

DECEMBER

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January

FEBRUARY

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| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
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| | | | <p>1996: Not a good start to the winter recreation season in BC. The fourth-mildest season in 11 years and the wettest December in 15 years hindered skiing and snowboarding in the North Shore Mountains. 1</p> <p>New Year's Day Last Quarter ●</p> | <p>1872: The first synoptic telegraphic weather reports were received in Toronto from the Ontario towns of Kingston, Port Dover, and Port Stanley. From here they were forwarded to Washington, beginning a daily exchange of weather data between Canada and the US that has continued uninterrupted for 125 years. 2</p> | <p>1912: Hockey became weather-proof. In the first game ever played on artificial ice in Canada, the New Westminster Royals defeated the Victoria Aristocrats 8 to 3 in Victoria, BC. The afternoon temperature at Victoria was 1.2°. 3</p> | <p>1996: Temperatures hit the lowest mark in 2 years in southern Ontario. Morning commuters facing temperatures of -25° encountered frozen doors and sputtering engines. At a Hamilton daycare, it was too cold to take the kids outside, so the staff filled a bin in the middle of the playroom with snow. The children donned snowsuits and played in the "snow box" with shovels and pails. 4</p> |
| <p>1909: Mild weather and heavy rains over the 5th and 6th caused nearly \$100,000 damage to highway bridges and roads in New Brunswick. At Sussex and Saint John, rainfalls exceeded 97 mm. Ice breakup in the southwest branch of the Miramichi River left ice piles 3 m high along the shores. 5</p> | <p>1996: Fog rising from open rivers into the frigid air led to icy road conditions across southwestern Quebec. In Montreal, roadside ramps glossed with black ice or packed with snow doubled as ski jumps as several cars plunged over the edge of elevated expressways. 6</p> | <p>1969: An incredible cold wave began at Edmonton. The temperature remained far below 0°F (-17.8°C) for 26 consecutive days until 2 February. The coldest temperature occurred on the 30th: -39.4°C. For the thousands of residents who stayed north and endured the cold, <i>The Edmonton Journal</i> issued survival certificates claiming, "I lived through Edmonton's record cold spell." 7</p> <p>New Moon ●</p> | <p>1804: Lord Selkirk's diary recorded the weather at Presqu'île, ON (near Trenton): "... the snow still falling heavy, it was in the morning about 15 inches deep which everybody agrees to be the greatest snow that has fallen at one time for 5 or 6 years ... the deep new snow was very heavy for the sleigh." 8</p> | <p>1975: A memorable Prairie blizzard left 3.5-m drifts from Saskatchewan to Lake Superior. The storm lasted 33 hours and created countless emergencies. Winnipeg International Airport was closed for almost 36 hours. Visibility was zero for 14 hours. 9</p> | <p>1996: Military and coast-guard personnel came to the rescue of an American balloonist over the Bay of Fundy. The blizzard that earlier ravaged the US eastern seaboard blew his hot-air balloon off course. Although the American ultimately landed safely in a New Brunswick hay field, the military estimated it cost \$54,000 to send out the search-and-rescue team and aircraft. 10</p> | <p>1996: Warm spring air (15 to 20 degrees above normal in Alberta and Manitoba) flowed across western Canada from Hawaii. The warm spell foiled an attempt by 2 Japanese hot-air balloonists to set a world endurance record. The pair took off from central Alberta but landed near Winnipeg less than 24 hours later. They had hoped to stay aloft for 48 hours, but the warm weather used up most of their fuel. 11</p> |
| <p>1987: Overnight heavy snowfalls and strong winds pounded most of the Maritimes and Newfoundland, closing many schools and government offices. Moncton received 52 cm of snow. In Newfoundland, powerful winds gusting to 126 km/h coupled with the heavy snow resulted in blowing and drifting. Near Channel-Port aux Basques, the "wreckhouse" winds blew 3 tractor-trailers off the highway. 12</p> | <p>1975: At Hall Beach, NT, 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°: one of Canada's worst wind-chill episodes. 13</p> | <p>1995: What a difference a year makes. In 1994, the minimum temperature in Hamilton read -26°. One year later Hamiltonians wore shirtsleeves in mid-January when the mercury soared to 15.6°, breaking the previous record set in 1950. The premature spring warming caused mudslides at construction sites and flooding in basements. 14</p> | <p>1772: Hudson's Bay explorer Andrew Graham recorded that on this day fellow explorer James Ross, after floating adrift on ice in Hudson's Bay for 8 days, had "frozen his fingers quite solid" and "the extremity of his nose was also froze." Ross lost all his fingers and toes as well as the bulb of his nose. 15</p> <p>First Quarter ●</p> | <p>Weather Quiz <i>What is the only Canadian city to make the list of the top 10 coldest inhabited places in the world?</i> (a) Winnipeg (b) Thompson (c) Whitehorse (d) Yellowknife (e) Iqaluit (See inside front cover for answer) 16</p> | <p>1994: Blinded by blowing snow, a woman drove her small car into the back of a transport-trailer east of Edmonton. The unsuspecting transport driver drove off with the vehicle stuck beneath the tanker. For 30 minutes, the coupled vehicles stayed together despite frantic attempts by the woman to break free. Blowing snow kept other drivers from noticing. The truck driver stopped after he heard the car's tires exploding. The woman suffered only a broken ankle. 17</p> | <p>1827: <i>The Canadian Freeman Newspaper</i> reported: "The sleighing was never better in this part of the country than it is at present ... and people ... in York ... are determined to enjoy it with a vengeance by driving over every foot passenger that comes their way." 18</p> |

1993: When Australia's first secretary to Canada arrived in Ottawa, he celebrated his new posting by buying 6 cases of beer, which promptly froze in his garage. The temperature that night fell to -19.2° . Said the senior officer, "I realized this is the only country in the world where you have to put your beer in the fridge to keep it warm."

19

1996: Rescue workers used helicopters, bulldozers, and rubber dinghies to evacuate 1,100 residents from their homes southwest of Montreal when the ice-clogged Chateauguay River flooded its banks. Heavy rains, melted snow, and slabs of ice the size of compact cars—generated by strong winds and 2 days of warm temperatures (13°)—caused the flooding, the worst since spring 1971.

20

1996: Unusually warm weather in Nova Scotia awakened peeper frogs from winter hibernation, endangering their lives when the cold weather returned. The sound of the peeper frog has traditionally hailed the coming of spring in Nova Scotia, usually by late March or early April.

21

1974: Seven persons smothered beneath 1 to 8 m of snow brought down by a large avalanche near Terrace, BC. Prime avalanche conditions existed: record seasonal snowfall, new dry snow, low temperatures, and moderate winds. At Terrace, snowfall from the start of the season to this day amounted to 430 cm.

22

1995: An old underground fuel pipe sprang a leak at Toronto Pearson International Airport. The leak continued for 10 hours while workers tried to break through almost 3 m of frozen sludge in windy, -25° weather. More than 6,000 L of aviation fuel escaped with some flowing into Mimico Creek. The accident forced the airport to shut down for more than a day.

23

1992: A major storm brought snow, rain, freezing rain, and winds gusting in excess of 100 km/h to the Maritimes. High winds tossed small planes about and caused power outages and transportation disruptions. Storm damage included the collapse of a 5-storey apartment building under construction in Dartmouth, NS, and flooding from pack ice in the Antigonish area.

24

1620: At Churchill, MB, the Danish explorer Jens Munk reported that all glass bottles containing beverages had burst in a sudden frost. A cannon also exploded upon firing because the iron had become brittle from the cold.

25

1994: A very rare sighting of a winter waterspout or "snowspout" occurred over Lake Ontario. A photograph showed it to be 500 m high and 100 m wide with a counterclockwise rotation. Winter waterspouts form over open water during unstable and windy conditions at very cold temperatures, often following an Arctic air outbreak.

26

1985: Five snowmobilers went missing for 3 days after setting out for Hopedale from Davis Inlet, a distance of 50 km. They were caught in a blizzard that swept across Newfoundland and Labrador. Two of the missing were Mounted Police. The storm closed businesses and schools in Newfoundland and paralysed Labrador. Winds gusting to 120 km/h in St. John's created waist-high snowdrifts.

27

1996: Brittle temperatures in the upper -30s and -40s brought life to a standstill across Alberta. Ski hills were either partly or completely closed when lifts seized in the cold. Customers consumed electricity at record levels. Officials had to close many rural schools, forcing some students to miss provincial exams. Calgary recorded its longest cold spell (17 days) in 27 years.

28

1996: Overnight temperatures sank to -11° in Vancouver—the second-lowest recording for that date. The wind chill made it feel like -20° . With the abnormal weather, the homeless suffered, water pipes froze, and natural gas burned at record volumes. Calls for automotive assistance were up by 50%. The only good news was that crime was way down.

29

1947: In Regina, a blizzard raged for 10 days. The railway called it the worst storm in Canadian rail history. One train was buried in a snowdrift 1 km long and 8 m deep. A dairy farmer in Moose Jaw, SK, cut a hole in his barn roof and scaled down inside in order to milk his cows.

30

1996: Geraldton, ON, recorded a low temperature of -50.2° , the coldest temperature recorded anywhere in Ontario since 5 January 1959—over 37 years ago. At that temperature, the oil and transmission fluid in cars coagulates into a solid. It was so cold that metal became brittle and outdoor equipment broke down, prompting one resident to say that "molecular motion has slowed up here."

31

Full Moon ○

Last Quarter ●

JANUARY

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February

MARCH

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| | | | | | | <p>1996: Frigid temperatures continued across the Prairies for the third consecutive week. Near Stavely, AB, a farmer used duct tape on the ears of his newborn calves. "I tape their ears alongside their head and that keeps them warm so they don't fall off." 1</p> |
| <p>1976: A Groundhog-Day storm slammed the Maritimes with strong winds, rain, and snow. Saint John was hardest hit with lengthy power outages and extensive destruction to buildings, bridges, and dockyards. Everything in sight became coated with sea salt when winds carried spray far inland. 2</p> <p>Groundhog Day</p> | <p>1991: Since 1 February, more than 130 cm of snow fell along the Skagway highway, which links Skagway on the coast with Carcross and Whitehorse farther inland. To make matters worse, 7 avalanches occurred during the same period, creating snowbanks 10 to 15 m high along the road. Since 30 January, road crews managed to keep the highway open for only 12 hours. 3</p> | <p>1996: Calgary's cold weather sprouted a bumper crop of potholes and cracked road surfaces. An asphalt plant had to be fired up so workers could get a head start on road repairs. About 1,200 residents of neighbourhoods near the Bow and Elbow Rivers received city notices to turn on water taps around the clock. The cold had penetrated up to 3 m into gravel subsoil, threatening service lines. 4</p> | <p>1911: Inspector Fitzgerald of the Royal Northwest Mounted Police "lost patrol" dashed off what was to be his final diary entry: "Can only go a few miles a day." Plagued for weeks by snowstorms, high winds, and frequent -40° to -50° temperatures, the patrol lost its way between Fort McPherson, NT, and Dawson, YT. Its 4 members perished about a week later. 5</p> | <p>1947: Rain, mild temperatures, and ice jams caused extensive flooding in southern New Brunswick. Rising waters washed away over 1,000 m of lumber, damaged wooden bridges, and demolished sections of highways. Two children on their way home from school in Albert County drowned after being swept away by the overflow. 6</p> <p>New Moon ●</p> | <p>1996: Sometimes good can come from the bitter cold and unending snows. In the BC interior, RCMP claimed that motorists had learned to cope with the winter's heavy snowfall and that the number of accidents was about normal. They also added that "there's hardly been any crime at all, because the dirtbags just don't like the cold." 7</p> | <p>1996: In northern BC, snowfall to date was 200 cm, nearly double normal. Temperatures were also below normal. The worst winter in 2 decades claimed 25% of the region's deer population and put at risk a plains bison herd, a species listed as vulnerable. BC Wildlife launched a \$20,000 hay-feeding program near the Alaska Highway and asked people to put out alfalfa, grain, and feed supplements. 8</p> |
| <p>1996: A wet mixture—rain followed by 20 cm of heavy snow—turned to ice across southern Manitoba. Slippery conditions resulted in 3 times the usual number of accidents. Winnipeg tow trucks did a brisk business. However, since even some of them got stuck, they were sent out in pairs. 9</p> | <p>1996: Health officials asked Lethbridge residents to boil their drinking water after warm weather filled the nearby Oldman River with silt and muck following a week of freezing rain and mild temperatures. Officials said the water was unfit for consumption since it was contaminated with Beaver Fever bacteria. 10</p> | <p>1987: Heavy snowfalls and winds up to 100 km/h hit the Maritimes on the 10th and 11th. The storm blocked highways in waist-high drifts and disrupted all modes of transportation, including ferry and air service to PEI. Police ordered snowploughs off highways and city streets because the winds picked up new snow and carried it in blinding sheets across fields and roads. 11</p> | <p>1981: Mild temperatures from 13° to 15°, rain (75 mm in the past week), and gale-force winds colluded to produce extensive flooding across Nova Scotia. The Halifax area endured its worst floods in 40 years. 12</p> | <p>1988: The Winter Olympics opened at Calgary under partially cloudy skies, a temperature of -4.9°, and winds gusting to 74 km/h. Above-normal winds and temperatures were the main weather story of the games. 13</p> <p>Valentine's Day First Quarter ●</p> | <p>1982: The world's largest offshore oil rig, <i>Ocean Ranger</i>, sank off Newfoundland resulting in 84 deaths and at a cost of \$60 M. Search-and-rescue crews battled poor visibility in freezing rain and snow, as well as freezing spray, turbulent seas, and buffeting winds in an attempt to locate survivors. There were none. 14</p> | <p>1965: Politicians unfurled Canada's controversial new maple leaf flag on Parliament Hill. The Ottawa sky was overcast, but the midday temperature was a comfortable -1.1°; the flag was raised under a brisk 25 km/h breeze, which showed off the new emblem to full advantage. 15</p> |

1991: Three Inuit women were found frozen to death in northern Quebec after being caught in a blizzard. Nighttime temperatures dipped to -35° . A 10-year-old boy survived the ordeal by seeking shelter under the snow.

16

1996: A flash flood on the Flat Bay Brook, south of Stephenville, NF, surprised 6 friends. During the night, the men found the icy waters outside their small cabin rising about 20 cm every 10 minutes. Instead of panicking, they used power saws to cut holes in the wall so the water could flow through. At daylight, a military helicopter arrived and plucked them off the upstairs deck.

17

1995: Ferocious 6-m waves lashed by gale-force winds almost pounded a grounded fishing boat to splinters. In the darkness, the 23-m boat ran onto a reef near Bella Bella, BC. Fortunately for the crew, some sea-urchin divers came to their rescue. The divers swam with a rope from the fishboat to the rocky shore.

18

1995: Two cross-country skiers who defied some of the worst avalanche conditions in years died when tonnes of heavy, rain-soaked snow fell on them in a narrow canyon near Banff. A week-old snowfall, followed by relatively warm weather (5 to 10°), created an avalanche hazard in the park. South-facing slopes with maximum exposure to the sun were the most treacherous.

19

Weather Quiz
What do Yoyo, Manyberries, and Goobies have in common?
(a) Canadian weather stations
(b) birth places of Canadian prime ministers
(c) names of ocean weather ships
(d) what Peppermint Patty calls clouds
(e) fictional place names in Steven Spielberg's new natural disaster movie, Twister
(See inside front cover for answer)

20

1995: A commuter plane crashed in snowy conditions while landing at Big Trout Lake, ON. The plane bellied onto a frozen lake about 5 km short of the runway. None of the 9 passengers and 2 crew members were killed, but 2 people were seriously injured. Questions were raised about automatic weather-recording devices that reported no clouds below 3,000 m but visibility of less than 1 km.

21

1993: A winter storm hit the Maritimes with up to 22 cm of snow and a mixture of freezing precipitation and ice pellets, disrupting transportation and closing schools. On the west coast of Cape Breton Island, winds gusted to 172 km/h, sending garbage cans, stones, and even picnic tables flying.

22

Heritage Day

Full Moon 

1994: A 2-year-old youngster "froze to death" outside her parents' home in Rouleau, SK, during a vicious blizzard accompanied by brutal wind chills. The little girl wandered outside at 2 A.M. Her mother found her lifeless body about 6 hours later. The child made the *Guinness Book of Records* with the dubious distinction of surviving with the lowest recorded body temperature. Doctors estimate her core body temperature fell to 14° , some 23 degrees below normal.

23

1870: The *E. Robbins*, carrying a shipload of peas, went down off Sable Island. All hands were rescued with the exception of 2 sailors who were washed off the wreck during the night.

24

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

25

1946: A storm centred around London brought snowfall of 20 to 30 cm from the 25th to the 27th, isolating southwestern Ontario for days. The snow clogged highways and rail tracks and weighted down telephone wires. Aircraft dropped supplies of food and yeast for bread-making into nearby fields to be recovered by skiers and snowshoers.

26

1958: Described as the worst ice storm since the 1920s, a "silver thaw" struck St. John's, cutting heat and light to thousands of homes between 27 February and 2 March. Freezing precipitation fell for 43 hours, coating branches and wires with 6 cm (diameter) of ice. The added stress from strong winds gusting to 72 km/h felled power and utility wires.

27

1986: Record mild temperatures near 18° occurred across Alberta. The deep snow cover melted rapidly. The St. Mary and Oldman Rivers overflowed their banks, drowning 100 head of cattle. Avalanches were a threat in the back country of the Rockies.

28

FEBRUARY

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March

APRIL

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| | | | | | | <p>1991: A late winter storm slammed into southwestern BC during the first 2 days of March. Victoria's spring flowers lay beneath 10 to 15 cm of snow, and outside the city as much as 35 cm of snow fell. On the Trans-Canada Highway near Abbotsford, 40 cm of snow and strong winds caused a 100-vehicle collision involving a Greyhound bus and several cars and logging trucks.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1</p> |
| <p>1990: In the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the worst ice jam in a decade trapped 22 ships between Cape Breton and Newfoundland. Some ships had been stuck for a week. Coast Guard icebreakers pounded through ice up to 7 m thick to lead convoys of ships to open water.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">2</p> | <p>1947: After one of the greatest Ottawa snowstorms this century dropped 73 cm of snow in 2 days, an anonymous reporter for an Ottawa newspaper wrote, "If the old timer wants to tell you about the big snowstorm of '04, kick him right in the teeth, because this writer has been around a long time, and he never saw anything like this. This snowstorm has everything. The city is tied up like a pretzel."</p> <p style="text-align: right;">3</p> | <p>March 4: A legendary date for blizzards and huge snowfalls. In 1966, it snowed in Winnipeg for 2 days; total accumulation was 35 cm of snow and winds blew at 120 km/h. In 1971, a huge storm paralysed Montreal for up to a week; 47 cm of snow and 100 km/h winds produced huge drifts. In 1985, freezing rain followed by 25 to 35 cm of snow resulted in Toronto's first snow emergency in 2 years.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">4</p> | <p>1996: January's deep freeze rendered the surfaces of Kalamalka and Okanagan Lakes into solid ice, the thickest in more than 2 decades. During mild March weather, the heavy ice shifted, breaking shore pilings and crushing boat docks. Dzens of homeowners along the shores faced expensive repairs.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">5</p> | <p>1993: A severe winter storm carrying large amounts of rain and freezing rain (28 mm) and packing strong winds did millions of dollars in damage to the southern Manitoba hydro grid. Hydro crews used a new technique to remove ice. Sections of line were isolated from the system and subjected to high current loads for up to 30 minutes. This heated the lines enough to melt accumulated ice.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">6</p> | <p>1903: An express train bound for Channel-Port aux Basques, NF, with about 25 passengers was finally moving at speed after being blocked by snow near Kitty's Brook for 17 days. The snow had fallen for 15 days and formed drifts of 4 to 7 m. Through his running commentaries, a telegraph operator aboard the stranded train kept the country apprised of the desperate situation.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">7</p> | <p>1906: Heavy snowfalls hampered the Yukon Quest dog sled race from Fairbanks, Alaska, to Whitehorse, YT. Since the beginning of March, Whitehorse had received 47 cm of snow, establishing a new March snowfall record.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">8</p> |
| <p>Last Quarter ☾</p> | | | | | | <p>New Moon ●</p> |
| <p>1987: Winds compacted the ice against the east coast of Newfoundland, disrupting shipping, including ferry service between Fogo and Change Islands. Staples were in short supply in the island communities, necessitating a major airlift of food and supplies.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">9</p> | <p>1996: Chinook temperatures and a residue of snow and ice triggered flash flooding and sewer backups throughout south Calgary. Workers pumped 13 cm of cold water out of the basement of one church after a sump pump failed. Said the church handyman, "They were all upstairs singing their hearts out while I was pumping away down here."</p> <p style="text-align: right;">10</p> | <p>1992: Environment Canada issued Canada's first weekly ozone warning, a service to help Canadians decide whether to take precautions such as wearing a hat, sunscreen, or sunglasses to protect themselves from ultraviolet radiation. The first report showed ozone levels in western Canada at 15% below average and in the rest of Canada at 5% below the 20-year average.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">11</p> | <p>1869: A train took 2.5 days to travel from Montreal to Toronto. A storm had trapped it 5 km east of Gananoque early on the 10th. It was dug out the morning of the 11th. After a fresh sleeping car was added, the train left Kingston at 9:00 P.M. Early on the 12th, passengers had to trudge 5 km through deep snow, past 2 derailed trains, to another train. They arrived in Toronto at 11:00 A.M. on the 12th.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">12</p> | <p>1968: Canada Post issued a 5-cent stamp to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Canada's first long-term, fixed-point weather observations. On 10 September 1768, William Wales and Joseph Dymond took the first weather readings at Fort Prince of Wales, Churchill, MB; observations several times daily by barometer and thermometer continued until 27 August 1769.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">13</p> | <p>1995: Record-breaking warmth prevailed across Ontario. Temperatures ranged from 9° at Thunder Bay to 22.4° at Sarnia. The balmy weather played havoc with the World Nordic Ski Championships in Thunder Bay. Sloppy ski conditions forced some postponements. To ensure race courses remained slick, organizers placed a special cloth made of fiberlene and diesel-soaked towels on the slushy snow.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">14</p> | <p>1891: Up to 42 cm of snow fell in New Brunswick and gusts of 200 km/h whipped across Cape Breton Island. Off Nova Scotia, hurricane-force winds churned up 15- to 20-m seas. A 177-m ship sank in heavy seas 175 km south of Cape Sable Island, NS, with all 33 of its crew lost at sea. Twenty-metre waves were reported in the area. Also, a wind gust of 210 km/h occurred at Grand Étang.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">15</p> |
| | | | | | | <p>First Quarter ☽</p> |

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|---|--|--|--|--|---|---|--|
| <p>1868: Following a dense fog, storm clouds blackened the sky in a small section of south-eastern Toronto. Extremely strong winds and a blinding hailstorm caused immense property destruction, serious injuries, and 1 death. The storm, described as the most severe the city had ever seen, did not extend beyond Queen Street. The city's weather observatory recorded an average wind speed of only 30 km/h.</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 2em;">16</p> | <p>1993: The "storm of the century" hit Nova Scotia on the 13th and 14th and left a fine layer of salt accumulation on power-line insulators. Power outages, from Bridgewater to Halifax, resulted when the layer of salt was exposed to the mild, damp weather of the 17th.</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 2em;">17</p> | <p>1993: The fifth major storm to hit the Maritimes this month brought heavy snow, rain, freezing rain, and strong winds, and caused schools and businesses to close. In parts of northern New Brunswick, the temperature dropped 25 degrees in 18 hours. In Newfoundland, Gander received a daily record snowfall of 58.6 cm. For the first 18 days of March total snowfalls were 115 and 100 cm at Moncton and Halifax, respectively.</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 2em;">18</p> | <p>1885, 1964: Yarmouth, NS, recorded 68.6 cm of snow—the greatest 1-day total on record for any station in Nova Scotia. The greatest 1-day snowfall in Quebec also occurred on this date in 1964 when 99.1 cm fell at Cape Whittle.</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 2em;">19</p> | <p>1995: Melt waters, caused by spring runoff after several days of near -15° temperatures, flooded the Placer Dome gold mines in Timmins, ON. Officials evacuated the mine and brought in heavy-duty pumps to reduce water levels in 1 shaft.</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 2em;">20</p> | <p>Weather Quiz Residents of which province are least likely to report personal health problems brought on by weather? (a) Ontario (b) Quebec (c) Newfoundland (d) British Columbia (e) Saskatchewan (See inside front cover for answer)</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 2em;">21</p> | <p>1894: The first Stanley Cup game was played before 5,000 fans on natural ice at Montreal's enclosed Victoria Rink. The evening temperature was -1°, down slightly from +1° in the afternoon. Montreal AAA defeated Ottawa Capitals 3 to 1.</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 2em;">22</p> | |
| <p>St. Patrick's Day</p> | | <p>Spring Equinox 08:55 EST</p> | | | | | |
| <p>1987: A roaring avalanche killed 7 skiers on a central BC mountain 180 km north of Kamloops. The victims had no time to react and were dragged almost 1 km down the mountain by the wall of snow.</p> <p>World Meteorology Day Full Moon ☉</p> <p>1848: A wind-driven ice jam near Buffalo caused Niagara Falls to run dry. More than 5,000 sightseers jammed roads to see the spectacle. A few daredevils walked out on the dry river bed and picked up relics of the War of 1812.</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 2em;">23</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 2em;">30</p> <p>Easter Sunday</p> | <p>1949: Mild weather melted snow and ice, causing flooding and road wash-outs in Sussex, NB. Workers barricaded the Royal Bank of Canada building with gravel to prevent water from Ward's Creek from entering the cellar.</p> <p>1949: Newfoundland became Canada's tenth province. Midday weather at St. John's was cloudy with winds from the east-northeast at 22 km/h and a temperature of 1°.</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 2em;">24</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 2em;">31</p> <p>Last Quarter ☾</p> | <p>1989: Solar flares caused an enormous geomagnetic storm that stopped the flow of electricity to 6 million Canadians. The intense magnetic fields induced current overloads in the transmission system, blowing fuses and breakers.</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 2em;">25</p> | <p>1992: BC experienced a very early and sensational spring. Agricultural crops were 3 to 5 weeks ahead of schedule. On the down side, low-level ski areas closed early because of poor snow conditions, and in Prince George, mosquitoes made their appearance a full 6 weeks early.</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 2em;">26</p> | <p>1946: An unexpected heat wave caught Winnipeg residents by surprise. Men removed their overcoats and women discarded their stockings as a record-high March temperature of 23.3° was recorded. Flowers and vegetables sprouted so quickly their growth was almost visible.</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 2em;">27</p> | <p>1964: Following the strongest North American earthquake this century, a 67-m tsunami—the largest ever observed in North America—was recorded off Valdez, Alaska. It swept down Canada's west coast at speeds up to 720 km/h. It killed more than 100 in Alaska, devastated the Vancouver Island community of Port Alberni, then went on to kill 11 more in California.</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 2em;">28</p> <p>Good Friday</p> | <p>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 that destroyed 22,000 cords of pulpwood at the E.B. Eddy plant in Hull and severely damaged the Alexandria Bridge.</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 2em;">29</p> | |

MARCH

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April

MAY

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SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

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| | | <p>1914: Seventy-seven sealers froze to death on the ice during a violent storm off the southeastern coast of Labrador. At the height of the storm, from 31 March to 2 April, the temperature was -23° and winds were from the northwest at 64 km/h.</p> <p>1</p> | <p>1988: Easter weekend was cloudy and wet throughout most of Ontario as thunderstorms dumped 10 to 45 mm of rain. Northwestern Ontario was the exception, with plenty of sun and record warm temperatures on the 2nd and 3rd. Dense fog on the 3rd closed Toronto Pearson International Airport for most of the evening, delaying all flights by several hours.</p> <p>2</p> | <p>1993: A couple of slow-moving storms south of Nova Scotia brought a mixture of snow, rain, and freezing rain to the Maritimes during the first 4 days of April. On the 3rd, police closed the highway from Saint John to St. Stephen, NB, for 5 hours after towers supporting high-voltage power lines collapsed under heavy ice buildups.</p> <p>3</p> | <p>1968: Five fishermen lost their lives on Lake Huron at Goderich. The weather was mild when they set out early in the morning but towards evening a gale, with winds from the west, forced ice into the mouth of the harbour, preventing them from reaching shore. They tried to row 20 km south to Bayfield, but their boats were swamped, and the men drowned.</p> <p>4</p> | <p>1951: Ice jams in the Saint John River basin caused flooding until the 14th, resulting in 1 drowning and considerable damage to buildings, roads, and rail lines. The highway from Campbellton, NB, to Matapedia, PQ, remained closed under a metre of water for several days.</p> <p>5</p> |
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| <p>1980: A small tornado lashed Altona, MB, with powerful winds and 40 mm of rain. Hail covered the ground to a depth of 13 cm. Winnipeg had marble-sized hailstones.</p> <p>6</p> | <p>1876: 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 and 54 mm of rain.</p> <p>7</p> | <p>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, MB, with the day's temperatures ranging between -13.2° and -19.9°.</p> <p>8</p> | <p>1983: The attempt by British adventurer David Hempleman-Adams to walk alone to the North Pole ended. A violent polar storm with high winds and temperatures of -34° was a key factor in his decision to scrub the expedition.</p> <p>9</p> | <p>1985: Low-level wind shear, a violent phenomenon that can cause airplane crashes, was the probable culprit in the death of 152 snow geese in Manitoba. The birds were found within 100 m of each other in a field near Carman. It is thought that the wind slammed the geese into the ground, inducing fatal internal injuries.</p> <p>10</p> | <p>1993: Ice jams along the Saint John River and its tributaries flooded low-lying areas of western New Brunswick. Behind the Lord Beaverbrook Hotel in Fredericton, workers began filling sandbags as the water rose. In the hard-hit area of Perth-Andover, on 12 April, about 300 people were evacuated from their homes and half of the local hospital's patients were sent home.</p> <p>11</p> | <p>Weather Quiz On 5 April 1936, a devastating tornado ravaged Tupelo, Mississippi, killing over 200 residents. One of the lucky survivors was an infant by the name of: (a) Jimmy Swaggart (b) Jerry Lee Lewis (c) Newt Gingrich (d) Elvis Presley (e) Jackie Robinson (See inside front cover for answer)</p> <p>12</p> |
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| <p>Daylight Saving Time Begins</p> <p>1984: A severe, 2-day ice storm covered all of south-eastern Newfoundland with 25 mm of glaze. St. John's was without electricity for days, and the daily papers were unable to publish. Over 200,000 residents in the Avalon Peninsula were without electricity for up to a week, and kerosene heaters were in short supply as people looked for other methods of heating their homes.</p> <p>13</p> | <p>New Moon ●</p> <p>1980: During thunderstorms at Kelowna, BC, gusts up to 139 km/h tore off roofs and downed electrical and telephone poles. At one point, a wall of dust reached 100 m in height. Temperatures dropped 10 degrees in 15 minutes.</p> <p>14</p> | <p>1912: "Skies were clear at the time, with no moon, and the sea was 'like glass.' A large Arctic high was situated almost directly above the Titanic. Even a slight wind would have caused ripples at the base of the iceberg, making it easier for the lookout to spot, and perhaps providing enough warning to have avoided the collision." Rob Paola, Environment Canada meteorologist and member of the Titanic Historical Society</p> <p>15</p> | <p>1987: North of Calgary, the mild winter (temperatures peaked at 16° in January and 21° in early March) and unharvested grain fields produced the worst infestation of field mice in 40 years.</p> <p>16</p> | <p>1974: The Moose Jaw River and 2 creeks, which join in the city of Moose Jaw, SK, overflowed their banks and cut the city in half on the 18th and 19th. The rising waters deluged about 60 city blocks and 480 homes. Rescuers evacuated 1,400 people. The flood severely damaged several bridges and dams and disrupted essential services.</p> <p>17</p> | <p>1633: At Quebec City, "on the 18th and 20th of April, it thundered loudly and violently, with sharp flashes of lightning, and yet the river was still frozen, and the ground white with snow; this showed us that there was heat in the air, and these snows and this cold were accidental and contrary to the nature of the climate." Letter from Father La Leune to Superior Father in France</p> <p>18</p> | <p>1989: A light plane was forced to land on Highway 17 near Wawa, ON, during a snowstorm.</p> <p>19</p> |
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1993: Severe weather moved through southern Ontario producing thunderstorms, small hail, and wind gusts approaching 100 km/h. Winds uprooted trees and destroyed a barn and greenhouses near Barrie. A tornado near Bancroft knocked over 1 person and uprooted a track of trees 1 km long.

20

1984: A winter-long drought over most of the southern Prairies, along with above-normal temperatures for several weeks, left southern Manitoba very dry and in the grip of its worst spring forest-fire season. More than 70 fires had already consumed 14,000 ha of bush and prairie.

21

1985: April weather extremes across southern Ontario included frequent snowfall, tree-toppling gales, a tornado, severe thunderstorms, and hail. Finally, on the 22nd, the thermometer at Toronto reached 30.3°, a new monthly record, and, as it turned out, the warmest temperature there all year.

22

1986: Ice jams led to flooding in northern New Brunswick and Matapedia, PQ, from 23 April to 5 May. Covered bridges, boom piers, and highways were swept away. Water submerged rail tracks and forced residents from their homes. High waters in several major river basins swept away a large quantity of logs.

23

1990: Two locomotives derailed north of Sault St. Marie, ON, when a section of the rail line collapsed due to soft ground caused by spring thaw. More than 20,000 L of diesel fuel spilled into a nearby creek.

24

1986: Three lives were lost as 4 fishing trawlers sank in a coastal storm near BC's Queen Charlotte Islands. Winds exceeded 115 km/h. Many other boats got into trouble when the weather deteriorated faster than expected. Helicopters plucked 22 fishermen from the cold Pacific waters.

25

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

26

1854: A spell of warm weather on the 24th and 25th was accompanied by violent squalls, thunderstorms, and heavy rain in southwestern Ontario. A severe snowstorm followed on the 27th. Several boats were lost on Lakes Michigan and Huron. North winds pushed huge quantities of ice into the St. Clair River, impeding navigation for a week.

27

1967: The International World Exposition (EXPO '67) opened at Montreal under sunny skies, with a temperature of 13°, winds at 8 km/h, and a visibility of 48 km.

28

1967: A 3-day snowstorm, beginning on the 27th, gave Lethbridge a 24-hour snowfall record for any month of 53 cm. For the first time in history southern Alberta was declared a disaster area as thousands of cattle starved on the open range, unable to forage for food in the deep snow. Good news, though, for storm-stayed residents: the federal minister of revenue granted them a 2-week extension for filing income tax.

29

1919: A severe snowstorm struck southern Alberta near Trochu and continued until 2 May. Heavy snowfalls and a strong north wind left drifts up to 10 m, halting trains for a week and killing large numbers of livestock. When a spell of unusually warm weather followed, the melting snow flooded lowlands.

30

Passover
Earth Day
Full Moon



Last Quarter



APRIL

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May

JUNE

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| | | | | <p>1984: A raging windstorm forced postponement of the ball game between the Blue Jays and the Rangers after 5 pitches and 2 outs. Winds of 100 km/h blew players out of their positions and swirled dirt around like BB's. The wind was especially tough on players wearing contact lenses and on vendors selling popcorn.</p> <p>1</p> | <p>1984: Rapid snowmelt in the upper Saint John River and heavy rains in the 30 to 40 mm range caused severe flooding as the river rose over 7 m near Fredericton. Flood waters closed the Trans-Canada Highway for 3 days between Jemseg and Fredericton and inundated hundreds of homes.</p> <p>2</p> | <p>1989: Snowmelt and ice jams on the Liard River caused the worst flooding here in a decade. Nine hundred residents were evacuated from Fort Simpson, NT, at the junction of the Liard and Mackenzie. Half the town was flooded. The local airport looked like a miniature lake with huge ice slabs floating around the tops of hangars. Ice floes nearly 2 m thick were left in the streets when the waters receded.</p> <p>3</p> |
| <p>1988: A storm with violent winds, heavy rains, and snow struck the Maritimes from the 2nd to the 4th. On Cape Breton Island, winds gusted to 148 km/h, and at Sable Island, rainfall totals exceeded 100 mm. Lobster fishermen lost over 5,000 traps, including 60 to 70% of those on Pictou Island.</p> <p>4</p> | <p>1990: A windstorm along the Pacific coast, rare for this time of year, capsized dozens of small boats and downed trees and power lines in the Victoria area. At Prince George, winds fanned several fires and caused extensive property damage, prompting more than 200 insurance claims.</p> <p>5</p> | <p>1915: "The ice first broke in front of Ruby (Alaska) ... yesterday it entered upon its final departure ... It was the tamest breakup Ruby has ever had. Last year the breakup was quiet, but this year it was pointless. Last year ... Fred Kline got his peg leg stuck in the mud and was almost crushed by a rush of ice." <i>Ruby Record Citizen, 15 May 1915</i></p> <p>6</p> | <p>1995: In the wake of the Canadian-European "cod wars," high winds made it impossible to place observers on Spanish and Portuguese boats off eastern Newfoundland. The more than 30 fishing observers were in 2 patrol vessels—the European Union's <i>Kommandor Amalie</i> and Spain's <i>Atalaya</i>. But the sea, 400 km east of St. John's, where the transfer was to be made, was too rough for the inflatable boats that were to carry the observers from the patrol ships to the trawlers.</p> <p>7</p> | <p>1987: Unusually warm, dry weather helped seeding but aggravated the forest-fire situation on the Prairies. Strong winds fanned a forest fire at Wallace Lake, MB, destroying approximately 70 cottages. One of Saskatchewan's worst forest fires in 30 years burned north of Prince Albert.</p> <p>8</p> | <p>1926: An easterly gale pushed high tides over the top of many wharves along the waterfront at Newcastle, NB. As the flood receded, some logs were carried away.</p> <p>9</p> | <p>1993: A fire 60 km west of Kasabonica, ON, near the community of Longdon, forced the evacuation of 15 women and children to Pickle Lake. Meanwhile, a fire in the Red Lake district, which had no nearby water, was finally brought under control by running water through a hose over 10 km in length.</p> <p>10</p> |
| <p>1987: The herring vessel <i>Flintstone II</i> went down about 8 km southeast of Point Escuminac, NB. Three bodies were recovered. There was no obvious cause for the sinking. Sky conditions were generally clear, and winds were from the northwest at 27 km/h in the early morning.</p> <p>11</p> | <p>1991: In eastern Quebec, a storm with winds gusting to 106 km/h downed trees, causing power failures in Chicoutimi, PQ. Rain coupled with snowmelt produced flash flooding on the Gaspé Peninsula and in the lower St. Lawrence. The Matane and Ste-Anne Rivers overflowed, inundating roads and forcing the evacuation of several homes.</p> <p>12</p> | <p>1986: Dry Windjack of Edmonton is luckier than most: he was struck by lightning and lived to tell about it. Dry was pulling his golf cart and holding an umbrella when lightning suddenly hit the ground, travelled up his feet, and exited through the umbrella. It burned all his nerve tissue and other delicate body tissues. It took him 3 years to recover.</p> <p>13</p> | <p>1986: A blizzard with 80 km/h winds and knee-deep snow surprised southcentral Alberta. The 2-day storm—described as the worst spring storm in Alberta's history—affected more than 1 million people. The storm cut power to dozens of communities and hundreds of farm houses. Less than a week later, temperatures climbed into the mid-30s.</p> <p>14</p> | <p>1884: A tornado, 0.5 km wide, touched down west of Elora, ON, destroying barns, stables, and fences. In Goldstone, the twister tore the roof off the Canada Methodist Church, damaging the organ and furniture. Winds also blew over dozens of cemetery monuments.</p> <p>15</p> | <p>1974: Between 14 May and 2 July, the Gatineau River in Quebec experienced its most serious flooding in nearly 75 years. Floods inundated more than 1,000 homes and 600 summer cottages. Continually rising waters eventually drove 3,000 residents to evacuate. The flood affected one-third of the town and caused \$2.9 M in damages. Damage also occurred downstream in Wakefield, Chelsea, and Pointe-Gatineau.</p> <p>16</p> | <p>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, NF.</p> <p>17</p> |
| Mother's Day | | | First Quarter | | | |

1950: Described as the greatest flood disaster in Canadian history, the Red River crested at 9.2 m above normal near Winnipeg. In all, 100,000 people were evacuated. Losses were enormous: 5,000 homes and buildings damaged, and \$550 M in property losses. Flood waters submerged more than 1,600 km² of rich Manitoba farmland and nearly a quarter of Winnipeg.

18

1860: A tornado struck near Aurora, ON, demolishing homes and tearing up fences, trees, and orchards along a path 0.5 km wide. Four children playing in an open field were nearly carried away—2 were held to the ground by an older brother. The twister emptied half the water from Lake Wilcox and hurled cattle and sheep into the air. Hailstones over 8 cm in diameter accompanied the tornado.

19

1995: A snowstorm dumped 11.4 cm of wet snow on Calgary during the long weekend. In less than 10 hours, Calgary got a month's worth of snow. Ironically, it was the worst weather-related storm hydro officials faced all winter. At least 20 feeder circuit failures left more than 24,000 homes in the dark. Southwest of Calgary in Kananaskis country, campers woke to a 30-cm snowfall. Commented one camper, "It's really hard to shovel snow with a dustpan."

20

1953: A family of tornadoes in southwest Ontario caused 5 deaths and 41 injuries. In Sarnia, the storm levelled 12 blocks of the business district. Water sprinklers went on automatically and ruined stock in stores. Property losses totalled \$8 M. Eyewitnesses described the noise of the tornado as similar to the sound of an express train. One tornado picked up a small car and dashed it against the front of a building.

21

1987: Rick Hansen arrived at Vancouver's Oakridge Shopping Centre in perfect weather: sunny skies, excellent visibility, temperature of 17°, and winds southeast at 11 km/h. More than 10,000 people welcomed the "man in motion" to the place where the tour began 26 months and 40,000 km ago.

22

1991: The week's second frost hit the Annapolis Valley. Nighttime temperatures plunged to -3°, severely damaging tender apple and other fruit blossoms. Specialists estimated frost nipped between 40 to 80% of the valley's fruit trees. Buds that survived produced mostly spoiled or deformed fruit. In many orchards and fields, workers sprayed water all night in order to prevent frost from damaging the strawberry and blueberry crops.

23

1959: A squall line embedded with 2 small tornadoes travelled near Crystal City, MB. One tunnel moved directly over a house, sucking out windows; it also destroyed 1 barn and badly damaged another.

24

Victoria Day

1990: A rare reversal of wind direction from east to west over the Prairies caused a band of Saskatchewan dust to land in Edmonton. During the duststorm, winds were as strong as 85 km/h. The soil covered Edmonton streets with wheat seed, and thick dust prompted breathing problems. *The Edmonton Journal* recorded one farmer's comments: "Edmonton can keep the wheat ... all they have to do is harvest it and bring it home."

25

Weather Quiz
In 1803 Luke Howard, an English weather hobbyist, devised a scheme for classifying cloud types into cirrus, cumulus, and stratus. What was Howard's occupation?
(a) Latin professor
(b) artist
(c) druggist
(d) ship captain
(e) sheep herder
(See inside front cover for answer)

26

1895: A light rain shower in Winnipeg on a warm afternoon in May included huge black ants about the size of wasps. Described as similar to the African ant, the winged insects covered sidewalks, roads, and roofs, and entered homes. The day's rainfall total amounted to 8 mm, and the high temperature was 22°.

27

1989: A 40-cm fall of wet snow stranded 8 Saskatchewan teenagers on an outdoor-education class in Cypress Hills Provincial Park, forcing them to spend over 24 hours in 1 pup tent. Rescuers brought them home the next day. One teenager described the ordeal as "cold, wet, clammy, and gross."

28

1914: The CP liner *Empress of Ireland* collided with a Norwegian collier in the St. Lawrence River 300 km seaward from Quebec City. The liner sank in 25 minutes, and 1,024 passengers lost their lives. There were reports of shallow river fog. The weather at Île d'Anticosti and Quebec, however, was clear with light northeast winds.

29

1961: The most intense rainstorm ever in Canada, 250 mm in under 1 hour, occurred at Buffalo Gap, SK. Accompanied by heavy hail and strong winds, the torrents of water washed out roads, eroded fields, and even peeled bark from several large trees. The land was stripped clean of soil and vegetation. Strong winds moved an empty boxcar upgrade for 55 m.

30

1995: Flooding in southern Alberta could have contributed to an outbreak of botulism that killed more than 30,000 ducks at Pakowki Lake, 90 km south of Medicine Hat. The bacteria that causes botulism can lie dormant in soil but come to life after flooding. Officials speculated that the high water levels and subsequent warm weather and receding water could have caused such an outbreak.

31

Full Moon ○

Last Quarter ●

MAY

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June

JULY

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| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
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| <p>1986: Three tornadoes ripped through parts of Saskatoon and cut a 2-m swath through the middle of a nearby farm house. High winds and hail damaged roofs and windows. Lightning struck an abandoned building, setting it on fire.</p> <p>World Environment Week</p> | <p>1986: Arctic air covered Quebec for several days. On the 2nd and 3rd, a killing frost damaged up to half of the corn, tobacco, potato, and strawberry seedlings in the St. Lawrence Valley and Eastern Townships. In the Lac St-Jean area, frost-damaged blueberry fields resulted in losses of \$3 M. Minimum temperatures were 3 to 6 degrees below freezing—new low temperature records for June.</p> | <p>1990: Severe thunderstorms ripped through southern Ontario, toppling trees and hydro poles. There were numerous reports of minor power failures and flying patio furniture. One person touched a downed hydro wire and was electrocuted. Toronto's Pearson International Airport set a new record of 107 km/h for the highest peak gust ever recorded for June.</p> | <p>1993: Thunderstorms moved through the Maritimes causing a number of damaging lightning strikes. A small plane flying from Bathurst to Halifax was forced to land at Moncton after being hit by lightning. Lightning killed 1 man and injured another while they were berry picking near Memramcook, NB. A church in Halifax was also damaged.</p> | <p>1995: On the 5th and 6th, heavy rains up to 270 mm caused extensive flooding on BC's Elk River and across southern Alberta from the foothills to the Saskatchewan border. High waters forced 4,000 people from their homes in Medicine Hat. Rivers were already swollen from melting mountain snows and a quick spring melt. Flood waters washed out roads and triggered cave-ins and mudslides.</p> <p>World Environment Day New Moon</p> | <p>Weather Quiz <i>The irrational fear of thunder is termed:</i> (a) keraunophobia (b) katatunphobia (c) cumulonimbusphobia (d) brontophobia (e) sphericphobia (See inside front cover for answer)</p> | <p>1985: Tornado touchdowns at Parkhill and St. Thomas, ON, uprooted fruit orchards and damaged several houses. Giant hailstones as large as 10 cm in diameter accompanied the storm.</p> |
| <p>1995: Warm air reached Ellesmere Island in the High Arctic. A temperature of 11° marked the earliest occurrence of a +10° reading at Eureka. The previous warmest temperature on this date was 9.3°.</p> | <p>1816: Ice was reported on ponds, and residents across eastern Canada and New England enjoyed sleigh rides during "the year without a summer."</p> | <p>1993: A lightning strike near a home in Hammonds Plains, NS, cut a 5-m-long trench in the ground, throwing turf and tree roots onto a nearby road. The house suffered no damage, but lightning snapped a clothesline and damaged a bug zapper, startling the already shaken residents.</p> | <p>1830: Fort York's military chaplain complained that it was very inconvenient for the troops to have to "march so far (5 km) to the place of worship particularly when the weather and roads are so unfavourable during a greater part of the year in this country." In June he added, "The roads were in such a state as to prevent the troops from attending church for 4 successive Sundays."</p> | <p>1878: A violent hailstorm "with hailstones as big as pigeon eggs" struck near Lachute, PQ. The storm delayed a train on the Montreal, Ottawa, and Occidental Railway for 10 minutes and cracked windows in 1 passenger car.</p> | <p>1930: A mixture of blowing dust and heavy rain produced a shower of mud at Provoost, AB. Buildings were left caked with grime.</p> <p>First Quarter</p> | <p>1994: In his weekly column, astronomer-author Terence Dickinson recounted 1 of only 3 known instances in Canada where people were nearly struck by rocks from space. Shortly before sunset, a cyclist from St-Robert, PQ, heard a whooshing noise overhead. Seconds later he noticed the cows from his father's farm huddled over a hole. At the bottom of the hole was a half-buried, 2-kg meteorite with a freshly scorched surface.</p> |
| <p>1860: Lightning struck and shattered a willow tree near Galt, ON. Hundreds of dead fish covered the surface of a nearby stream where the lightning charge had been conducted by the tree roots.</p> | <p>1995: A Justice of the Manitoba Court recessed a trial because the jury room was too hot—a sweatbox was what he called it. The windowless jury room was without air conditioning over the weekend as deliberations progressed in an assault case. During the week, Winnipeg daily high temperatures ranged between 34° and 38°.</p> | <p>1995: Backyard gardens in Melville, SK, looked like chopped coleslaw following a devastating rain and hailstorm. Flood waters submerged city streets and hundreds of basements. Among the carnage were new cars on dealership lots and several satellite dishes, all pummeled, sporting holes the size of tennis balls.</p> | <p>1927: While a family at Elfros, SK, ate supper, a tornado picked up their home and carried it nearly 20 m, killing 1 family member. Their buggy was found in a tree 2 km away. The tornado cut a swath 11 km long and 60 m wide through bush country, clearing out thousands of trees and piling them in heaps up to 15 m high on either side of its path.</p> | <p>1989: Eight tornadoes were reported across central Saskatchewan. Winds gusting to 130 km/h uprooted trees, tore off shingles, blew over granaries and sheds, and caused power failures. The worst damage occurred near Blaine Lake, northwest of Saskatoon, when hail shredded crops soon after the tornado. Winds lifted a 23-m mobile home enroute from Estevan to Edmonton and dumped it in a ditch.</p> | <p>1995: A series of storms packing 90 km/h winds swept across Manitoba, knocking down trees and power lines, tearing shingles off roofs, and ripping boards from fences. In Winnipeg, it rained stones (small pebbles flying through the air) that broke car windows. The Red River Exhibition lost its main tent. At shopping centres, the winds sent grocery carts flying through the grounds.</p> <p>Full Moon</p> | <p>1858: From the Hind expedition at Pine Creek, MB: "On the afternoon of this day a hailstorm of unusual violence caused us to halt. The stones penetrated the bark of our canoes and broke off the gum ... The same evening ... the sun set in gorgeous magnificence, with a brilliant rainbow and vivid flashes of lightning in the east."</p> <p>Summer Solstice 4:20 EDT</p> |

1985: In the 5th inning of a ball game between the Toronto Blue Jays and the Boston Red Sox, it started to rain. The game resumed 3 hours and 16 minutes later, marking one of the longest rain delays in baseball history.

22

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

23

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°.

24

1995: A storm packing powerful winds and hail the size of tennis balls spawned a series of funnel clouds as it ripped through central Alberta. In Boyle, 160 km northeast of Edmonton, rain flooded the streets. The winds blew off the top of the RCMP doghouse, surprising the police dog inside.

25

1930: Following 2 days of torrid heat, thunderstorms erupted across eastern Ontario. Without warning at about 5 P.M., lightning struck the bow of the *John B. King* drill ship in the St. Lawrence River near Brockville. Dynamite in the ship's hold exploded, splitting the craft apart, killing 30 and injuring 11 crew members.

26

1993: Thunderstorms moved through BC's interior. Lightning injured 3 golfers in the Kamloops area. Buffalo Lake reported 8 cm of pea-sized hail on the ground. In the Central Interior, heavy rains over the 27th and 28th caused \$500,000 damage along forestry roads. A beaver dam failed on a plateau above Prince George, releasing about 3,500 cubic m of water and spewing mud, logs, and other debris onto residential streets and lawns.

27

1991: Numerous lightning strikes accompanied severe thunderstorms in the Maritimes. Hail the size of golfballs fell in Nova Scotia; in New Brunswick it was the size of softball. A building in Amherst, NS, suffered the most damaging strike, resulting in a fire that destroyed much of the downtown core.

28

St. Jean Baptiste Day

Last Quarter ●

1984: A farmer from Didsbury, AB, who lost his underwear when he was struck by lightning, says he was lucky not to lose his life. The farmer's plastic baseball cap had melted on his head. His shirt was torn between the shoulders, where the lightning struck him. His blue jeans were shredded from waist to heel. Underneath, only the waistband of his shorts remained.

29

1897: A tornado near London, ON, shattered barns and flattened orchards. A horse-driven vehicle and its 2 occupants were lifted off the road and hurled into a ditch. The twister threw chickens to the ground with such force that some were found with their heads buried in the earth.

30

JUNE

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July

AUGUST

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| | | <p>1886: "Elaborate preparations had been made for the due celebration at Edmonton of the anniversary of confederation ... The morning opened cloudy, with a tendency to drizzle ... this turned to clearing weather during the forenoon ... the afternoon turned out windy and showery ... The only accident occurred to D.E. Noyes, who had his nose injured by the handle of the sledge which slipped from D. Maloney's hand as he was throwing it in the sledge competition." <i>The Edmonton Bulletin, 3 July 1886</i></p> <p>Canada Day</p> | <p>1991: Severe thunderstorms at Prince George, BC, caused heavy flooding. The airport received 15.4 mm of rain in 25 minutes. Extensive hail fell in the downtown area. At Clucluz Lake, 50 km west of the city, a tornado uprooted trees and scattered debris.</p> | <p>1987: A torrential downpour at Glen Abbey Golf Course near Oakville, ON, forced officials to suspend play three and a half hours through the 2nd round of the Canadian Open, the first time a round could not be completed in the Open's 78-year history. Less rain fell north of Toronto at the site of the Weatherman's Golf Tournament.</p> | <p>1995: Thunderstorms with torrential rains and walnut-sized hail stalled over the Edmonton region. Hail formed drifts and plugged storm sewers, causing extensive flooding. Road crews cleaned city streets with snowploughs, and rescue teams used rubber dinghies to pick up marooned motorists. In southeast Edmonton, an enormous sinkhole 17 m long, 8 m wide, and 5 m deep opened, exposing gas, sewer, and power lines.</p> <p>New Moon ●</p> | <p>1948: A tornado at Yorkton, SK, damaged the grandstand and fairground buildings. The twister drove beams, 25 cm in diameter, from the grandstand into the sides of the Exhibit Building 100 m away. Beams were also thrown upright into a lake bottom several hundred metres distant.</p> |
| <p>1975: A giant hailstone weighing 249 g fell during a 13-minute hailstorm on a farm southwest of Wetaskiwin, AB.—one of the heaviest hailstones documented in Canada.</p> | <p>1985: Clean-up continued, following a tornado that struck Mississauga, west of Toronto, the previous day. There were 10 injuries, and damage totalled \$400,000. The storm forced a 90-minute delay of the Canadian Open at Glen Abbey.</p> | <p>1915: Heavy rain and strong winds on the 8th and 9th caused the Miramichi River in New Brunswick to flood. The shore opposite Newcastle was strewn with some 12 million m of logs that had been swept away when booms broke. Agricultural land at Napan Bay was covered with silt and mud. Total damage from the flood and loss of logs exceeded \$10 M.</p> | <p>1995: Tropical Storm Barry dumped heavy rains—78 mm—along Nova Scotia's coast. Storm sewers backed up and several cars stalled in flooded streets. After 1 driver flipped his car 3 times upon hitting water on a highway just outside Halifax, police warned motorists off the roads.</p> | <p>1983: Lightning killed 18 head of cattle west of Brandon, MB, and a tornado caused about \$5 M damage to property at Pennant, SK.</p> | <p>1936: At Winnipeg, the temperature rose to a record 42.2°, the highest in the city in the 124 years records had been kept. "In fact, it was so hot a farmer saw a dog chasing a rabbit, and they were both walking."</p> | <p>1995: Dry weather in several Prairie cities meant a generally bug-free summer. Typically, mosquito traps in Winnipeg contained from 5 to 100 a night, compared to thousands per night in 1991. One explanation was <i>El Niño</i>. With this Pacific Ocean warming, mild winters and dry summers mean less standing water where mosquitoes breed and hatch.</p> <p>First Quarter ●</p> |
| <p>1995: From the 13th to the 16th, temperatures soared to 35°C in saunlike conditions across southwestern Ontario. At least 500,000 chickens and turkeys died in their pens.</p> | <p>1953: There are no records of hailstones killing anybody in Canada. Wildlife and livestock are less fortunate. Once, hailstones pounded a 270-kg hog to death. Wild birds are at greatest risk. On this day, a hailstorm over Alberta killed 3,000 ducks and thousands of other birds, such as owls and song-birds. Four days later another hailstorm killed 27,000 ducks in the same area.</p> | <p>1995: Thunderstorms and tornadoes packing hurricane-force winds cut paths of destruction from Haliburton to the Ottawa Valley. Winds in the most severely damaged area ranged from 150 to 200 km/h. The winds blew around 1-tonne round bales of hay as if they were breakfast cereal, and 13-m trailers were tossed 0.25 km away. Total damage exceeded \$20 M, making the storm complex one of the most destructive in the province's history.</p> | <p>Weather Quiz <i>Where is the safest place to be during a tornado?</i> (a) bathroom (b) bedroom (c) kitchen (d) front porch or balcony (e) car <i>(See inside front cover for answer)</i></p> | <p>1989: Lightning tore a crack over 2 m long through a bedroom wall at a home in Moose Jaw, SK, after striking the radio-TV antenna. The blast ripped through the bedroom wall and scorched off pieces from a living room mirror.</p> | <p>1989: During outdoor celebrations for the annual "Folk on the Rocks" in Yellowknife, a thunderstorm dumped 20 mm of rain to go along with the music. Lightning blew out several electrical transformers, leaving residents without power for 2 hours.</p> | <p>1949: A tornado touched down at Chéneville, PO, for about 3 minutes, devastating the small village. The cyclone toppled church steeples, uprooted trees, and twisted power and telephone lines. Damage totals exceeded \$200,000.</p> <p>Full Moon ○</p> |

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| <p>1989: Rainfalls up to 160 mm caused heavy flooding in southwestern Ontario. It was the heaviest rainfall ever recorded in Canada east of the Pacific coast. The storm swept cottages into Lake Erie, swamped roads and crops, and cut communications. Tragically, sheet erosion washed away some of the best agricultural soil in Canada.</p> | <p>1991: Intense lightning and severe thunderstorms dropped hail—2 to 3 cm in diameter—and over 50 mm of rain on Newfoundland's Avalon Peninsula. The storm was responsible for power outages and local fires.</p> | <p>1990: Al Unser Jr. won the Molson Indy at Exhibition Park, Toronto, after heavy rain (19.2 mm) prompted officials to shorten the race to 94 laps from the scheduled 103 laps. Several race cars spun out on the rain-slicked road surface. Unser explained, "I think they were right to stop it because you couldn't see, especially on the straight."</p> | <p>1992: Record rains for this day were not welcome during the local Peachfest celebrations at Penticton. The more than 28 mm that fell brought haying to a halt and damaged cut hay drying in the fields.</p> | <p>1907: A tornado at Osage, SK, destroyed a house and furniture. Whirling winds stripped feathers off fowl and hurled the birds into the air. At Heward, the vortex carried a mattress (unoccupied) 3 km away.</p> | <p>1975: An enormous clean-up began at St-Bonaventure, PQ, the day after a tornado demolished half the town, killing 4 and causing \$1 M damage. The cyclone destroyed 100 buildings and toppled the town's water tower.</p> | <p>1995: A tornado touched down in Fredericton. The twister, confined to a narrow path, tore the roof off a government building and destroyed a tennis court dome. Rains of over 17 mm caused local flooding.</p> |
| <p>1979: In less than 1 hour, a violent thunderstorm dumped 50 to 75 mm of rain on Calgary, causing flooding and power outages. Hail was piled to a depth of 25 cm in some places.</p> | <p>1995: A 14-year-old boy in Brampton, ON, was helping set up a backyard Hindu prayer service when lightning struck the tent. The lightning bolt travelled along plastic-coated wires, injuring the boy, his uncle, and a 5-year-old cousin. The teenager suffered massive brain and heart damage and died later in hospital.</p> | <p>1993: Thunderstorms in the Montreal area dumped as much as 53 mm in 1 hour, prompting flash flooding and power outages. The Bonaventure Highway had to close when it became inundated with 1 m of water. Later, the same line of thunderstorms rolled into Sherbrooke, cutting power to 30,000 subscribers. At Val D'Or, heavy rains—66.6 mm in less than 6 hours—submerged 10% of the town.</p> | <p>1995: A massive "wall of wind," called a plough wind, blasted through Dxbow, SK, and surrounding area for about 10 minutes. The wind littered streets with shingles, insulation, pieces of wood and glass, and tree branches, and blew the top off grain elevators. A plough wind has the force and fury of a tornado, but not the rotation.</p> | <p>1987: In 1 hour of rage, a series of tornadoes struck Edmonton, killing 27, injuring more than 200, and leaving 400 homeless. The storm, the most damaging in Canadian history (to that date), toppled transmission towers and blew apart a giant oil tank. Damage was estimated at \$250 M.</p> | | <p>Last Quarter ①</p> |

JULY

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August

SEPTEMBER

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| | | | | | <p>1990: Hurricane Bertha and its 120 km/h winds soaked PEI and the eastern half of Nova Scotia, causing extensive flooding and property damage. Rainfalls exceeding 130 mm flooded parts of the popular Ingonish Beach Golf Course. South of Nova Scotia, 7-m waves snapped the keel of a cargo ship, taking 6 lives—21 were rescued.</p> | <p>1993: More than 1,000 people showed up to a free all-you-can-eat Giant North Country Buffet at Yellowknife's Long Lake Park. The featured main course was barbecued char, muskox, and caribou. And the weather was near perfect with a maximum temperature of 23° and no measureable rain.</p> |
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| <p>1872: Sanford Fleming's account of a storm at Portage la Prairie, MB: "At 4 P.M. ... we saw that we were in for a storm ... overhead, was a swollen black cloud ... The atmosphere was charged with electricity on all sides, lightning rushed towards the earth in straight and zigzag currents ... with the wind came rain—thick and furious; and then hail—hail mixed with angular lumps of ice from half an inch to an inch across, a blow on the head from one of which was stunning."</p> | <p>1994: A tornado at Aymer, PQ, near Ottawa, with winds of 180 to 330 km/h, cut a path of destruction 8 km long and up to 300 m wide. The worst of the storm lasted 10 seconds. The twister injured 15 people—mostly cuts and bruises from flying debris—and damaged 284 buildings, 10 of which were destroyed. Damage totalled \$5 M.</p> | <p>1994: Scientists specializing in tree-aging discovered pine logs dating back to the late 1100s floating undisturbed in a small lake in Algonquin Park. Some of the logs were up to 1 m in diameter and 27 m long. The trees died and fell in the lake in the early 1500s. It is believed that the lack of large waves kept the logs from breaking up over the centuries, while year-round cold waters acted as a preservative.</p> | <p>1995: A record 1-day rainfall for August of 41.7 mm scrubbed the biggest outdoor concert of the year in Victoria. For the first time in 6 years, Victoria Symphony's Splash Concert was silenced. It would have been uncomfortable even without the rain. The day's high of 15°C was the coolest afternoon temperature on record for this day.</p> | <p>1995: A storm system from Montana produced spectacular weather across southern and central Saskatchewan. Heavy rain and hail the diameter of a loonie struck communities near Cypress Hills. A wall of dust in a plough wind knocked down grain bins and bent or broke many trees. At Cabri, a resident watched empty 5-gallon pails blow 0.5 km away. In one area, lightning detectors recorded up to 75 strikes per minute.</p> | <p>1912: Heavy rains caused flooding throughout most of New Brunswick from the 8th to the 12th. Rising waters washed out bridges and railroads, damaged hay crops, drowned cattle, and carried away a number of lumber booms. When 1 boom burst, about 1 million m of lumber drifted downstream of Fredericton.</p> | <p>1976: Heavy ice stranded 19 people 130 km south of Clyde River, NT, for over 2 weeks. The group had set out on snowmobiles for summer hunting and camping. They survived on seal meat and water. Rescuers flew in helicopters to evacuate a mother and her 3 children, aged 11 months to 9 years, but 13 members of the group stayed behind waiting for the ice to leave the area so they could return by boat.</p> |
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| <p>New Moon ●</p> <p>1935: A severe windstorm at Carberry, MB, flattened 2 barns, unroofed homes, shifted a grain elevator a few centimetres, downed telephone lines, and drove some freight cars down the track for 2 km even though the cars' brakes were set.</p> | <p>Civic Holiday</p> <p>1880: A violent hailstorm devastated farming areas near Galt, ON. At Dumfries, hail drifts 60 cm high remained on the ground the next day.</p> | <p>1990: In BC, 500 new forest fires ignited over the 11th and 12th. On the 12th alone, nearly 12,000 lightning strikes were recorded across the province. A large number of fires were burning in the Vancouver area.</p> | <p>1995: Newfoundland wildlife officials in St. John's reported a missing moose. They were about to capture it when it wandered through some residential areas. When lightning knocked out lights, the moose escaped. Orizzle and fog patches hindered the search. In the morning, police asked residents to help out. At last sighting, the moose was wearing a brown fur coat and antlers, and had a tranquilizer dart sticking in its rump.</p> | <p>1995: Hot, humid weather led to another round of severe thunderstorms in southern Ontario. When a tornado touched down south of Barrie it rekindled memories of the devastating tornado of May 1985. In Toronto, lightning struck a woman talking on the phone. She was treated for a rapid heartbeat.</p> | <p>1995: Although Hurricane Felix was 1,300 km south of Nova Scotia, the storm spawned enormous rollers along the province's south coast, prompting lifeguards to close all but 1 supervised beach. Sightseers crammed the coastal highway, creating a 15-km jam. Yachts and cruise ships headed for cover in Halifax harbour to avoid seas that piled breakers 2 storeys high and moved as fast as a freight train.</p> | <p>1894: At midmorning, citizens of Buffalo, NY, saw an image of Toronto with its harbour and downtown church spires. A side-wheel steamer heading from Rochester to Toronto was also discernible in this "superior mirage." An intense temperature inversion caused straight-line light rays to curve downward over Lake Ontario, creating the mirage. The air over Toronto must have been perfectly layered and stable to project such clear detail 180 km away.</p> |
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1989: At Rimbey, AB, 143 km south of Edmonton, lightning struck 3 crude-oil tanks, splitting 1 that contained about 700 barrels of oil and setting it on fire. It took 90 minutes to douse the blaze.

17

1989: A herd of 30 caribou, thought to be killed by lightning, were found dead next to a trench in the ground, northeast of Yellowknife. A pilot flying over the scene speculated that the lightning had probably dug the trench.

18

Weather Quiz
Most victims struck and killed by lightning die because of:

- (a) heart attack
- (b) third-degree burns
- (c) charred blood vessels
- (d) exploded intestines
- (e) suffocation

(See inside front cover for answer)

19

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 it forced a temporary shutdown of Carling O'Keefe's Calgary brewery.

20

1992: Snow began to fall in southern and central Alberta on the 21st, leaving as much as 60 cm by the time it ended on the 23rd. It was Edmonton's earliest snowfall since record-keeping began in 1884. The weight of the snow broke tree branches, downing power lines and causing severe crop damage. The Alberta foothills and southwestern Saskatchewan also experienced several overnight frosts.

21

1995: Smoke from fires in northwestern Quebec moved over the Maritimes. Visibility was less than 1 km in some locations, causing breathing distress for many people. In Halifax, the sun shone, but poor visibility forced the grounding of private aircraft. In eastern Quebec, smoke darkened Roberval to such a degree that it triggered the town's automated street lights.

22

1987: Strong northwesterly winds caused an "upwelling" phenomenon on Lake Ontario, pushing warm surface water to the lee shore. Water temperatures on the southern shore were 20° or more. On the northern shore they were a mere 5°.

23

Full Moon ○

1927: In southern New Brunswick, torrential rain and high winds resulted in heavy seas and flooding. Rising waters undermined bridges and washed out approaches to bridges. Numerous basements, several boats, and field crops were also damaged extensively.

24

1725: *Le Chameau*—reputed to be the fastest ship in the French navy—sank with 310 passengers, including many distinguished guests. The ship was caught in a raging storm near Louisbourg, Cape Breton Island. The storm was so violent that "even strong swimming pigs washed ashore drowned." Cargo included 11,000 silver coins and 3,000 gold coins—the payroll for French troops in New France.

25

1995: Fierce thunderstorms packing 100 km/h winds ripped through southern Saskatchewan, flattening farm buildings and leaving knee-high drifts of hail. Pilot Butte bore the brunt of the storm. Winds damaged every property (440 homes) in town and stripped all trees bare. A nearby cement plant was flattened. Unofficial reports put property losses in excess of \$20 M.

26

1991: A severe tornado, packing winds of 250 to 330 km/h, tore through Maskinongé, PQ, north of Lac St-Pierre. The storm, described as "27 seconds of terror," completely destroyed or severely damaged 90 buildings, including a senior citizen's residence. Over 100 people were homeless, and 15 were injured. Miraculously, there were no deaths. Power was out for 2 days after the storm downed 100 hydro poles and 6.5 km of wire.

27

1827: PEI residents observed a meteorological rarity—a lunar rainbow—as the full moon shone through a shower of rain.

28

1995: Yet another severe weather system swept across Saskatchewan this summer. A tornado, lasting 2 minutes, wiped out several farms near Spring Valley, south of Moose Jaw. Winds ripped grain bins from concrete foundations, crushed barns into tinder, bent a swather in two, and drove blades of straw into the flesh of hogs. So narrow was the storm's path that a farmer swathing a few miles away didn't know his farmyard had been destroyed until he arrived home.

29

1991: Winds gusting to 120 km/h during heavy thunderstorms overturned 16 aircraft at Gatineau Airport, PQ.

30

Last Quarter ●

31

1967: At Yarmouth, NS, fog occurred on 85 of the 92 days of June, July, and August—surely one of the most depressing spells of weather in Canadian history.

September

AUGUST

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| | <p>1950: A tornado bounced along an 80-km path from Rycroft to Eaglesham, AB, causing considerable damage to granaries, machinery, and crops. At Eaglesham, the tornado destroyed a home, severely injuring a child.</p> <p>1</p> | <p>1986: Abnormally low temperatures for most of 1986 created heavy ice conditions throughout the eastern Arctic. The ice pack prevented the cruise ship <i>World Discoverer</i>, attempting to sail through the Northwest Passage with the help of an icebreaker, from making any headway in Peel Sound, so the "cruise" was terminated.</p> <p>2</p> | <p>1879: The Toronto Industrial Exhibition, later the Canadian National Exhibition (CNE), opened for the first time in Toronto. Weather on opening day was overcast, with rain showers (7 mm), moderate to fresh winds, and an afternoon high temperature of 21.7°.</p> <p>3</p> | <p>1995: A Labour Day thunder and lightning storm woke many Victorians. The noise was loud enough to start dogs howling and send cats running for cover. Thunderstorms are not a common occurrence in the Victoria region, numbering about 3 each year.</p> <p>4</p> | <p>1881: A yellowish green fog covered northeastern North America—the result of forest fires in Michigan and Ontario. The air was very still and hot, and filled with debris and smoke. Near Lake Huron, fires burned 20 villages, killed 500 people, and caused \$3 M in damage.</p> <p>5</p> | <p>Weather Quiz If one considers heat, cold, flood, drought, tornadoes, and tropical storms, which country has the worst weather on Earth? (a) United States (b) Canada (c) Bangladesh (d) China (e) Philippines (See inside front cover for answer)</p> <p>6</p> |
| | <p>Labour Day New Moon ●</p> | | | | | |

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| <p>1991: A wild hailstorm moved across Calgary, causing \$300 to \$400 M in damages—a record insurance loss for any single storm event in Canadian history. Companies flew in adjusters to handle nearly 80,000 property claims. The 30-minute storm split trees, flooded basements, and broke windows and siding. Raging sewer waters blew off manhole covers and plugged catch basins.</p> <p>7</p> | <p>1775: Independence Hurricane struck the Atlantic region with full force, driving fishing boats onto the Grand Banks. The storm drowned 4,000 sailors, most from the British Isles. It also tore off roofs, crumbled chimneys, and flattened buildings in St. John's.</p> <p>8</p> | <p>1989: Hurricane Gabrielle passed 500 km south of Sable Island, NS, producing record-high sea swells and waves that battered sections of the Nova Scotia coastline. A wave-riding buoy at the mouth of Halifax harbour measured one wave height at 9.2 m. The seas swept away a man walking along the shoreline at Gill Cove.</p> <p>9</p> | <p>1954: All of Canada was celebrating the feat of Marilyn Bell, who, on 9 September, became the first person to swim across Lake Ontario. During her swim, the maximum/minimum temperatures were 19.1°/11.0°, winds east-southeast at 12 to 16 km/h, visibility 12 km, and precipitation zero.</p> <p>10</p> | <p>1995: A monster 29-m wave slammed into the <i>QE II</i> as it crossed the Atlantic. The wave—caused by the seas being whipped up by Hurricane Luis—hit the ship at 02:05 hours off the coast of Newfoundland. Maximum winds at the time were 210 km/h. At 29 m, the waves were the height of an 11-storey building! Officials have applied for an entry in the <i>Guinness Book of Records</i>.</p> <p>11</p> | <p>1986: Residents of southern Ontario and Quebec mopped up after record-breaking rains 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, PQ.</p> <p>12</p> | <p>1954: Hurricane Edna was responsible for 3 days of heavy rainfall, exceeding 100 mm, in northern New Brunswick. The storm swept away sawmills and covered bridges. Marooned cattle had to be rescued by boat and barge. Landslides blocked roads, and floods washed away telephone poles. Up to 10,000 cords of pulpwood broke loose and drifted into Chaleur Bay.</p> <p>13</p> |
| | | <p>First Quarter ●</p> | | | | |

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| <p>1882: The steamer <i>Asia</i> sank in Georgian Bay during a fierce gale; 126 people lost their lives.</p> <p>14</p> | <p>1970: One of the most severe storms ever observed over the Beaufort Sea developed on the 13th and moved to the eastern side of Victoria Island by the 15th. The highest sustained wind speed on land was 75 km/h at Tuktoyaktuk on the 14th. Winds generated waves of over 9 m offshore and 1.5 m onshore and pushed massive ice floes onto the coast. The storm caused property damage and some loss of life.</p> <p>15</p> | <p>1984: Pope John Paul II arrived in Winnipeg on his cross-Canada tour under clear skies with brisk autumn winds. Afternoon temperatures were a comfortable 22°. Winds were out of the south at 54 km/h.</p> <p>16</p> | <p>1981: Lightning ignited 40 small forest fires around Swan Hills, AB. The spot fires burned within a 40-km radius of the town, placing its 2,500 residents on evacuation alert.</p> <p>17</p> | <p>1995: Cold Arctic air plunged temperatures below freezing across the Prairies. In Calgary, soft drizzle turned into 12 cm of snow. Within a few hours most of the snow covering lawns and trees had melted, but it was a reminder of how short the warm season had been. A surprise snowfall on the Victoria Day weekend meant that Calgary had a meagre 118-day period free of snow.</p> <p>18</p> | <p>1846: A huge steamer, the <i>Great Western</i>, suffered structural damage—unusual for so large a ship—when it was caught in a severe storm off Nova Scotia. On the Grand Banks of Newfoundland, the gale was described as "the most severe they have ever experienced."</p> <p>19</p> | <p>1845: The Adirondack Tornado traversed an incredible 443 km, producing powerful waterspouts across Lake Ontario and Lake Champlain. The waterspout stayed well offshore in Lake Ontario, passing over the steamboat <i>Express</i> on its regular run. Passengers and crew aboard other vessels also spotted the spout, accompanied by hail and thunderstorms, near midnight. The family of tornadoes uprooted thousands of trees across northern New York, Ontario, and Quebec.</p> <p>20</p> |
| | | <p>Full Moon ○</p> | | | | |

1992: A snowstorm on the 21st felled power lines and brought transportation to a standstill across northern Manitoba. At Thompson, 13 cm of snow fell—within 0.3 cm of the September record for the greatest 1-day snowfall.

21

1989: Remnants of Hurricane Hugo produced heavy (50 to 75 mm) rainfalls in southern Ontario and Quebec. This was the seventh time a near-hurricane passed through Ontario since 1900, and the most severe since Hazel in 1954.

22

1934: Snow shovels were out in Edmonton the day after the city's greatest September snowfall—22.1 cm.

23

1950: The Great Smoke Pall, fed by muskeg and forest fires in northern Alberta, spread across North America, darkening skies in eastern Canada and in Europe 2 days later. The eerie skies frightened millions. Before explanations were aired on radio, listeners guessed the noon-hour darkness was the result of an eclipse, a Russian smoke screen, a terrific storm brewing, or the end of the world.

24

1991: Two days of heavy rains and strong winds began in New Brunswick, leaving over 100 mm of rain at Saint John and Sussex. At Saint John, 58.1 mm of rain fell in 24 hours, and strong winds, up to 95 km/h, downed trees and caused power outages. Flood damage was minor.

25

1988: In the midst of 5 days of rain, which on this day amounted to 15 mm, strong thunderclaps set off burglar alarms in BC's Lower Mainland. Telephone equipment failures were widespread.

26

1995: Eight people died when a plane carrying a logging crew to Campbell River, BC, from Kitimat plunged through thick fog into a wooded hill. Rescue workers traced a radio beacon to the wreckage-strewn site and found the camp cook—1 of 2 survivors—in shock, wandering in the foggy woods.

27

Autumnal Equinox 19:56 EDT

Last Quarter 

1933: Strong winds damaged buildings and property throughout Kamloops and nearby districts. The storm downed dozens of trees and telephone lines and blew down enough apples to fill at least 14,000 boxes.

28

1950: Smoke from forest fires in western Canada covered much of the eastern US. Daylight was reduced to nighttime darkness in parts of the northeast. Sun colour varied from pink to purple, blue, or lavender. Yellow to grey-tan was also common.

29

1986: Water outflow from Lake Ontario reached record levels in September, averaging 844 billion L per day. This is 26% above normal and the most water ever measured in 125 years of record-keeping on the Great Lakes. It was also 10% more than the flow of the Mississippi River, giving the St. Lawrence first place, for at least a month, among the rivers of North America.

30

SEPTEMBER

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October

NOVEMBER

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| | | | <p>1923: A storm with strong north-easterly winds above 110 km/h pounded Atlantic Canada. Coupled with high tides, the storm destroyed at least 60 bridges on PEI. 1</p> <p>New Moon ●</p> | <p>1993: There were record warm temperatures across northern BC. It was the warmest October day ever at Fort Nelson (26.7°) and Terrace (21.4°). Despite the warmth and dryness, the pine mushroom season was extremely profitable. Prime specimens earned in excess of \$100 (tax free) per pound. 2</p> <p>Rosh Hashanah</p> | <p>1816: From Parson Dibblee's diary during the "year without a summer" in Woodstock, NB: "We have had very uncommon cold weather, and frost as severe as the end of November in common years. The cold weather has prevented the wheat from ripening ... Corn entirely killed. No vegetables. Turnips very poor. The country was never in so distressed a situation. Never colder this time of year. Never, never such weather." 3</p> | <p>1922: A fire started when sawmill workers near Elk Lake, ON, were burning brush. The flames spread rapidly in high winds, engulfing villages, outlying farms, and lumber camps from Haileybury to Englehart. Forty-three people died, and 6,000 were left homeless. Damage reached \$6 M. 4</p> |
| <p>1995: Hurricane Opal sideswiped Ontario. At 78.6 mm, this was Toronto's wettest October day since Hurricane Hazel in 1954, when 121 mm fell in a 24-hour period. The driving, steady rain flooded streets and basements, and the wind, which gusted to 83 km/h, toppled trees and downed power lines. The storm caused heavy damage to tall foliage. 5</p> | <p>1967: Ucluelet, BC, recorded a single-day rainfall of 489.2 mm, the greatest ever to have occurred in Canada. 6</p> | <p>1853: The ship <i>Fairy Queen</i> encountered strong northwest winds enroute from Charlottetown to Piclou, NS. The captain and some crew members fled in a lifeboat as the ship began to sink in the heavy seas. Only 9 of the 20 remaining people on the ship survived. The captain and the crew who escaped with him were arrested later. 7</p> | <p>1989: Strong winds blasted Newfoundland from the 8th to the 10th, downing power lines on Burin Peninsula and damaging buildings at Gander and fishing vessels in Bonavista Bay. Ferry service between St. John's and Belle Island was disrupted. Sagora Island in Fortune Bay reported southwest winds at 105 km/h gusting to 128 km/h. 8</p> <p>First Quarter ◐</p> | <p>1991: Two major rainstorms between the 8th and 14th dumped over 340 mm of rain in the Nass and Iskut River basins in north-western BC. Flood waters cut off more than 1,000 residents from fresh food supplies and forced schools to close for more than a week. Relief supplies had to be airlifted in while washed-out roads were being rebuilt. 9</p> | <p>1875: A wind- and rainstorm struck Nova Scotia, flooding roads, carrying away bridges, wrecking 3 ships, and sweeping away thousands of dollars worth of logs. Rainfall at Halifax exceeded 110mm, the city's greatest 1-day October total ever. 10</p> | <p>Weather Quiz When over 400,000 of Napoleon's troops died in the Russian cold, the greatest losses were among those who were: (a) over 6 feet (b) bald (c) native to the south coast of France (d) front line soldiers (e) without guns (See inside front cover for answer) 11</p> <p>Yom Kippur</p> |
| <p>1986: A major blizzard hit the eastern Arctic. At Iqaluit, NT, winds blowing at 110 km/h and gusting to 137 km/h caused several million dollars in damage to buildings. A 55-year-old woman died of exposure while walking home from a friend's house during the blizzard—roughly a 5-minute hike. 12</p> | <p>1994: Strong northerly winds developed over Newfoundland on the 12th and 13th with a peak gust of 133 km/h at Bonavista. Five people died when high seas demolished their 15-m fishing boat. 13</p> <p>Thanksgiving</p> | <p>1934: At Rock Candy Creek, north of Grand Forks, BC, it rained tiny, winged brown beetles intermittently for 3 hours. In total, 3.6 mm of rain fell on the 14th and 15th, not counting any beetlejuice. 14</p> | <p>1989: Huge waves—generated in part by the alignment of the Sun and Earth, which caused unusually high tides—flipped a boat carrying 3 Canadian Coast Guard crew who were attempting to rescue a diver near Middle Cove, NF. Although the men were close to shore, the pounding waves repeatedly swept them off rocks and out to sea. All 4 died. 15</p> <p>Full Moon ○</p> | <p>1793: Governor Simcoe recorded the following during his journey from Humber Bay to Matchelache Bay: "Putting the canoe in the water was a disagreeable task, as it had frozen hard the night before and was then so cold that the water froze upon our paddles." 16</p> | <p>1984: From the 16th to the 18th a snowstorm traversed Alberta and Saskatchewan. Snow, 50-to-80-km/h winds, and near-zero visibility created treacherous driving conditions. More than 150 accidents were reported in Edmonton, and flight schedules were in disarray. 17</p> | <p>1981: Rain—a meagre 9 mm—delayed the start of the ball game between the Dodgers and Expos at Olympic Stadium for 3 hours and 31 minutes—one of the longest delays in baseball history. The game was eventually called off. 18</p> |

1989: An unexpected 35-cm snowfall forced closure of the Trans-Canada Highway between Marathon and Wawa, ON, for 24 hours. The storm stranded over 300 cars, but a convoy of 15 cattle trucks made it to Wawa by travelling behind a snowplough.

19

1990: Heavy rains along the BC south coast on the 20th and 21st caused a landslide on the main highway linking Vancouver with Squamish and Whistler. Washouts blocked the road for several days, causing major problems for tourists and local residents. Squamish received nearly 420 mm of rain in October.

20

1852: Four men from Miminegash lost their lives when their fishing boat, loaded with a cargo of wheat, capsized in a northeast gale. The wreck drifted ashore, bottom up, at Richibucto, NB.

21

1989: In eastern Canada, the week beginning 22 October was one of the finest Indian Summer periods in years. Temperatures reached the high teens and low 20s during the day. For more than 6 consecutive days, daytime maximums were above 20°, not experienced in the Toronto area since 1971.

22

1943: The Germans set up a secret automatic weather station at the northern tip of Labrador to radio pressure, temperature, and wind data to U-Boats prowling Atlantic shipping lanes.

23

1870: A tremendous gale drove the schooner *Jessie*, loaded with 13,000 bushels of grain, onto Salmon Point, ON. An eyewitness said the gale "piled the seas like houses." Although the vessel was close to shore, the waves and undertow prevented rescuers from reaching the crew. All aboard died.

24

1851: The steamship *Henry Clay* sailed Lake Erie enroute from Buffalo to Detroit with a cargo of flour and baled wool when it ran into a gale off Long Point, ON. A mountainous wave tore the deck from the hull, taking 10 of the crew with it. Then the vessel rolled over, drowning all but 1 of the remaining crew. The captain and 15 crew lost their lives.

25

1933: Two days of heavy rainfall in southern New Brunswick damaged highways, railway lines, bridges, root crops, and homes. Rainfall totals at Fredericton amounted to 78 mm. Seven stream divers were swept to their death in Saint John County while trapped on a sandbar in the Big Salmon River.

26

1984: A section of the Trans-Canada Highway west of Winnipeg had to be closed for a few hours after a storm left 4.6 cm of snow and 10 mm of rain in the city. Blowing snow, icy roads, and poor visibility caused a number of cars and trucks to slide off highways in Brandon and Dauphin.

27

1993: Strong winds and heavy rains in excess of 80 mm hit the eastern Maritimes, causing flooded streets and basements. Cars sloshed through flooded highways. There were countless power outages, and firefighters were kept busy all night responding to alarms set off by power surges.

28

1991: Hurricane Grace linked up with a cold front moving offshore to produce 3 days of high winds (130 km/h) and waves at coastal locations from Nova Scotia to Newfoundland. Waves south of Nova Scotia exceeded 17 m.

29

1991: The Canadian Forces C-130 Hercules, with 18 aboard, crashed on its final approach to the runway near Alert, NT. Forty-eight hours later, 12 paramedics parachuted into the crash site to rescue the 13 survivors. The paramedics battled Arctic darkness, constant cloud cover, and blinding snow. They also braved temperatures of -23°, 46 km/h winds, and a windchill of -60°.

30

1995: The 1995 Ontario forest-fire season ended today. Over the summer, fires cost the province more than \$100 M. There were 2,118 fires that burned 620,000 ha of forest, forcing 3,500 people to flee their communities. Two thousand firefighters from other parts of Canada and the US helped in the battle.

31

Last Quarter ●

Standard Time Begins

Halloween ●
New Moon ●

OCTOBER

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November

DECEMBER

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| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
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| | | | | | | <p>1992: In Ontario's Niagara Peninsula, lack of heat and sunshine during the growing season affected grape crops, causing slow maturation and poor sugar content. The 1992 grape harvest was the latest on record.</p> |
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| <p>1988: Storms from the Great Lakes and Florida merged near New York City to form a deep low-pressure centre. High winds and heavy rains in the Maritimes downed power lines, disrupted ferry services, and briefly flooded local streets. Winds cracked windows on the 19th floor of a Halifax tower.</p> | <p>1759: Account of an intense storm and high tides: "The storm broke down the dykes on the Bay of Fundy, and the marshlands, now deserted, were overflowed and deteriorated ... At Fort Cumberland on the Tantramar Marshes, 700 cords of firewood were swept off by the tide ... The marshlands were incapable of bearing grain for the next 3 years.</p> | <p>1995: RADARSAT blasted off aboard a NASA Delta rocket. Canada's first Earth observation satellite will provide daily images of the coasts' vast ice fields. Able to detect even the wakes of ships, RADARSAT will monitor fishing, document global environmental changes, and support timely decision-making in cases of floods, oil spills, tornadoes, etc.</p> | <p>Weather Quiz Weather experts consider a "very cold day" in Canada to be: (a) 0° (b) -7° (c) -10° (d) -18° (e) -40° (See inside front cover for answer)</p> | <p>1975: Southern Manitoba residents basked in record-breaking temperatures. In Winnipeg, a high of 24° gave people a chance to mow lawns, wash cars, play golf and tennis, and stroll with their children. The combination of shirt-sleeved shoppers and twinkling city Christmas lights looked bizarre.</p> | <p>1976: Four men died when a twin-engine plane plunged into a gorge near Swan Hills, AB, during a snowstorm. Just minutes earlier, another small plane had crashed through trees 100 m away. All 4 aboard the first aircraft survived. Transport investigators said heavy, wet snow and cold temperatures led to icing problems.</p> | <p>1989: When a weather system stalled over northern Vancouver Island on the 8th and 9th, Port Hardy received 132.4 mm of rain—its third highest 2-day rainfall for November. Mudslides occurred in the Port Alice area. Flooding washed out roads and forced evacuations. Damage on the island and in the Fraser Valley was over \$12 M.</p> |
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| <p>1995: An Inuit hunter on a snowmobile crashed through thin ice on an inlet of Prince Albert Sound, NT. He managed to pull himself onto a drifting ice floe, where he used his high frequency radio to call for help. Relatives launched a search by snowmobile, and a rescue Hercules aircraft 4 hours away raced to the remote area. Miraculously, the 2 rescue teams arrived before the grandfather of 8 succumbed to the cold.</p> | <p>1992: A storm dumped 15 to 25 cm of heavy, wet snow in southeastern Manitoba. In Winnipeg, travel and power interruptions were common. Passengers pitched in and pushed back into service some of the 50 Winnipeg Transit buses that were stuck in the snow.</p> | <p>1896: In southern Alberta, a fugitive shot and killed an RCMP sergeant after the officer's rifle misfired twice. The intense cold (-18°) had frozen the oil and clogged the breach of the rifle. Later, while incarcerated, the fugitive lost the use of his legs as a result of the bitter cold he had encountered during the hunt for him.</p> | <p>1854: A serious drought followed by a steady downpour for days resulted in flooding along the Kennebecasis River, NB, from the 12th to the 14th. Rivers that had been mere hollows of dry gravel filled to overflowing. Rising waters flooded and swept away farms and homes and drowned cattle in their stalls.</p> | <p>1871: It began to rain in Toronto in late evening. More than 58 mm fell before it was over. A <i>Globe</i> newspaper reporter wrote that the wet weather "had the effect of keeping the police stations nearly empty, only about half a dozen prisoners being in all 3."</p> | <p>1972: Winds of 130 km/h caused Lake Erie to "lilt." The water level at the eastern end dropped 1.2 m, while extensive flooding occurred at the western end, causing \$25 M in property loss and damage. On Lake Huron, constant, high-velocity winds from the north maintained strong wave action and led to major shoreline damage between Sarnia and Bayfield.</p> | <p>1942: Edmonton recorded its greatest 1-day November snowfall of 39.9 cm on this day. The book <i>Edmonton ... the Way It Was</i> recorded the following account, typical of how storms were reported in the first half of this century: "Everyday life had its interests ... this famous snowstorm was the subject for great discussions."</p> |
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First Quarter ☾

Full Moon ○

Remembrance Day

1885: On this day, the morning of Louis Riel's execution at Regina, the sun shone brilliantly and the prairie was covered with hoar frost. The day had a maximum temperature of 1°, a minimum of -8°, and there was no precipitation.

16

1995: Hurricane-force gusts hit southwestern BC, toppling trees, downing power lines, and blowing off roofs. Thousands of residents were left in the dark until hydro repair crews could knit circuits together. The weather may have been a factor in a crash that killed 5 people near Ladysmith, on Vancouver Island.

17

1995: Wind gusts of more than 100 km/h from a chinook blasted through southern Alberta, forcing a major highway to close, blowing signs off businesses, smashing numerous windows, and tearing off part of a school roof. A huge Dairy Queen sign blew across several streets. The winds reached a peak gust of 137 km/h.

18

1995: Saskatchewan hosted the (83rd) Grey Cup game for the first time. Weather possibilities included: a balmy high of 21.1°C—Regina's temperature on 19 November 1936—and below -30°, as in 1978, 1921, and 1903. The weather at kick-off was, apart from the wind, quite bearable—visibility 25 km, temperature 2°C, winds from the northwest at 37 km/h gusting to 63 km/h, and overcast.

19

1946: An oil strike at the Leduc well, south of Edmonton, ushered in the oil boom. The weather that day was -20° at noon, -28° at night; winds were light at 3 km/h, and there was a trace of snow.

20

1992: A storm pounded Vancouver Island with hurricane-force winds. At Schooner Cove Resort, north of Nanaimo, winds ripped 300 boats loose from their moorings, piled them up, then beached them, causing about \$4 M damage. Rough seas pounding Victoria's waterfront prompted beach-front drives to close, as 3- to 4-m waves spilled over sea walls.

21

1783: The British evacuated Fort Oswego on Lake Ontario. Aboard the sloop *Ontario*, 190 troops vanished into a fog bank, never to be seen again. A cargo of gold and silver, valued at \$600,000, went down with the ship.

22

1854: The schooner *Conductor* was driven onto a bar at Long Point, ON, during a blinding snow squall. Abigail Becker, a nonswimmer, rescued the captain and crew of 7 by wading into the pounding surf and encouraging them to jump in.

23

1970: The worst traffic snarl in southwestern Ontario's history occurred when a 60-cm snowfall in the London area paralysed traffic along Hwy. 401. More than 1,000 vehicles were stranded along a 25-km stretch. Most occupants sat huddled all night in light city clothing, hungry and numbed by the cold. One vehicle housed a film crew. Their assignment? To shoot a movie about what a beautiful place Ontario is to live in.

24

1950: Following Toronto's greatest 1-day November snowfall (30.5 cm), the temperature rose to 10°, and it rained. The Grey Cup went ahead, despite the quagmire playing field at Varsity Stadium. The game was a farce. Kicks and tumbles stopped dead in the mud. When a player was tackled he slid 6 or 8 m on his back as the crowd laughed.

25

1995: Thieves broke into a small environmental and engineering consulting business in Burlington, ON. The Moon was not full, and the temperature was only -1°. The discriminating thieves stole office equipment and all copies of *The 1996 Canadian Weather Trivia Calendar*, meant as gifts for clients.

26

1995: The Hawaiian westerlies, dubbed the Pineapple Express, brought mild temperatures (nearly 14°) and heavy rains (50 mm) to the Lower BC Mainland. About 150 people were evacuated from communities east of Vancouver. Swollen rivers decimated recently spawned salmon eggs by covering them with debris and silt. In Abbotsford, farmers, fearing floods, shepherded turkeys to the upper lofts of barns.

27

1812: From the Hudson's Bay Company records at York Factory, MB: "Frozen feet and no wonder as the thermometer for the last 3 nights was -36°, -42°, -38°."

28

1982: A fierce storm battered the southern coastal areas of Nova Scotia before moving to Newfoundland, dumping 50 mm of rain along its path. Lobster boats were destroyed, and 7 men had to be rescued. In Halifax, numerous streets and basements were flooded.

29

1917: At Swanson Bay, BC, this was the wettest month in Canadian weather history. The station's total precipitation for November was 2235.5 mm. During the month, it rained every day, and on 7 days more than 100 mm of rain fell. The wettest day was the 7th, with 269.2 mm of rain.

30

Last Quarter 

New Moon 

NOVEMBER

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December

JANUARY

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| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|---|---|--|--|---|--|
| | <p>1962: The Grey Cup (Fog Bowl) took 2 days to play in Toronto because of dense fog and smoke. The fog was so thick by the middle of the first quarter that spectators in the upper stands could not see the opposite side of the field. Although one of the greyest Grey Cups ever, it was also one of the finest ever played. To score 55 points in those conditions was incredible!</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1</p> | <p>1995: While on an outing, 2 young offenders escaped from a Barrie, ON, facility. However, the duo turned themselves in within a couple of hours. Apparently, life on the lam was too cold (-13°C) and snows too deep for them. Authorities commented that had it been June or July the culprits probably would have been out for good.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">2</p> | <p>1970: Saskatonians witnessed a spectacular halo display (a circle of light around the Sun or Moon). A halo occurs when light from the Sun (or Moon) enters one side of an ice crystal, bends, and bends again as it exits the other side. The Prairies are ideal for haloes because of the often sunny weather, low temperatures, and prevalence of high, thin cirrus (ice crystal) clouds.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">3</p> | <p>1995: Record-breaking winds felled about 70 trees on Vancouver city streets; another 150 came down in Stanley Park, including three 50-year-old cypress trees. Winds clocked at 107 km/h knocked out power to 60,000 subscribers from Richmond to Abbotsford, and blowing snow created white-out conditions in the Okanagan.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">4</p> | <p>1878: A furious gale accompanied by heavy rain struck the Episcopal Church in Berwick, NS. The <i>Halifax Herald</i> reported "the church was blown off its blockings and carried a distance of 7 feet ... the chancel parted from the main building ... the floor was raised and shattered in several places ... a difficult job to repair ... Damage about \$100."</p> <p style="text-align: right;">5</p> | <p>1917: A ship collision set off the Halifax Explosion, felt and heard as far as 100 km away. The disaster killed 1,630 people, injured 9,000, and left 6,000 homeless. The next day, a cruel blizzard struck, with 40.6 cm of snow and winds of 55 km/h.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">6</p> |
| <p>1983: A major storm swept through southern Ontario and Quebec on the 6th and 7th, dumping 20 to 40 cm of snow. It was the worst in 4 years in Ottawa, where 30 cm of snow fell and 48 km/h winds piled up 1-m drifts that closed the airport and prevented more than 100 MPs from hearing the Throne Speech.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">7</p> | <p>1867: A ship with a cargo of timber grounded in the St. Lawrence River near Gaspé. Thirteen crew members drowned. Ten others struggled ashore on floating timber. The survivors were badly frozen. Crews from other ships delivering winter supplies at the time were also badly frostbitten in the -25° cold and had to be carried ashore.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">8</p> | <p>1995: Frigid -26° weather did not faze 60 soccer players at the Winnipeg Complex Soccer Pitch. They joined the 24-hour soccer marathon (called "The Day the World Played Football") that included events in 191 countries around the world in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the United Nations.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">9</p> | <p>1995: A monster storm stretched from Barrie to Sault Ste Marie. Gripping cold and driving winds across relatively warm open lakes triggered knee-deep snow and forced a state of emergency across parts of central and southern Ontario. At Bracebridge, harried police recruited snowmobile clubs to rescue drivers stranded on highways so snowbound that ploughs couldn't get through.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">10</p> | <p>1995: In Edmonton, several days of frosty -35° temperatures contributed to an increase in the number of stolen cars. Half of the cars stolen were left unlocked and running because of the cold.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">11</p> | <p>1965: In the worst air crash in Canada, an Arrow Airlines DC-8, after refuelling in Gander enroute to Kentucky, crashed seconds after takeoff, killing 248 members of the US 101st Airborne Division and 8 crew. Just before the crash, weather observers reported freezing drizzle and snow grains. It was -4.2°, and winds were light from the west.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">12</p> | <p>1969: For many years Holberg was a weather and radar station on the northern coast of Vancouver Island. It was notorious for strong winds. In one remarkable blow, instruments clocked winds from the south at 130 km/h, gusting more than 160 km/h. In the remarks column, the weather observer had written: "and blowing rocks."</p> <p style="text-align: right;">13</p> |
| <p>First Quarter ☾</p> | | | | | | <p>Full Moon ☽</p> |
| <p>1995: Part of the snow-packed roof at a shopping centre in Sault Ste Marie, ON, came crashing down in early morning. Three people were shovelling snow on the roof but were unhurt when a 30-x-45-m section collapsed into a central fountain area. With a week to go before the official start of winter, Sault Ste Marie had already received nearly 300 cm of snow.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">14</p> | <p>1835: Southern Ontario and Quebec received a cold blast lasting from the 15th to the 18th. Strong winds created huge snowdrifts, making roads almost impassable. The cold weather reached the US and was blamed for New York City's greatest fire, in which wind-fanned flames consumed 100 blocks of commercial area, and cold temperatures froze water in hydrants.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">15</p> | <p>1981: Search-and-rescue personnel assisted 5 crew from an empty liquefied natural-gas tanker off the southwestern tip of Nova Scotia. The tow line had snapped as the ship was being pulled to Halifax from Boston. Winds in the area were blowing from 100 to 160 km/h, and the seas were as high as 13 m. Five days later, 5 tug boats freed the grounded ship and towed it to Halifax.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">16</p> | <p>1989: A football-sized chunk of ice crashed through the ceiling of the men's washroom in a Royal Canadian Legion Hall in St. Catharines, ON. The incident shocked a patron using the facilities at the time. It was not hail, however. The ice probably fell off a passenger airplane.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">17</p> | <p>1990: Strong winds continued to blow across southern BC, downing hundreds of trees and resulting in power outages in the Fraser Valley and Greater Vancouver areas. At least 60,000 customers faced up to 4 days without hydro. BC residents set a record 1-hour hydro demand, which was broken on the 19th when more record cold occurred. Temperatures during the week were around -15°.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">18</p> | <p>1978: Harness racing began at the Summerside Raceway in PEI, 3 weeks later than intended because of a series of snowstorms. Snow on the ground amounted to 71 cm. The month turned out to be the snowiest on record: 203 cm. Prior to the 19th, Summerside had 6 days with more than 10 cm, including 39.1 cm on the 10th.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">19</p> | <p>1990: Half of the reporting stations in Manitoba and Saskatchewan recorded a minimum temperature of -40° or colder. Just before Christmas, cold weather shattered several temperature records when the mercury fell to -47° or colder at Thompson and Stony Rapids, MB, and Meadow Lake, SK. On the 20th, Thompson had the lowest temperature at -47.6°.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">20</p> |

Weather Quiz
The first regular weather observations in Canada were taken by:
(a) farmers
(b) meteorologists
(c) telegraph operators
(d) trappers
(e) surgeons
(See inside front cover for answer)

21

1995: It's incredible that a teenager survived 14 hours almost fully submerged in icy water. His father found him in a car that had skidded off a slippery road and plunged into a frozen creek near Sarnia, ON. When pulled from the water, he was suffering from severe hypothermia, his heart had stopped beating, and his body temperature was 21°C.

22

1995: A pilot was seriously injured after he became disoriented and crashed. While on a flight from Yorkton to Regina, he had flown his single-engine airplane into thick fog and ran headlong into the guy wires attached to an RCMP radio tower. Weather was clear and bright during takeoff, but conditions deteriorated in light snow, fog, and about a 125-m cloud ceiling.

23

1879: A log-cabin pioneer in Winnipeg recorded the following during a particularly cold Christmas Eve (-47.8°). Upon retiring for the night, "I tried to blow out the candle, but the flame was frozen, so I just had to break it off." The day still stands as the coldest in Winnipeg's weather history, which spans more than 123 years.

24

1877: Christmas in Winnipeg was mild, rainy, and snowless—muddy was the best description. A weather observer/druggist included in his weather observations that "2 frogs were said to have been seen in the swamps adjoining the city." Prior to Christmas Day there were 7 consecutive days with rain, totalling more than 23 mm. Temperatures varied between 8° and -2°.

25

1917: Fort Smith recorded a temperature of -57.2°, which remains the lowest temperature ever recorded in the Northwest Territories. The afternoon temperature warmed to a "balmy" -47.8°.

26

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

27

Winter Solstice 15:07 EST
Last Quarter



1991: Unseasonably warm weather caused severe smog in Edmonton where the air-quality index that morning was 105, one of the worst air-quality readings the city had ever seen. In Edmonton, anything over 100 is extremely rare. Daily high temperatures hovered around 3°. The relatively warm air trapped cold air, smoke, dust, and car emissions near the surface.

28

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

29

1867: From Hudson's Bay Company records for 30 and 31 December at Fort Chimo: "Everything crisp & cracking with frost, our very dogs are yelling with cold & water freezing alongside of our stoves filled with fire wood, & the idea of 3 months more of such weather is not very cheering ... last of the old year, no abatement of cold. Men hauling home fire wood & we burn it as fast as they can bring it."

30

1875: An avalanche of snow and ice fell from the roof of the Bank of Montreal building in Ottawa and almost killed a young woman. In a separate incident, cascading snow and ice from another city roof nearly smothered a child. A bystander rescued her just in time. December snowfall in Ottawa was 98.7 cm; normal fall is 56 cm.

31

Hanukkah

Christmas Day

Boxing Day

New Moon



Weather Quiz Answers

**Quiz appears in calendar grids—
a different day each month.**

January—(d) Yellowknife

February—(a) Canadian weather stations

March—(b) Quebec

April—(d) Elvis Presley

May—(c) druggist

June—(d) brontophobia

July—(a) bathroom

August—(e) suffocation

September—(a) United States

October—(b) bald

November—(d) -18°C

December—(e) surgeons