freezing rainstorm lasting one week did significant damage to hydro lines between Quebec City and the new Manicouagan River power generator.

7 1875 The ship *Calcutta* was driven aground on the Magdalen Islands by stormy seas while en route from Quebec to Liverpool. A passenger and 22 crewmen lost their lives. The captain and 4 others were saved.

8 1876 New Brunswick was in the midst of a 3-day deluge that derailed 2 trains and washed out roads, bridges, mill dams, and wharves. Rainfall totalled 105.4 mm at Saint John from the 7th to the 9th.

9 1914 It finally rained at Bagdad, California, after 767 days of dry weather, the longest dry spell in American weather history.

10 1983 A small vessel, the *Storm Prince*, encountered a tornadic waterspout off Vancouver Island. The boat capsized with the loss of two lives.



11 1918 On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, World War I ended. It was a sombre day over the western front, with overcast skies and temperatures around 6-8°.

12 1833 A great shower of meteors was visible over North America. The sky was described as "a giant umbrella with flaming spokes." (For more on meteor showers, see **Weather Flashes** at the back of the calendar.)

13 1981 Freezing temperatures and 10 cm of snow at Calgary contributed to 600 traffic mishaps.

14 1986 An intense blizzard with winds to 140 km/h swept Nfld., causing power outages, car accidents, and building damage. Three tractor-trailers aboard a CN ferry overturned outside Port-aux-Basques, and the normal 6 hr crossing from North Sydney took 24 hrs.

15 1927 The lower Fraser Valley of B.C. had a "silver thaw" when rain fell after 3 days of freezing rain. The countryside was a fairland of glittering ice, but power and transportation facilities were a shambles.

16 1988 It's an ill wind that blows no good. While a major snowstorm dumped 30-50 cm of snow on northern Ontario on the 15th, the same system pumped mild air into the southern part of the province, causing temperatures on the 16th to rise to daily record values in the mid to high teens.

17 1927 A storm at Montreal generated 84.3 mm of rain in 1 day and 125 mm in 3 days. The total for November was 306 mm, making it the wettest month on record for the city.



Remembrance Day

18 1879 A fleet of 3 dredges, 2 derricks, and 10 scows being towed by the tug *Seymour* was broken up by heavy snow and gales on Lake Ontario near Oswego, N.Y. The *Seymour* and 5 rescuing tugs were beached or badly damaged, with a loss of 6 lives.

19 1985 A blizzard swept across southern Manitoba, dumping 20 cm of snow. Winds of 60 km/h piled snow into deep drifts. In many rural areas, whiteouts kept school buses off the road. Clean-up costs in Winnipeg alone exceeded \$1.5 M.

20 **Weather Quiz** You don't have a thermometer, but luckily you have a rhododendron. Its leaves have just begun to curl. How cold is it? (See inside back cover for answer.)

21 1988 It was election day, and voters in the Atlantic Provinces had trouble getting to the polls as a major storm brought snow and high winds to northern N.B. and Nfld. and heavy rains elsewhere. By the 22nd, 38 cm of snow had fallen at Chatham and 54.6 cm at Gander. Parts of N.B. were still without power on the 23rd.

22 1988 Hurricane *Joan* crossed Central America and then moved into the Pacific where it was renamed Tropical Storm Miriam. Loss of life and damage to cities and forests was extensive, especially in Nicaragua. Throughout the region, the death toll passed 200 and damage was estimated at \$1.5 billion.

23 1957 It was a cold, windy evening in Winnipeg as the Blue Bombers defeated Edmonton 17-2 in overtime in the Western football final. The wind chill at 8 p.m., when play began, was -25°.

24 **100 years ago today** At Charlottetown, there was a trace of snow and it was the coldest day of the month so far, with a low of -8.3° and a high of -2.2°. Earlier, a consulting engineer had reported favourably on the proposed tunnel to the mainland and was confident it could be built "at moderate cost."

25 1950 Following Toronto's greatest 1-day November snowfall (30.5 cm), the temperature rose to 10° and it rained. The Grey Cup was played despite the quagmire playing field at Varsity Stadium.

26 1984 Dense fog and freezing temperatures created treacherous driving conditions during the morning rush hour in southern Ontario. A 100-car pile-up occurred along the Queen Elizabeth Way.

27 1988 Relief teams searched for survivors and cleared away debris after southern Thailand was devastated by enormous floods. Four villages were engulfed when heavy rains triggered mudslides on hills stripped bare by logging. Early reports placed the death toll near 400.

28 1983 A major wind storm with sustained winds near 115 km/h buffeted New Brunswick. Two thirds of the population were without electricity for 20 hours. A rainfall of 40-80 mm flooded roads and basements.

29 1988 A hurricane-force monsoon struck Bangladesh and eastern India, killing hundreds and destroying homes and crops ready for harvesting. A ship and several fishing boats sank in the Bay of Bengal. Bangladesh had barely recovered from the disastrous floods of September.

30 1917 At Swanson Bay, B.C., this was the end of the wettest month in Canadian weather history. The station's total precipitation for November was 2235.5 mm., an all-time Canadian record.



DECEMBER

1

1988 A sudden wind turned a controlled burn into a major forest fire near Hinton, Alta. Gusts reaching 120 km/h and higher spread flames and grounded water bombers. More than a dozen other forest fires were burning in the province because of the dry conditions.

2

1964 One of the most violent storms in years struck the Maritimes on the 1st and 2nd, with gales reaching gust speeds of 160 km/h. Wind, high seas, and flooding did \$1 M damage. At sea, 3 fishing boats were lost and 23 drowned.



3

1982 Temperatures soared to 22.5° at Hamilton, the warmest temperature ever recorded in Ontario in December. Many golfers were seen, and a man in nearby St. Catharines mowed his lawn.

4

1988 Strong chinook winds blew across Alberta, breaking numerous daily temperature records. At Calgary, the temperature reached 18°.

5

1980 A 3-day snowfall of 100 cm in the Alberta foothills, the greatest in 3 decades, forced schools and businesses to close. Cars were buried in snow on the Crowsnest Highway.

6

1939 Warm air covered the Prairies on the 5th and 6th. Edmonton and Winnipeg recorded their warmest December temperatures, 16.1° on the 5th and 11.7° on the 6th respectively.

7

1983 A major winter storm swept through southern Ontario and Quebec on the 6th and 7th dumping 20 to 40 cm of snow. At Ottawa, 30 cm of snow fell, and 48 km/h winds piled up huge drifts that closed the airport and prevented more than 100 MPs from hearing the Throne Speech.

8

1973 A storm system spread freezing rain, snow, and blowing snow across the eastern Prairies. Regina had 7 cm of snow and 73 km/h winds. Winnipeg received 6 mm of ice pellets and 3 cm of snow. Slippery roads and blowing snow made driving treacherous.

9

1986 During the day, 11 mm of rain fell on Toronto, but during the evening rush hour a fast freeze occurred when temperatures dropped suddenly to -4°. Motorists were caught off guard and ended up playing bumper cars, spin-around, and smash-up derby.



10

1986 Mild Pacific air produced unusually balmy weather across the Yukon, the Mackenzie District, and northern British Columbia. Several daily records were set when temperatures rose to between 10° and 13°. At Fort Nelson, B.C., huskies were bothered by the heat during the annual dogsled races.

11

1905 The mercury at Rivadavia, Argentina, climbed to 48.9°, the highest temperature ever recorded in South America.

12

1927 The worst snowstorm in a decade hit the Vancouver area on the 11th. Between the 7th and the 15th, a series of 3 storms plastered the city with almost 65 cm of snow. Six snowsweepers used over 4 tons of Java swamp cane in cleaning the streetcar tracks.

13

1988 Heavy snow buried parts of the central interior of British Columbia, causing major power outages. Some communities were without hydro for 2 days. Prince George received 30.7 cm in 24 hours, breaking its previous 1-day record. Total snowfall for the 2-day storm amounted to 37.7 cm.

14

1985 Snow began to fall in the Muskoka-Georgian Bay area of Ontario and continued every day till the end of the month. Some isolated areas received as much as 300 cm by year's end. Record snowfalls for December were recorded at Muskoka (194 cm), Sault Ste. Marie (175 cm), and Sudbury (107 cm).

15

1988 In the midst of an Atlantic storm, 27 crew members abandoned the oil rig Rowan Gorilla after it began to sink while being towed from Halifax to Denmark. The crew rode out the storm in an enclosed survival capsule. High winds prevented their rescue until the following day.

16

1876 Southern Ontario experienced bitter northwesterly gales, accompanied by heavy lake snows and falling temperatures. Wind damage was extensive, and at Kingston 4 barges broke away from their moorings. At Toronto, the mercury dropped to -19.4°.

17

1944 A typhoon struck some 90 ships of the U.S. Third Fleet about 800 km east of Luzon in the Philippines while they were refuelling. When the typhoon subsided a day later, 3 destroyers, 146 aircraft, and 790 men had been lost, and 18 other ships had been severely damaged.



18

1979 A week of heavy rains with totals between 500 and 700 mm triggered mudslides and rockslides in southwestern B.C. Roads and rail lines were severed, forcing evacuation of residents and train passengers. Damage costs exceeded \$3 M.

19

100 years ago today Newfoundlanders were preoccupied with the negotiations with France over fishing rights. Somebody probably said, "They'll be arguing about this a hundred years from now." Weather at St. John's was rainy (37.6 mm for the day) and temperatures ranged between -3.9° and 8.3°.

20

1985 During the last 2 weeks of 1985, fog blanketed the western half of B.C., disrupting transportation and forcing thousands to cancel holiday travel plans. Vancouver had 16 days of fog in December; the normal number is 6.

21

1854 From his observatory on Ile Jesus, 15 km west of Montreal, Dr. Charles Smallwood recorded a remarkable temperature fall from -6.6° at noon on the 21st to -35.0° at 6 a.m. on the 22nd.

Winter: 22:07 EST

22

1878 Eastern Ontario and most of Quebec were digging out from the heavy snowfalls of the day before. The same storm also brought rain squalls and fierce gales to the Maritimes, where at least 10 vessels went down with considerable loss of life.

23

1983 125 passengers on the eastbound VIA Continental train arrived in Toronto by plane after -40° weather on the Prairies strapped rails and froze steam lines.

24

1918 Dense log strangled transportation in Vancouver. Nineteen of the city's 180 streetcars were damaged in collisions.

25

1872 Torontonians got a white Christmas, but not the one they were dreaming of. On the 25th and 26th the city received 58.4 cm of snow, its greatest 2-day snowfall on record. Gale-force winds caused massive drifts and combined with -16° to -18° temperatures to produce severe wind chill.

Christmas Day



26

1968 Victoria's snowiest and coldest spell in 20 years began. Over a 5-week period, 120 cm of snow fell. The temperature bottomed at -15.6° on the 29th, an all-time minimum, and the maximum temperature stayed below freezing for 11 consecutive days.

Boxing Day

27

1917 A 3-day freezing rain storm began in the lower Fraser Valley of B.C. Ice accumulated to a thickness of 8-10 cm on wires and brought down more than 550 poles. Chilliwack was without hydro for weeks, and power was not restored to the interurban railway until February.

28

1887 Montreal had a 1-day snowfall of 41 cm, its greatest single-day total for December.

29

1794 Peter Fidler, a Hudson's Bay Company employee and one of the first weather observers in Canada, recorded that Holland gin freezes solid at -17°F, English brandy at -25°F, and rum at -31°F.

30

Weather Quiz
What is the sunniest province in Canada in December? (See inside back cover for answer.)

31

1984 Holiday week weather in Yukon included -50° temperatures, strong winds, and ice fog. All outdoor activity was terminated.



WEATHER QUIZ ANSWERS

January

Victoria, with a snowfall of 53 cm on February 2, 1916.

Although Edmonton, Regina, and Winnipeg all average more than twice as much snow annually as Victoria, none of them has ever received as much snow in 1 day as Victoria.

February

No. The amount of moisture the air can hold decreases with temperature, and thus snow amounts tend to be smaller at colder temperatures, but no matter how cold the temperature, air can always hold enough moisture to produce snow when further cooling brings it below its saturation point.

March

Celsius 232.8

April

Theoretically no, since lightning is caused by the discharge of an electric field that has built up within a cloud. But there have been rare reports of lightning striking from an apparently cloudless sky. Give yourself full marks if you answered yes or no.

May

c) 75

June

B.C. Most of its records are for rainfall (most) and snowfall (most and least), but B.C. stations also hold records for the longest frost-free period, highest average daily and annual temperatures, and greatest average annual temperature range.

July

a) 80 m

August

In terms of the highest and lowest temperatures ever recorded, it's Regina on both counts. Regina's temperatures have ranged from an extreme low of -50.0° on January 1, 1885, to an extreme high of 43.3° on July 5, 1937.

September

True about 60-70% of the time.

October

Yes. They are called moonbows and can display all the colours of the spectrum but generally appear white.

November

About 2° . The amount of curling increases as the temperature drops. At -18° , the curled leaf is about as thick as a pencil. The leaves are horizontal at normal summer temperatures but begin to droop as the temperature approaches freezing.

December

New Brunswick. Most populated parts of the province receive 80-100 hours of bright sunshine. Though some southern localities in other provinces may receive more sunshine that this in December, *averages* in other provinces are reduced either because they have large northerly regions where the length of day is shorter or longer coastlines which experience a greater frequency of low cloud.