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JANUARY 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<p>1950: Up British Columbia's Fraser Valley heavy snowdrifts from a winter storm blocked 100s of kilometres of roads, delayed trains for 12 hours, and kept 1000s of students at home. In Vancouver, dozens of people suffered painful injuries—broken arms, legs, and ankles—from falls on icy streets and sidewalks. Dairies resorted to horse-driven sleighs to deliver milk.</p> <p>1</p> <p>New Year's Day</p>	<p>1848: Roads and sidewalks were treacherously icy in Quebec City, QC, causing people to fall and need medical attention. A wayfarer who reached the centre of Place d'Armes couldn't move as it was like a sheet of glass. In the midst of his dilemma, a large dog hurried by and the man seized its tail. Alarmed, the dog made desperate exertions to escape, dragging the man safely over the frozen surface.</p> <p>2</p> <p>Perihelion 19 EST</p>	<p>2007: Mice and rats not only survived but thrived during southern Canada's record mild winter. The warmth also awoke hibernating bats, resulting in a flurry of calls to exterminators. If it is not cold enough, they lose their fat reserves and must find something to eat or die. Some southwestern Ontario wineries gave up on their ice wine crop and made "slush" wine instead.</p> <p>3</p>	<p>1920: Dense fog shrouded Vancouver, BC, for several hours overnight and into the early morning. Bandits took advantage of the thick fog to loot jewelry stores, breaking their large front windows and cleaning out display cases. There was a rash of residential break-ins as well.</p> <p>4</p>	<p>2007: For the 1st time since Vancouver's BC Place stadium opened nearly 25 years ago, its huge, Teflon-coated fibreglass roof came down. A combination of natural causes—strong winds and mushy, wet snow—and human error led to the mishap. A small tear in the roof caused a rapid reduction in air pressure. As officials hustled to deflate the roof, the ripped panel tore off completely.</p> <p>5</p>
<p>1940: Trying to find shelter from a cold north wind, 37 horses strayed onto the main railway line just east of Calgary, AB. Foggy weather caused the animals to venture from their regular pasture onto the CPR property. A locomotive racing along in semi darkness and thick fog struck and instantly killed 11 horses. Considerable damage was done to lower parts of the train.</p> <p>6</p>	<p>2005: For its 5th anniversary, Quebec's Ice Hotel had a domed chapel with a 10-m steeple (for an expected 25 weddings), 32 rooms, a nightclub, movie theatre, heated washrooms, and outdoor hot tubs. Built entirely of ice and snow, it had had 220,000 visitors and 10,500 overnight guests since 2001. Rates started at \$438, including breakfast. Weather permitting, the hotel would be open for 87 days.</p> <p>7</p>	<p>1895: A fire in a farmhouse north of Regina, SK, severely burnt a mother and 2 children. It was -40°C. The naked father dragged them into the henhouse and ran for help. His feet began to freeze so he returned, tied an apron and some women's clothes (all he could find) round them, and headed back. Just 100 m from help, almost frozen, he fell but was rescued. His family was also badly frostbitten.</p> <p>8</p> <p>New Moon ●</p>	<p>Weather Quiz</p> <p>Which Canadian city has the deepest snow cover on average in the middle of winter?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Sudbury 2) Thompson 3) Quebec City 4) Corner Brook 5) Fredericton <p>(Answer on inside back cover)</p> <p>9</p>	<p>2007: Saskatoon, SK, was brought to a virtual halt by one of its worst blizzards in over 50 years. The wind chill reached -46 and 90 km/h winds blew more than 25 cm of snow into over 1-m-high drifts. Abandoned vehicles littered the city. City buses struggled through drifts and whiteout conditions, and mail service was terminated. Highways from Lloydminster through Yorkton were closed.</p> <p>10</p> <p>Islamic New Year</p>	<p>1922: Not all citizens of Ottawa, ON, were upset by the heavy snow and strong wind gripping the nation's capital. A few 100 unemployed got work shovelling walks and the electric railway tracks and country farmers got excellent sleighing. It gave those in charge of Ottawa's National Winter Carnival welcomed snow for planned winter sports and assured a picturesque winter setting for the city.</p> <p>11</p>	<p>2007: Near Red Deer, AB, 50-year-old adventurer David Hempleman-Adams set a world record by climbing 9,906 m (almost a jumbo jet's cruising height) in a hot-air balloon with an open basket. It was his 4th attempt to break the previous record of 9,537 m set in New Mexico 25 years ago. At the height of his climb, the temperature was -60°C. He landed 2 hours later, 193 km away on open prairie.</p> <p>12</p>
<p>1890: In Quebec, winds blew around signboards and shutters in Montreal and badly mixed up country telegraph wires. Near St. Hillaire, the rear cars of a Grand Trunk train were blown over. As the baggage car fell, it overturned the tender, which overturned the engine. Some of the cars caught fire and were consumed. Several passengers and crew sustained minor injuries; 3 were seriously hurt.</p> <p>13</p>	<p>1907: Heavy snow and bone-chilling cold made life miserable in Edmonton, AB. The <i>Edmonton Journal</i> noted: "It's been a week of mufflers and fur coats, of icicle moustaches and frost-rimmed eyebrows, of frozen windows on Jasper Avenue and frozen water jugs in the shacks and tents." The intense cold turned water in a fire hose to slush. Some families burnt straw and furniture to stay warm.</p> <p>14</p>	<p>2006: Kennebecasis River (NB) ice fishers pulled their shacks off the ice due to mild weather and heavy rain, ending their chance to cash in on a big smelt run. In 1 day, the ice shrunk by 10 cm. Some shacks fell through the ice; 2 floated away but a few were saved using canoes, trucks, and ATVs. Spring weight restrictions for truckers in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island went into effect.</p> <p>15</p>	<p>1939: The Archbishop of Ottawa (ON) warned the city's Roman Catholics that winter sports like skiing, skating, and snowshoeing could lead to particular occasions of moral peril, especially when engaged in by both sexes. "It's ridiculous," exclaimed the Ski Club's president, with a grin. "It would be lots of fun having a petting party in 30 below zero weather, wouldn't it?"</p> <p>16</p>	<p>2007: Had 8 cm of snow fallen today, nearly 300 people who purchased vehicles in December 2006 from a Calgary, AB, auto dealership would have gained \$10,000. By noon, 5.8 cm had officially fallen at Calgary International Airport but the snow ended soon after. Just 2 cm more and the buyers would have benefited from an insurance policy purchased by the dealer for his promotion.</p> <p>17</p>	<p>2007: Rescuers discovered the bodies of 2 skiers from Kamloops, BC, in a snow cave that experts said collapsed on the pair as they huddled near the Wapta Icefields, north of Lake Louise, AB. A 4-member team of mountaineers and an avalanche dog quickly found their bodies under about 1.5 m of snow, but poor weather prevented body recovery for several days.</p> <p>18</p>	<p>1949: In Quebec, gale-force winds caused a drill rig at Rouyn-Noranda to touch a 110,000-volt conductor. There was a blinding flash, things began popping all along the line, and ticker and teletype communication and radio programming tailed from Montreal to Toronto, ON. Of the 9 telephone lines to Val d'Or, only 1 operated. Residents were kept awake by the constant ringing of telephones.</p> <p>19</p>

1827: Near Point Prim, PE, 2 lads hunting for seals were carried out to sea on floating ice.

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To reach them, 4 men dragged their boat through nearly 8 km of lally (soft ice). Only 1 boy was found. "After partaking of some restoratives," he said that the 2nd boy had expired the day before. To get nearer land, the surviving boy had moved to another cake of ice. His feet were frost burnt.

2007: The operator of Vancouver's (BC) biggest container port

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blamed foul weather for the worst backlog in its history. Nearly 7,000 containers were piled on the docks. A series of severe windstorms last November and December shut down port cranes, creating more than 10 days of lost production. Inland, derailments and avalanches contributed to the disruption.

2007: A hockey stick poking up through the snow alerted a sharp-eyed snowplow operator

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in Fredericton, NB, that a child might be tunnelling in a snowbank beside the road. After the previous week's 20+ cm snowfall, children were warned to stay away from roadside snowbanks. The city considered imposing spring weight restrictions sooner than usual due to the mild winter and early spring breakup.

1877: West of Greensville, ON, a horse attached to a sleigh was snowed in, only its head poking through the deep snowdrift.

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The horse's owner had stopped at a street corner for a long time, so his horse started home without him but only succeeded in getting part of the way. The horse had to be dug out of the drift.

1908: In Manitoba, Winnipeggers played tennis on snow-free courts, minus mitts and coats.

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Earlier that week, it was nearly 6°C. Buggies, not cutters, jogged along prairie roads; farmers fixed barbed-wire fences with bare hands and worried about dust storms; and workers laid the last rails on the CNR line to The Pas. In Fort William, ON, Doukhobors paraded in the nude, without being frostbitten.

1924: Although no serious damage occurred, the terrific storm that struck Stellarton, NS,

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knocked out telephones and main electrical lines, leaving the town in darkness. The roof of the locomotive house was blown off. The storm was accompanied by heavy snow, pelting rain, and lightning. Walking was very dangerous and many people fell on the icy streets.

1923: A powerful storm hit Glace Bay, NS, disrupting telephone service. Under strange circumstances, an 18-year-old girl

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was injured while walking along Union Street in Sydney. She was holding her face down to protect herself from the wind and didn't see an approaching sled. She was struck by the sled and subsequently lost an eye.

2007: In Winnipeg, MB, 2 thugs fired a shotgun at 2 pedestrians after demanding their money

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and other items. The would-be targets weren't hit by the gun blast and ran away after the shot. The bitterly cold night, with temperatures below -20°C, prompted the would-be thieves to try to carry out their crime in the heated comfort of a vehicle.

1966: Frigid weather had delayed outdoor construction in Winnipeg, MB, for at least 3 weeks.

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A construction manager said that more than 12 of his men had been treated for frozen fingers or cheeks that January. One fellow was so worried about freezing that he pulled a fire alarm to get help. The judge was not impressed, sentencing him to a \$100 fine and costs or 2 months in jail.

2007: In Ottawa, ON, 2 men replacing windows in a government building got stuck

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on their mechanical scaffold in temperatures below -20°C, a wind chill near -30, and winds up to 28 km/h. They waited 12 hours, huddled under sleeping bags with a 300-watt light for warmth, while the electrical problem was investigated. When the problem could not be fixed, the fire department had to rescue them.

1906: Weather conditions had been hard on ice harvesters in Quebec. Their usual ice-cutting site was mostly wide open

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and running and wind had blown away what ice there was. Where there was ice, water had flooded it. Roads were in poor condition and could not bear heavy loads. A team of horses broke through the ice; 1 horse was lost, the other was rescued after a hard struggle.

1931: In Vancouver, BC, thickening fog forced the referee to send off the 2 soccer teams playing

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in the provincial cup final. The thick mist made it impossible for the 2,000 spectators to follow the play. Occasionally, spectators could see ghostlike figures emerging from the mist, which probably accounted for the sporadic bursts of hand clapping.

Full Moon 

Last Quarter



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FEBRUARY 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<p>2007: Heavy snow and whiteouts caused fiery crashes on Highway 401 near Cobourg, ON, that left 2 dead and about 12 injured. The weather kept some air ambulances from reaching the crash sites. The fires were so hot that they melted licence plates on some vehicles and damaged the road enough to close it for 1 or 2 days. The snow squall off Lake Ontario dumped up to 20 cm of snow.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1</p>	<p>1911: Montreal, QC, received 10 hours of steady snow. Trains crowded with fretful passengers were snow-bound for 60 km around the city. Over 2,000 men worked to clear snow from roads and tracks. Firefighters fought through high drifts to reach fire victims; many houses had to be left to burn. Huge snowdrifts kept horses from dragging even an empty cart at more than a walking pace.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">2</p> <p>Groundhog Day</p>
<p>1947: At Snag, YT, it dipped to -61°C, the lowest temperature reading ever recorded in North America. Residents seemed to move like zombies, afraid to work hard enough to breathe the frigid air too deeply into their lungs. At the government liquor store, employees scrambled to keep the beer from freezing. The stovepipe glowed red from halfway up all the way to the ceiling.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">3</p>	<p>2007: In St. Boniface, MB, 2 firefighters died of injuries they suffered while battling a house fire in temperatures close to -40°C. Exhaust from the crowd of emergency vehicles shrouded the scene in an icy fog. In Winnipeg, a shelter was forced to turn away near-frozen street dwellers. At Oak Hammock Marsh, no players had registered for the annual "snow golf" tournament by 11:00 AM.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">4</p>	<p>1909: A peculiar occurrence was reported on that dark, murky morning across Quebec's Eastern Townships: black spots above a layer of pure white snow. A plateful of melted snow revealed a thick deposit of dark, gritty residue, thought by some to be volcanic or wildfire dust. Country people were awed by the strange discolouration and even enlivened people were consternated by it.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">5</p>	<p>1907: After an extremely cold and stormy week, a farmer near Macoun, SK, decided to check on a homesteader who had arrived from England last May. He found the man's wife and 3 children frozen solid. On further searching, he found the farmer and his team of oxen frozen to death on a nearby creek, the sleigh loaded with coal and provisions. He had likely lost his way in a storm and perished.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">6</p> <p>Ash Wednesday New Moon ●</p>	<p>1920: The hardest cold in 35 years created heavy ice along Newfoundland's northeast coast. The <i>Prospero</i> was ice jammed for 5 weeks, 10 km from Fogo, short of food and with no help from land due to bad weather. Nearby, 2 other steamers were stuck for 4 weeks, almost submerged by ice at times. Inland, blocked railways left settlements and lumber camps facing famine and horses suffering greatly.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">7</p> <p>Chinese New Year</p>	<p>1895: A vicious storm moved into the Great Lakes area, the snow and wind impeding travel. Near Toronto, ON, the Grand Trunk train from Chicago, 5 hours late, was stuck fast. Blinding snow foiled a brakeman's attempt to signal the train from London and it ran into the Chicago train with great force. Fires broke out. Several people died or were injured; many were pulled through windows to safety.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">8</p>	<p>2007: In what was dubbed The World's Largest Pub Crawl, party-goers in Halifax, NS, filled 26 bars and hopped between them despite bitterly cold weather. More than 3,300 people were estimated to have attended the event, which was designed to put Halifax in the Guinness Book of World Records. The cold weather seemed to keep the well-behaved party-going crowds in check.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">9</p>
<p>Weather Quiz</p> <p>Which is the most common subject for an ice sculpture?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) dragon 2) fish 3) buffalo 4) dove 5) swan <p><i>(Answer on inside back cover)</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">10</p>	<p>1912: Lake Ontario was said to be frozen solid from Toronto, ON, to Rochester, NY. Skaters feared getting lost on it. That January to March was the coldest of the new century and the 2nd-coldest ever recorded. Trees exploding from cold or lake ice grinding sounded like gunfire. Blowtorches kept trolleys' air breaks from freezing and schools had to be warmed to at least 15°C by the morning bell.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">11</p>	<p>1951: In British Columbia, a 3-day down-pour flooded about 40% of the Fraser Valley 150 km east from Vancouver, leaving nearly 1,000 homeless and 4 dead. The 15 cm of snow and cold that followed created a vast skating pond. Crews sandbagged dykes to protect 10,000 acres of reclaimed farmland. Parts of Chilliwack were under 1 to 2 m of water. The CNR airlifted passengers to their destinations.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">12</p>	<p>1923: Fearing being punished for missing school, a young boy in Regina, SK, ran away during a blizzard and hid in a straw stack for 3 days and nights. Temperatures at the time dipped to -35°C. He froze his feet and part of his scalp and had to spend several weeks in hospital before recovering.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">13</p>	<p>2007: In southern Ontario, extreme cold, harsh winds, and loads of snow closed schools, puf vehicles in ditches, and made florists miserable on their busiest day of the year. Valentine's Day flower deliveries moved at a snail's pace. From Hamilton to Burlington, some areas got up to 60 cm of snow (with 1-m drifts), although most received fewer than 20 cm.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">14</p>	<p>1920: A nasty, long-lasting storm with snow, cold, and strong shifting winds swept across the Maritimes, making getting around treacherous. Doctors were forced to use horse-pulled sleighs or stagecoaches or travel on foot at a time when influenza was keeping them extremely busy. At Fredericton and Saint John, NB, the blizzard delayed trains and disrupted phone and telegraphic services.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">15</p>	<p>1901: Temperatures were near -45°C, the lowest in 5 years and the coldest that winter in Yukon. Smoke and steam enveloped homes, mist rose from open water, breath settled in a frozen fog. Horses only walked, with a third of their usual load. Dogs went mad or howled constantly. Men could not stoke or carry in fuel for stoves fast enough. People ate and slept more and were depressed and exhausted.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">16</p>

1930: A Stewart, BC, man left the Georgia River gold mine camp for a hike, despite warnings from an old sourdough that it was dangerous to go alone. Sure enough, he lost his way, as well as a snowshoe. Snow tracks revealed that when the snowshoe's fastening broke, the victim tried to secure it with a string and then must have sat down to rest. His body was found 3 days later, frozen rigidly.

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1980: As the New Brunswick election neared, the Tories expected to win a northern riding. Cars were gassed up, volunteers assembled, and drivers scheduled but, said the campaign manager, "the blizzard came and we didn't get hardly anyone out. It was a disaster." The Liberals had watched the weather and got their supporters out to advance polls. They won by 127 votes. Family Day (Alberta)

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2007: Temperatures on the Yukon Quest route ranged from -40° to -55°C. Teams' frosty breath made it hard to see lead dogs. Mushers feared for fingers, toes, and dogs' privates. Some dogs wore heavy jackets and belly protectors but urine freezes to profectors and the ice touched their penises as they ran. Dogs never got warm even while bedded down, had to eat more often, and dehydrated easily.

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2007: A Native hunter in Parry Peninsula, NT, went adrift on an Arctic ice floe when winds caused his land tether to break. His wife and an American tourist from Las Vegas watched helplessly. It was below -50 with the wind chill. A Canadian Forces helicopter search and rescue team plummeted onto the ice floe and stayed with him overnight. He was back hunting polar bears the next day. Full Moon

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2006: An Ottawa, ON, area woman pleaded guilty to leaving a pint-sized pooch in her car last summer when the temperature was 29°C (35°C with the humidex). She was given a 1-year probation and fined \$500. The Humane Society smashed her car window to rescue the dog; inside, it was 48°C. The dog made a full recovery but would have died without immediate attention.

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1897: Red River (MB) ice dealers predicted if the climate continued to warm they would have to go elsewhere for ice and sleamboat whistles would be heard in winter. At that time, 2 ice crops were harvested each season, the 1st in early winter, the 2nd a few months later. It was stored in Winnipeg in large ice houses, with 30-cm-thick double-boarded walls filled with sawdust. Hay covered the ice.

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2007: Toronto (ON) Public Health revoked the no-occupancy order it had imposed on a rooming house 5 months earlier upon learning that a venomous snake was loose on the property. Officials had no body but presumed the snake was dead—a victim of extremely cold weather. Six residents were allowed to return to the boarding house.

23

2006: Countless 1000s of dead seabirds (Northern fulmars, western grebes, common murre, and rhinoceros auklets) mysteriously washed ashore along the British Columbia coast. Scientists speculated their deaths were associated with warmer weather and changes in winds and currents which may have reduced the availability of their marine food. Some of the birds were emaciated.

24

2006: Close to 60 cm of snow fell in 2 days on St. John's, NL. Wind gusts to 130 km/h and blowing snow reduced visibility to near zero in places and buried residents' cars in neck-high snowdrifts. Streets were empty—city buses and most taxis were pulled off the roads. Most businesses, restaurants, and shopping centres remained closed for a day or two, as did Memorial University.

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1920: Fanned by a 70 km/h gale, a fire gutted the 1st brick business block built in Sydney, NS. Flames spread quickly and the occupants of the 2nd floor legal offices could not save any fixtures. Although hampered by intense cold (about -13°C) and terrific winds, the heroic fire-fighters confined the fire to that building alone. Of the magnificent 3-storey structure, only brick walls remained.

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1918: In Montreal, QC, a temperature near -14°C and light snow proved ideal for a sting operation to marshal men for military duty. Police and soldiers waited at the Jubilee arena for a hockey game to end. When fans began to leave, authorities stopped them. Some fans jumped from windows—right into the arms of waiting soldiers. Six sleigh loads of men were rounded up and taken to the barracks.

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2003: In Ottawa, ON, 1,500 families could neither shower nor flush due to frozen pipes. The city's thawing and steam machines worked overtime to fix the problem, the worst since 1994 when pipes froze in 2,500 homes and businesses. Since January 1, there had been 24 cold days (compared to 1 in 2002 and 1 report of frozen pipes); average is 15 days. Letting taps run slightly prevents freeze-ups.

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1964: A deep low with storm-force winds of 120 km/h and waves of 9 m was centred about 280 km south of Newfoundland. The Liberian tanker *Amphialos* broke in two off Nova Scotia. In a daring rescue operation, the next day the HMCS *Athabaskan* rescued 34 of 36 seamen.

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Full Moon 

Last Quarter 

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MARCH 2008

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

						<p>1950: A Winnipeg, MB, woman's phone number in the city directory was listed right above the local weather office's listing. As it had only a note in small type to look elsewhere in the directory, people inadvertently called her. "Is it still chilly outside?" asked one. "At that moment," said the frustrated woman, "my radio was blaring that it was -37° below zero [F] with no let-up expected."</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1</p>
<p>2007: Southern Ontario's worst winter storm of the year downed tree branches and cut power. Freezing rain, high wind, and 14+ cm of wet, heavy snow pummelled Toronto. When ice chunks began falling from the CN Tower, part of Front Street and the nearby expressway were closed; guests in a nearby hotel were given hardhats. Staff at a dark, cold food market worked with flashlights and calculators.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">2</p>	<p>1946: A huge cake of ice slid from the roof of Moncton's (NB) Cathedral of the L'Assomption, instantly killing a 28-year-old woman who had just attended Mass. As she neared the southeast corner of the Cathedral, melting ice and snow plunged onto her, breaking her neck and fracturing her skull. Police estimated that the ice weighed 180 kg.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">3</p>	<p>1910: Chinook winds and persistent rain triggered snow slides the 1st week of March in British Columbia's Rocky Mountain area. When an avalanche buried 2 trains in Rogers Pass (killing 200), doctors and nurses came by train from Revelstoke and rescuers arrived from nearby mining and lumber camps. In a Herculean effort, the line was cleared of 12- to 15 m-deep drifts with shovels inside 24 hours.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">4</p>	<p>2007: A regional television news outlet reported that vandals had toppled several headstones at a Lower Sackville, NS, cemetery called the Gate of Heaven, which dates back to 1938. But rather than roaming hooligans, the headstones were toppled by frost heave. People came in droves to check on their loved ones' markers.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">5</p>	<p>1950: Visiting hockey fans were stranded in Portage la Prairie, MB, after winds up to 90 km/h blocked snow-covered provincial roads and dipped temperatures below -20°C. About 250 fans and countless others needed lodging. Hotel keepers put beds in lobbies and corridors and residents opened their homes; the mayor opened city hall, council chambers, and police cells for the overflow.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">6</p>	<p>2007: A student lost near Little Salmon River (NB) for 2 days used his cellphone to contact his father in Florida who then contacted the RCMP. On a 5-day hike near the rugged Bay of Fundy coast, with a -36 wind chill, 44 km/h winds, and light snow, the young man lost his compass and food, became disoriented, and froze his feet twice. He was airlifted to Saint John, at risk of losing 1 or 2 toes.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">7</p>	<p>2007: The Toronto (ON) Humane Society noted that milder falls and winters allows cats to stay outdoors more and leads naturally to a population explosion. Some shelters had 3 times more cats than their space allows. Females come into heat every few weeks until they mate and can become pregnant even if nursing kittens. Fortunately, dog owners usually keep their pets under control.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">8</p>
					New Moon ●	
<p>2007: Snow and high wind led to chain-reaction crashes of cars, trucks, vans, motorcoaches, and school buses on Highway 400 from Toronto to Barrie, ON. Near Newmarket, the driver of a car "submerged" under a semi-trailer was trapped for 4 hours in a -37 wind chill until a crane lifted the wreckage. Despite frostbite, bruises, and a broken ankle, he survived.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">9</p>	<p>2006: When storms forced several vessels to idle or tie up near Gold River, BC, Luna, the dangerously friendly and endearing killer whale, was sucked into a tug's propeller and killed. Luna became known in British Columbia and around the world after local Aboriginals blocked a plan to reunite him with his family. They believed Luna was their recently deceased chief's reincarnated spirit.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">10</p>	<p>2007: Alternating cold and mild air produced gigantic icicles on homes in and around St. John's, NL. Some of the sharp, heavy stalactites were 2 m long (or more). Although too brittle to inflict a fatal wound, falling icicles caused serious enough injuries to send a number of people to emergency rooms. Homeowners and businesses are legally liable for such injuries.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">11</p>	<p>2007: Parks Canada issued extreme avalanche warnings for parts of Banff and Yoho national parks in the Rocky Mountains. Mudslides, avalanches, and high winds closed area highways. A snowboarder lost north of Lake Louise, AB, spent a night in a fierce snowstorm before being found. The Canmore, AB, man took a wrong turn amid heavy snowfall and ended up off course in a nearby valley.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">12</p>	<p>1922: The Merchant Marine steamer <i>Canadian Raider</i> became so ice encrusted on a voyage from St. John, NB, to Hull, England, she was mistaken for a floating iceberg by some vessels in the mid-Atlantic. Soon after leaving St. John with a cargo of wheat, she encountered a gale that blew for several days. The temperature dropped below -20°C, leaving her caked in 30-cm-thick ice.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">13</p>	<p>1913: Dense fog settled over Montreal, QC, around the dinner hour, becoming denser throughout the night. It only added to pedestrians' weather misery, having already endured melting snow, rain, and the attendant deluge of mud. In the thick fog, streetcar motormen could not see 5 m in front of their cars, creating many close calls along the tracks as the trolleys appeared from nowhere.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">14</p>	<p>2007: A 68-year-old Gimli, MB, woman spent 4 nights in her car after losing her way and becoming snowbound at an old farm near Winnipeg. She tried walking for help but her arthritis forced her back. Daytime temperatures were above freezing, but it was -15°C at night. A fan at the <i>Survivor</i> TV show, she fortunately had a winter survival kit in her trunk, including candles and blankets.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">15</p>

2007: While crossing Great Slave Lake (NT), 2 snowmobilers ran out of gas but managed to survive 2 nights on the ice in -30°C weather. The RCMP said the men ran out of fuel after their extra gas tank sprang a leak. They began walking to Yellowknife and were picked up 60 km from their destination. Along the way, they made lean-tos and built fires to keep warm.

16

Palm Sunday
Daylight Saving Time Begins

1998: St. Patrick's Day was anything but green in Calgary, AB. Two days earlier, the temperature was 13°C; by parade time today, over 38 cm of snow blanketed the ground. In hilly suburbs such as Charleswood, residents reported drifts of 87+ cm. Just clearing main roads was a monumental task, but Mother Nature helped by melting some of the record snowpack with above-normal temperatures.

17

St. Patrick's Day

Weather Quiz
Which continent is considered to be the highest, driest, windiest, and sunniest?

18

- 1) Antarctica
- 2) Asia
- 3) North America
- 4) Australia
- 5) Africa
- 6) South America

(Answer on inside back cover)

1920: In Quebec, a violent snowstorm in the Gatineau Valley disrupted rural telephone services and led to the bizarre death of a young man from Lake Ste. Marie. The victim was walking along a road when a horse that had been standing in front of a store suddenly bolted and struck him. He didn't notice the horse in the whirling snow and the animal knocked him down, inflicting fatal injuries.

19

1940: A 2-day storm dumped 15 cm of snow on southern Alberta, blocking rural roads and preventing many from voting in the provincial election. Some used horses to reach polling places (at times through 30-cm-thick mud), an all-day round trip. An official took just 5 hours to drive soldiers' ballots from Edmonton to Calgary although he drove more than half the distance through a snowstorm.

20

Spring Equinox
01:48 EDT

1910: An Englishman walking from Winnipeg, MB, to Ottawa, ON, ended up in a North Bay, ON, hospital suffering severe frostbite. Both his feet had to be amputated above the ankles. The young man was entirely destitute and newspapers reported his case as most deserving of the "charitably inclined." A New York woman who read of his misfortune asked the mayor to assist the poor victim.

21

Good Friday Full Moon 

2007: An early spring thunderstorm struck parts of central Ontario. Environment Canada had issued a rainfall warning and a caution about isolated thunderstorms for Parry Sound and the surrounding area. Unfortunately, 2 workers repairing the roof of a Parry Sound high school were struck by lightning and 1 died. A lightning death so early in the season is unusual.

22

2007: A cab-driver shortage in Dawson, YT, had become a major concern for bar and pub patrons. According to law, tavern clients must leave at closing time. In -40°C weather, waits for cabs can be long and dangerous.

23

Easter Sunday
World Meteorological Day

2007: Across Prince Edward Island, lack of snow, warm temperatures, and winds created headaches for Islanders combating grass fires.

30 One fire in New Glasgow burnt about 2 ha of grass.

1875: One of the most violent gales ever witnessed in Chilliwack, BC, commenced about noon. Large trees were uprooted and tree trunks shattered as if they were pipe stems.

24

2007: Ontario and Quebec beekeepers warned they could lose almost half their beehives due to a sudden mid-January cold snap. An industry collapse would not only mean less honey to eat but also fewer bees to pollinate farmers' crops.

31

1907: What was said to be the most severe blizzard in 20 years raged over Newfoundland for 48 hours. It was accompanied by a rare thunderstorm, and lightning destroyed a house at Harbor Grace and disabled telegraph lines. Offshore, high winds chocked the coast with ice, making it impossible to operate shipping. Inland, traffic on several railway lines was brought to a standstill by deep snow.

25

2007: Except perhaps for Salluit on Ungava Bay, weather for the Quebec election was decent, with temperatures from 5° to 10°C. Weather played a small role in the campaign, affecting the Premier's itinerary just 3 times— heavy snow, fog, and a nor'easter that roared up the Atlantic coast and blew into Gaspé. Reporters on an opponent's campaign bus rebelled at another -20°C outdoor news conference.

26

1950: Lightning shot through the United Church manse near Bala, ON, within 2 m of 2 sleeping children. They escaped injury, as did a baby in an iron crib. A door frame of the manse and its rear porch windows shattered and a 1-m-long piece of wood was driven across a room into a china cabinet. The lightning also burnt out all Bala's electrical connections and blew out a transformer.

27

2006: The Tibbitt-Contwoyto ice road (NWT) closed, leaving companies short 2,118 deliveries of fuel and supplies out of a hoped-for 9,000. Warm weather and weak ice meant everything had to be flown in. Roads never reached maximum weight limits. Yellowknife had just 13 days of ideal ice-road-building temperatures (-30°C or lower); 55 is normal. The Mackenzie region averaged 7.4° above normal during the winter.

28

2005: Saskatoon, SK, cabbies had the spayed tires, ruined struts, and damaged ball joints and wheel alignments to prove it was the worst year yet for potholes. Holes seemed wider, deeper, and rougher. Letting the last snowfall melt on already cleared main thoroughfares left a lot of water around to cause damage; it was made worse when nearly half of March had melting days and freezing nights.

29

Last Quarter 

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APRIL 2008

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

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Saturday

		<p>1908: It was a cruel April Fool's Day joke on Thunder Bay, ON, when the winter's worst blizzard slammed into the city. Knee-deep snowdrifts made walking extremely difficult. Mothballed snowplows had to be put back into service. On several occasions, streetcar conductors had to either leave their cars to clear the tracks or charge the drifts repeatedly before continuing.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1</p>	<p>2005: A young Gander, NL, couple got married on an ice floe in Island Harbour, NL, on a nice spring day in coastal Labrador, with ample sunshine, light winds, and -2°C. Snowmobiles subbed for the limo and church pews; garden torches wrapped in red ribbon formed the aisle. The bride's dress hid her long johns and winter boots, but for practical reasons she ditched the train of her veil.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">2</p>	<p>2004: A young man trapped on an ice floe near downtown Selkirk, MB, was rescued by firefighters who waded into flood waters infested with ice chunks, tree trunks, and lawn furniture to save him. He had scrambled over ice floes and through 1-m-high flood water for about 100 m before help came. The sharp edges of the ice bloodied and bruised him, and he was subdued by hypothermia.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">3</p>	<p>1951: Tonnes of ice in record high flood waters smashed hundreds of homes in Pointe-aux-Trembles, QC. Volunteer boats were used to evacuate hundreds of villagers. The 6-m-thick ice grinding against one house awakened a teenager, who was carried to safety through waist-deep water on a firefighter's shoulders. Some residents chose to stay, cooking their meals on portable stoves in upstairs rooms.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">4</p>	<p>1922: A young woman wearing very little clothing disappeared into the snowy woods, while the temperatures dipped to -4°C. Villagers from Maniwaki, QC, searched for her or her dead body for 3 days, at times wading up to their armpits in icy-cold water. When found, she was not cold but the flesh was off her feet in places, her toes were turned up and blackened, and her legs were swollen.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">5</p>
<p>1863: A farmer on Ile d'Orléans, QC, died of exposure after being stranded on the ice. His horse and sleigh were discovered the next day. The horse was cut about the head, leading people to speculate that the animal became fractious during a storm and when the man got out of the sleigh to constrain it, the horse broke away. The farmer was left behind and perished.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">6</p> <p>New Moon ●</p>	<p>2006: A deep, well-saturated snowpack, plus moisture left over from the wettest summer on record and a wet fall, meant Manitoba's Red River could match 1996's record flood water conditions. Luckily, Winnipeg experienced its 2nd warmest April on record, with half its normal precipitation. Still, it was the 5th highest spring flood in a century, the river cresting just 1.2 m below the record level.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">7</p>	<p>1815: It was a time when people walked a lot more or travelled by stagecoach. Stagecoaches served the travel needs of local people and carried mail between communities. These horse-drawn carriages ran regularly, reaching speeds of up to 10 km an hour, depending on the steepness of the roads and the weather. In winter, they were fitted with sleigh runners.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">8</p>	<p>2006: Spring sprang 10 days early in Manitoba. Early morning frost caused golf tee times to be pushed back, but cyclists, joggers, and skateboarders enjoyed afternoon highs approaching 20°C, and lineups at ice cream stands were long. In Brandon, 2 daring snowmobilers rode their machines on the fast-flowing, ice-free Assiniboine River in what has become an annual tradition for them.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">9</p>	<p>2004: Summer wear and outdoor activities ruled as coastal British Columbia basked in record high mid-20s temperatures. Motorcyclists, bicyclists, and motorists in convertibles cruised the highways and byways of Vancouver Island, where Port Alberni hit a scorching 26°C. About 50 of BC's 80 weather stations recorded new highs for the day, with Vancouver topping 18.5°C and Abbotsford 25.2°C.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">10</p>	<p>1907: A goose boat capsized on the Sackville River (NS), throwing 2 hunters into the water. One drowned; the other scrambled into the boat but without oars was carried to sea by the current. Hundreds of rescuers fought ice floes and the receding tide to reach him, and 4 men finally succeeded. They carried him to a distant house, where, with the help of restoratives, he regained consciousness.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">11</p>	<p>1865: A "serious" gale blew across southern Ontario, damaging houses and felling trees and fences. At Nottawasaga, a 12-year-old girl driving home cattle from the bush was killed by a falling tree, along with 7 cattle. Near Creemore, the winds lifted a barn from its foundation and carried it into a garden.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">12</p> <p>First Quarter ●</p>
<p>2006: Near The Pas, MB, the Carrot River rose close to 1997 flood levels, 5 times its normal volume. The nearby Red Deer River was at its highest in 50 years of stream gauging. Flooding damaged 100 buildings and forced more than 1,000 residents of the Red Earth First Nation to evacuate. 1.2 million ha of waterlogged fields could not be seeded that spring.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">13</p>	<p>2006: By mid-April, Whitehorse, YT, had received more snow in 3 days (23.2 cm) than it usually gets all April. Today, Good Friday, more than 16 cm fell, the highest one-day snowfall on record. Residents near Annie Lake received 50 cm. Normally, 16 cm of Whitehorse's light, dry, fluffy snow yield less than 6 mm of water; the water equivalent of today's snowfall was 15.8 mm.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">14</p>	<p>1953: The worst spring blizzard in 16 years smacked southern Manitoba. At Portage la Prairie, snow and winds gusting to 140 km/h reduced visibility to nil, stalling traffic, and the "Home for Defectives" recreation hall roof was torn off. The post office had trouble delivering mail, and bread and milk deliveries were hours behind schedule as trains ran a half-hour late and buses 6 hours.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">15</p>	<p>1958: A tornado struck near Watrous and Drake, SK. At 1st touchdown, it hurled a wagon through a fence, then demolished a tool shed and blew down cemetery headstones. At its next stop, barns were smashed and piglets scattered more than 1,600 m. At its 3rd stop, the twister dismantled a 2-storey chicken coop, bashed in windows, flipped over a car, and lifted ducks off a slough.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">16</p>	<p>1922: The most violent windstorm in years hit Niagara Falls, ON. Winds of 130 km/h unroofed several barns but left fruit trees untouched since without foliage the wind had little to grip. However, many big shade trees either lost limbs or were toppled, blocking several country roads. Swinging wires interrupted telegraph and telephone connections from Toronto, ON, to Buffalo, NY.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">17</p>	<p>2004: A rare April tornado touched down south of Raymond, AB, about 6:10 PM and lasted 10 to 20 minutes. The tornadic column, measuring 15 m wide and 300 m high and leaning about 15 degrees off vertical, was filled with dirt, grass, stubble, and bits of paper. The RCMP later confirmed it left behind dime- to quarter-sized hail.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">18</p>	<p>2006: Gale-force winds and 35 mm of mixed rain and snow blasted the Maritimes. Road crews scrambled to reinstall snowblades on their equipment. A big rig, minus its roof, was found near Seal Island Bridge to Cape Breton Island. A group of daredevil tractor-trailer drivers had crossed the bridge side by side to get an empty trailer across in the high winds. In Prince Edward Island, heavy surf delayed the start of lobster season.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">19</p>

1955: Winnipeg, MB, received its first soaking rain of the spring. The nearly 15 mm of rainwater was found to be 30% more radioactive than ordinary tap water, probably the result of H-bomb atomic tests in Nevada, USA. Rainwater tested in Toronto, ON, was 3 to 10 times as radioactive as normal rainwater. To quiet fears, experts declared that "there was nothing to get excited about."

20

Full Moon 

Weather Quiz

Which country is the world's leading rainmaker?

- 1) United States
- 2) Russia
- 3) China
- 4) Argentina
- 5) Australia

(Answer on inside back cover)

21

2006: Scientists from Canada and Denmark installing instruments on the Arctic Ocean's frozen surface to create an undersea map for mining and exploration were stymied. Unseasonably warm weather had produced dense fog that grounded helicopters. The window of work opportunity between Arctic night and spring thaw is short. Of the 4 planned 150-km-long lines of sensors, only 1 was completed to date.

22

Earth Day

2006: Almost 900 residents of Kashechewan in Northern Ontario faced their 3rd evacuation in less than a year. When warm air and rains triggered a spring thaw, nearby rivers flooded and ice debris snapped a valve in the reserve's water treatment plant. Sewage backed up into the system, leaving residents without tap water. Fog and freezing rain prevented mercy planes from landing in the community.

23

1990: Edward Lozowski, a professor of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Alberta, concluded that the expression "It's so cold that spit froze before it hit the ground and shattered upon impact" is a tall tale. According to his calculations, at -50°C, with winds blowing at 60 km/h, an average-sized gob of spit would only freeze to the thickness of a human hair.

24

1950: Not since 1826 had there been so much water in Manitoba's Red River Valley. Winds drove choppy waves against thin sandbag barriers guarding Winnipeg's southern approach. Plunging temperatures threatened river freeze-up and ice blocks hammering towns. Blizzards hampered rescue work and brought hardship to thousands of homeless and to those who had no heat due to flooded furnaces.

25

1880: A violent 10-minute squall passed through the Kitchener, ON, region, where it unroofed a church, destroying its ceiling, pews, and floor, and damaged several outbuildings. Near Bronte, ON, a young man raking stone in a scow was blown away. He attempted to swim ashore with the aid of a plank but drowned. A lady and gentleman were ejected from their buggy and left lying in the road.

26

2006: The temperature in Winnipeg, MB, rose to 22°C in the afternoon sun but inside the city's 80 bus shacks, hot air poured from the heaters. The 1,500-watt baseboard-style heaters operate on tamper-proof thermostats from November through April and must be turned off manually by city workers. It costs the city \$5,000 a month to heat the shelters.

27

Last Quarter 

1965: At 6:00 PM a nasty windstorm struck Lone Rock, SK, overturning a pump house and carrying a holiday trailer over a fence. Described as a miniature hurricane, the winds stole about 200 plywood sheets from a lumberyard and ripped off the roof of a rink. At a farm 16 km north of town, a granary rose 9 m in the air before crashing to the ground.

28

1875: A fierce gale blew most of the day in the London, ON, area. On the outskirts, the wind ripped boards from fences and sent them hurtling through the air, lifted roof shingles, and tossed bricks afar. Pedestrians found their progress accelerated or impeded. In the city, the west and south walls of a newly constructed building swayed with the wind and scaffolding was carried away.

29

1942: A severe electrical storm damaged buildings and homes in the Georgian Bay region of Ontario. At Thornbury, lightning struck and levelled an apple storage plant, crushing machinery and 12,000 cases of canned apple juice. In Clarksburg, a man, his wife, and 3 children barely escaped when lightning gutted their home. A heavy downpour kept the fire from spreading to nearby homes and a school.

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MAY 2008

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<p>2003: North of Edmonton, AB, a 10-year-old girl went missing for 21 hours, spending the night lost in cold, snowy weather. More than 100 people searched for her, along with search dogs and an RCMP helicopter. When the girl saw the chopper fly over, she put her coat on the ground. The coat's colour and brown and green vegetation made her easy to spot.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1</p>	<p>1843: Relentless rains and sudden snowmelt generated a high freshet in New Brunswick. Several bridges were damaged or carried away when large quantities of firewood clogged streams and rivers. For days, men, women, and children busily secured "drift stuff" from the watercourses. In many places, roads along riverbanks were washed away, making travel and mail delivery extremely difficult.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">2</p>	<p>1836: About 2:00 PM, the ice in the St. Lawrence River at Montreal, QC, started moving with unprecedented celerity and power. In its course, the ice destroyed the thick stone walls of a distillery. It then annihilated and buried beneath huge and solid masses a small house, killing a family of 4 without warning.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">3</p>
<p>2006: A cold spring day didn't deter 17 of Saskatchewan's "boys of summer" from showing their best stuff to scouts from the New York Mets, San Diego Padres, Cleveland Indians, and Toronto Blue Jays. The wind and cold forced them indoors, where they were put through their pitching and hitting paces. Said one baseball scout, "It would have been much better to be outside to see what they have."</p> <p style="text-align: right;">4</p>	<p>1886: A cyclone hit at night near Melita, SK, tossing a shanty and its occupant into the air. While airborne, the man received a 15-cm gash to his head from a flying piece of timber. Another resident sought safety by clinging to grass as his small house was lifted and transported 1 km. Amazingly, a suit coat stored in a trunk remained there but one sleeve was ripped off and never seen again.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">New Moon ●</p>	<p>2006: After 72 days and 965 km, a British explorer abandoned his quest to be the first person to ski solo across the North Pole from Russia to Canada. Open water (some 15 km wide) on the Canadian side ended his trek. So much polar ice had melted that he doubted anyone would ever again reach the Pole by foot. During his trek, temperatures reached a record 15°C and he skied minus hat and mittens.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">6</p>	<p>2006: Seconds after being struck by a lightning bolt, a Manitoba Youth Centre counsellor ushered 6 female inmates to safety. There was no warning flash before he heard a big thunder boom and saw a bolt shooting to the surface. The ground shook and the girls screamed. He came to 5 m away, composed himself, and then guided the girls into the cafeteria before collapsing.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">7</p>	<p>2006: For the nearly 5 million Canadians who suffer seasonal allergies, this spring seemed much worse. Allergists were quick to blame the milder-than-usual winter and the sudden onset of spring. Heavy tree pollinators came on stream in unison, contributing to an early explosion and elevated levels of tree pollen. Winds helped blow the pollen around, causing people to sneeze earlier and longer.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">8</p>	<p>2006: A rare May tornado touched down for about 5 minutes on a Domain, MB, farm. The farmer arrived home to find chunks of his metal barn hanging in trees, a shed shredded, machinery toppled, and 2-by-4 boards pushed 1-m deep into the ground like javelins. A horse in a nearby corral was broadsided by a sheet of metal and an imprint of the sheet metal's ribs was left on its side.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">9</p>	<p>1853: A family of 7 sailing on Lake Simcoe in an 8-m-long boat was within 8 km of Beaverton, ON, when a squall capsized their vessel. It also carried 2 stoves and other heavy furniture. The father saved himself by means of timber that floated his way, and a young girl's clothes became entangled on the legs of a table, in which condition she floated to shore. The others drowned.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">10</p>
<p>Weather Quiz</p> <p>Which province has the greatest number of hot days (over 30°C) on average?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Ontario 2) Quebec 3) Saskatchewan 4) British Columbia 5) Manitoba <p><i>(Answer on inside back cover)</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">11</p>	<p>1938: In Alberta, 120-km/h winds packed with snow and soil swept through Edmonton, disrupting communications and inflicting extensive damage. In Calgary, a solid wall of dirt bluffed out the sun. Rain, lighter winds, and then heavy, wet snow followed, but shortly after 7:00 PM, a huge rainbow appeared. Old-timers could not remember a dust storm arriving so suddenly without warning.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">12</p>	<p>2005: A fierce battle between warm summer-like air south of Lake Erie and much cooler air to the north in Ontario culminated in the explosion of severe thunderstorms over southern Ontario. In Rodney, 100-km/h straight-line wind gusts blew tractor-trailers off the road and uprooted several pine trees.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">13</p>	<p>1931: Gale-force winds in Regina, SK, levelled 25 utility poles, plunging the city into darkness for several hours. Fortunately, poles and wires came down across roads, rather than crashing through roofs of houses. Two men sitting in a car jumped out just before a huge pole crushed their vehicle. Repair gangs arrived from Moose Jaw. Theatres waited an hour before closing.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">14</p>	<p>1917: Near Wainwright, AB, a funnel-shaped wind hoisted a small shack off its foundation and whirled it some 3 m above the ground. During the cyclone, the air was filled with sticks, stones, glass, and other missiles. When the shack landed, 5 people were buried under the debris but escaped unharmed, apart from a few bruises and a bad scare. The father/husband was pinned under the stove.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">15</p>	<p>2006: Record-breaking high temperatures occurred at Calgary (30.9°C), Medicine Hat (33.2°C), Pincher Creek, Jasper, and Drumheller, AB. The hot, sunny, dry air mass added to the serious forest fire situation. With the year's busiest camping weekend coming up, nervous officials contemplated bans on all outdoor fires. Fortunately, light winds kept wildfires from spreading.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">16</p>	<p>1854: A heavy wind gust in the early evening caused a steamer navigating Quebec's Rapides de Lachine to swerve from the channel and strike a rock. When passengers panicked, the captain steered for shoal water, grounding the boat's bow on a shoal. Some 9 hours later, the stern sank in 4 m of water. Passengers anxiously waited for morning rescue as the heavy gale rocked the vessel to and fro.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">17</p>

2003: May had been grey, cool, and rainy in southern Ontario. Farmers feared losing crops seeded earlier or being unable to seed at all. A warm fall, a cold spring, and a nasty parasitic mite wreaked havoc on half the province's 35,000 beehives. High honey prices and a warm fall had tempted beekeepers to prolong operations, but it only gave mites more time to infest and destroy many hives.

18

1940: A short but violent storm raced across central Ontario. Two people died in a plane crash near St. Catharines. In Toronto, the storm elevated buildings, tossed trees about, and damaged a lakefront rowing club. After crumpling part of the Canadian National Exhibition's roller coaster, it hoisted a nearby shack over the coaster and some power lines before dropping it some distance away.

19

Victoria Day

2004: Unseasonably mild weather advanced the fruit crop in the Okanagan (BC) by 2 weeks in one of the earliest springs ever. Welcome heavy rains then fell across the region. The storm knocked out power in downtown Kelowna, temporarily bringing a halt to Memorial Cup hockey action.

20

Full Moon 

1921: Lightning struck a farmhouse near Tracy, NB, killing a farmer, paralyzing his wife, and stunning their little girl. It also set fire to the house, which, in the high wind, burned so quickly that the farmer's body was consumed before it could be removed. The child recovered consciousness in time to drag her mother to safety.

21

2006: Deep snowpacks in the West Kootenay (BC) region melted rapidly in 35+°C weather. Dozens of people evacuated their homes as armies of volunteers filled a quarter million sandbags to stem rising rivers. In Grand Forks, 40 families were on alert as the Kettle River reached its 3rd-highest flow rate since 1930. Five days after the flooding, 0.5 m of water remained in some basements.

22

1960: Lightning set off a fire that gutted a home in Brighton, ON. It fused a bolt in the home's cold water pipe, leaving the water in the pipe boiling. The family returned to find their bedroom furniture smouldering in the driveway. One resident was briefly blinded and thrown to the floor. Another saw a bright glow behind his TV and then a fireball shooting across the room into the kitchen.

23

1990: A rare east-to-west reversal of wind direction deposited a band of Saskatchewan dust in Edmonton, AB. Winds blowing up to 85 km/h covered Edmonton streets with soil and wheat seed, the thick dust prompting breathing problems. According to the *Edmonton Journal*, one farmer commented: "Edmonton can keep the wheat ... all they have to do is harvest it and bring it home."

25

1917: Lightning struck the Dominion Government Observatory on the summit of Sulphur Mountain, at Banff, AB, wrecking almost the entire building. The bolt cracked the observatory's massive stone walls and destroyed its automatic weather-recording instruments. The force was so great that rocks were pulverized and a 10-m-long and 1-m-deep trench was left in the mountain.

26

2005: Constant high winds and record rains caused the lobster season between Digby and Halifax, NS, to be extended by a week. Yarmouth and Halifax set new May rainfall records of over 300 mm. In high winds, traps often bump along the sea bottom. In turbulent waters, lobsters stay put in rock crevices, munching on vegetation blown their way by gust-driven currents, until the water clears.

27

2005: A deluge in southern Nova Scotia swamped roads, bridges, and scores of homes. Bridgewater declared a state of emergency and RCMP went door-to-door, at times by boat, to ensure residents had left. Parts of Nova Scotia got 248+ mm of rain, their wettest May ever. Halifax had 11 straight days of rain (3 over 55 mm). A Hebbville woman tied her greenhouse to a tree when it began floating away.

28

Last Quarter



1872: As a Kincardine, ON, family ate breakfast, lightning entered their farmhouse's chimney. It damaged the roof, scattered bricks and stovepipes, and killed their 2 dogs. The charge struck the wife/mother's right thigh, passed down below her knee, crossed to her left leg, and down to her foot. It scorched her clothing, removed some of her boot, and severely burned and completely paralyzed her.

29

1923: A ferocious miniature cyclone smashed windows in a Calgary, AB, schoolroom, scattering myriad pieces of fine glass that painfully injured 2 students. Students had remained motionless, watching as the window panes bent before breaking. The cyclone lifted for 2 blocks before striking a swimming pool under construction, ripping up heavy planks and tossing them high in the air.

30

1920: Wildfires raged in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Quebec. 12,000 acres of forest in and near Cumberland, NS, became a desert of charred timber. High winds fanned a major fire in Restigouche, NB, into a huge blaze that destroyed the town of St. Quentin. Heavy rain in northern New Brunswick ended the wildfire menace.

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JUNE 2008

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1875: Several warm days in Winnipeg, MB, hatched millions upon millions of grasshoppers. On this day, though, 15 cm of snow fell. Residents hoped it would kill the hoppers but instead were surprised to see them dancing a "highland fling" on top of the snow, seemingly enjoying it. As it turned out, great masses of grasshoppers developed that year, eating everything green to the ground.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1</p>	<p>1958: Stoney Indians west of Calgary, AB, told rain-desperate farmers that if they donated to a "rain fund," the Stoneys would perform their traditional 4-day rain dance. If it rained during that time, they got the rain fund; if it didn't, the farmers got their money back. For 4 days, 7 dancers danced beside the Bow River on the Morley Reserve but no rain fell. A week later, 16.8 mm fell.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">World Environment Day</p>	<p>1839: Rising rivers carried away several bridges and houses at Montmorency and Malbaie, QC. At Baie-St-Paul, several houses along the Rivière du Gouffre were seen bobbing in the St. Lawrence River. At Valcartier, a barn with 400 bundles of hay was swept 10 km downriver and lodged on an island. A great many sawlogs and other timber were lost along both sides of many rivers.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">New Moon ●</p>	<p>2006: Record rainfalls flooded basements and closed roads in Saint John, NB, keeping firefighters hopping and frustrating motorists and homeowners. In Prince Edward Island, one harness racing program and all but 4 races of another had to be postponed. Ready-to-hatch mosquito larvae were washed from ponds and standing water, delaying the emergence of clouds of mosquitoes by several weeks.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">4</p>	<p>2004: Residents of Victoria-Esquamalt, BC, braced for the annual stench from rotting sea lettuce. When green, sea lettuce resembles small green-coloured hankies floating ashore on the tide. However, once the sun bleaches it and air temperatures rise, it quickly turns into a putrid, stinking, and foul mess.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">5</p>	<p>1919: A violent windstorm brought large hail that covered the ground in Vulcan, AB, to a depth of 5 cm. Farmhouses, barns, and chicken coops were damaged. A new Ford sitting in a field was lifted and carried onto a stone pile, which saved it from being pushed over a cliff and down a 15-m embankment. A cook car was carried some 100 m before landing on a fence of 4-m-high trees.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">6</p>	<p>2004: Strong winds and high seas defeated a champion sailor from Switzerland who was leading a prestigious race from Portsmouth, England, to Boston, MA. About 700 km from Newfoundland, the keel of his 15-m-long vessel broke in 3- to 4-m seas, with 35-knot winds and limited visibility. His boat flipped, but he was rescued by an oil tanker. Of the top 5 boats in the race, 3 had keel failures.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">7</p>
<p>2005: Copious rains, marble-sized hail, and fierce winds slammed parts of Labrador. In less than 5 minutes, the winds switched around and jumped from 6 to 48 km/h. The onslaught toppled barbecues, sent propane tanks rolling down streets, unroofed trailer homes, and flipped a snowmobile. In Wabush, a greenhouse's plexiglas panels exploded inward, destroying some early tomato plants.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">8</p>	<p>1852: Lightning from a thunderstorm at Guelph, ON, travelled down a house chimney, killing a dog lying near the fireplace and propelling a floorboard splinter upward with such force that it struck the ceiling. The premises were considerably damaged but, miraculously, none of the several people in the house was touched. The storm also brought hail and rain that destroyed crops and orchards.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">9</p>	<p>1919: At Staynor Hall, SK, a tornado levelled a house, cowshed, and chicken coop, carried farm machinery 3 km about the country, and drove boards into cattle. Houses were lifted 60 m and then smashed. Near Shaunavon, flying debris struck a farmer in the head. When he came to, he was lying beside his unconscious wife, their baby still in her arms. Their house had collapsed and was on fire.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">10</p> <p style="text-align: center;">First Quarter ◐</p>	<p>1924: A cyclone destroyed a house and several granaries near Lafleche, SK. A farmer near Gravelbourg was killed instantly by lightning as he carried a pail of milk from the barn to his house. An area about 8 km wide and 35 km long was covered in 5 cm of hail. An unoccupied house became a heap of splintered wood after being lifted off its foundation, carried 15 m aloft, and dropped 400 m away.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">11</p>	<p>1892: For 5 minutes, Thunder Bay, ON, was in an uproar—loose lumber, boxes, and barrels flying everywhere—as a tornado struck. Winds knocked the framework for a new hotel 0.5 m out of plumb, tore down signs and awnings, blew out windows, dashed an old smokestack, and felled transmission poles. In the 3 churches holding services during the gale, consternation prevailed in the congregations.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">12</p>	<p>1886: On a warm, dry day, a wind gust sent sparks flying as a contractor burned debris and cleared land near False Creek, BC, to create building lots for a new city—Vancouver. In the resulting conflagration, the small settlement burned to the ground and lives were lost. The next day, only a telegraph pole and a few stumps could be seen standing above the charred destruction.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">13</p>	<p>2006: In Sydney Mines, NS, bees were so thick they could be scooped up with a shovel. Driving was treacherous as wipers couldn't remove them from windshields. Students in 2 local schools were cautioned to keep away from the swarm. Bees usually swarm during warm, sunny weather, but heavy rain, a remnant of tropical storm Alberto, caused this swarming. No one reported being stung.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">14</p>
<p>2006: Heavy rains in south and central Alberta flooded roads and backed up sewers, triggering memories of last June's disastrous flooding. High-stream advisories were issued for much of the Bow, Oldman, and South Saskatchewan River basins. Up to 80 mm (a month's worth) of rain fell in Edmonton, flooding 82 basements; 4,500 had flooded in the historic deluge of July 2004.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">15</p>	<p>1923: A powerful cyclonic storm swept central Saskatchewan. Near Rosetown, a teenage farmhand was killed when his bunkhouse was tossed 50 m through the air. A farmhand asleep in another bunkhouse sailed 0.5 km up and over a haystack, unhurt until struck on the head by a barrel while crawling to shelter. A Saskatoon warehouse was unroofed, then gently moved across the street to a vacant lot.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">16</p>	<p>1953: A fast-moving storm, accompanied at times by rain, hail, and "cyclonic" winds, tore across the Prairies. Near Glenloch, MB, winds ripped farm buildings off foundations and damaged tractors, while lightning electrocuted several farm animals. At Yorkton, SK, lightning struck a farmer as he drove his tractor across his field on his way home.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">17</p>	<p>2006: Smog grounded small planes in Quebec and left asthma sufferers breathless. Temperatures in Montreal hit 32°C and the humidex approached 40—perfect conditions for smog. It blanketed the region from Montreal, north to the Laurentians, east to Lanaudière, and northwest to Lachute and St. Jerome, cancelling area sightseeing tours. Montreal's smog could be seen 160 km northwest of the city.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">18</p>	<p>1955: A fierce wind ripped apart Vita, MB. A couple suddenly found their house 12 m aloft. One of their guests was later found near it, dazed and holding onto its front door. A 6-room school collapsed; the hospital, the hotel, a drugstore, and a church were badly damaged; a funeral parlour vanished; and a lumberyard's contents were scattered. The bakery caved in, bread still baking in its ovens.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">19</p>	<p>Weather Quiz</p> <p style="text-align: right;">20</p> <p>Which country is credited with starting the first weather forecast warning service?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) France 2) United States 3) United Kingdom 4) Italy 5) Spain <p><i>(Answer on inside back cover)</i></p>	<p>1922: A cyclone struck near Birch Hills, SK. Crops survived but the strong winds moved outbuildings off foundations, uprooted fences, and toppled trees. A horse was lifted from its stable and deposited unhurt in a field some distance away. A curious effect was the drying up of all sloughs in the path of the storm. The only casualty was a cow, which was tossed in the air.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">21</p>
<p>Summer Solstice</p>						

1922: At Hartland, NB, the Tetagouche River rose rapidly after 5 days and nights of heavy rain. Between Hartland and Woodstock, land washed away or collapsed. The dam on the Tetagouche gave way, releasing 2,000,000 m of lumber that careened downriver, carrying away steel and concrete bridges. The logs pushed the Canadian Pacific bridge more than 1 m out of alignment and swept away a grist mill.

22

1950: Days of high winds wrecked boat-houses near Sioux Narrows, ON, and carried away docks on Lake of the Woods. Lightning ripped a path akin to spring plowing and damaged a cottage, heaving up a floor, badly splintering it and an adjoining wall. The storm peaked with 30 minutes of torrential rain. Well-soaked fields and gardens delayed already late fieldwork.

23

1875: About 2:00 PM, a frightful tornado burst from the west, killing a man near Sarnia, DN. When the storm struck, he was sitting, smoking his pipe, beside his horses. He noticed his nearby log shack collapsing but, unfortunately, as he tried to escape, was struck by 3 heavy logs, which pinned him until his neighbours came. Amidst the mass of ruins, the horses were unhurt.

24

1919: A sulphur-laden rain shower fell on Dawson, YT, and vicinity. The 30-minute downpour left pools and sidewalks streaked with a yellow substance. Chemists declared that it was sulphur, which was likely carried in the upper atmospheric currents after the eruption of an Indonesian volcano. Similar-coloured rain occurred at Eagle, Alaska, and in northern British Columbia.

25

1952: A fisher near Cowansville died when a thunder-storm swept southern Quebec. In Montreal, a quick-thinking conductor kept passengers from panicking as he rolled his smoke-filled streetcar to a stop after lightning hit its pole and blew the switch box. Lightning also killed a man watching the storm on his veranda. Before the storm, Montreal Harbour river traffic was stalled by thick fog.

26

Last Quarter 

2006: A massive forest fire in northern Saskatchewan forced some 700 residents of Stony Rapids and Fond-du-Lac to evacuate. The sky was a smoky orange and burning pine needles drifted like snow onto the towns. Volunteers in Stanley Mission installed sprinkler systems to protect Holy Trinity Anglican Church, the oldest (pre-1860) church west of the Red River, the RCMP detachment, and several homes.

27

2006: The garbage dump in Halifax, NS, stunk, but the municipality said it was entirely weather related and thus temporary. Recent above-normal rainfall had infiltrated its gas-collection pipe system, which led to interruptions in the flaring of landfill gases and odour in the surrounding area. As of the 28th, Halifax had received 208 mm of rain; the June normal is 98 mm.

28

1952: Intense winds damaged a farm north of Willingdon, AB. The garage was carried 100 m over the top of the house, boards strewn in its wake, but a tractor inside it was undamaged. Following a strange pattern, the winds broke the outer storm windows of the house, but left the inside ones intact. The chicken house was tossed 130 m into the air, and most of its 300 chickens disappeared.

29

1956: A farmer from northeast of Langruth, MB, had begun working for the Manitoba Power Commission 2 weeks before to earn money to insure his crops against hail damage. Just hours before he intended to buy the policy, the worst hailstorm in 27 years struck his area. The ruined farmer watched from his car as golf-ball-sized hail pounded his glorious fields of wheat and oats into the ground.

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JULY 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<p>1912: Attracted by the barking of a faithful dog, 3 men discovered the bodies of 2 fishers, both residents of Vancouver, BC, lying in a fishing smack on the waters of Pender Harbour. They had perished from exposure and exhaustion, after being caught in a 2-day gale. The dog persisted in racing up and down the beach, barking, and although half-starved and bedraggled, refused to be driven away.</p> <p>Canada Day</p>	<p>1911: Most of Eastern Canada sizzled in an unbearable heat spell. The heat and added humidity caused great suffering among young children and several infants died. In Montreal, QC, 207 horses, most having dropped dead on the street, and 96 pigs had to be carted to the Incineration Department. Residents complained that the dead animals were not being removed and incinerated fast enough.</p>	<p>2006: A dairy farmer from Cobden, ON, was lucky to find his cows unharmed after a tornado carried off a calf. The twister ripped in half 1 of his 3 silos and pushed another off its foundation, leaving it standing but changing its shape from circular to oval. Later, he found 1 of his calves, still in a white plastic hutch but unharmed, in a field. It had been lifted over 2 fences.</p> <p>New Moon ●</p>	<p>1898: During a thunderstorm, lightning struck and shattered a house in Cavendish, PE. Two visitors sitting on either side of the owner were killed instantly. Incredibly, the owner escaped injury, but his wife received a shock. Lightning also destroyed several barns and a lobster factory.</p> <p>Aphelion 04 EDT</p>	<p>1911: A windstorm in Huronville, SK, lifted and carried several houses over 2 km. One house was turned into kindling in minutes, the farmer and his hired man thrown near a slough several metres away, both badly bruised and nursing sprained limbs. The wind destroyed another house, whirling parts of it across the prairie, just as a woman was shutting its door. Almost her entire body was bruised.</p>
<p>1921: During a heat wave in Toronto, ON, thousands of citizens slept in parks or bathed at the beach at night to keep cool. If the heat wave did not break by Sunday, the Bishop would lead a prayer for rain and cool weather. At Niagara Falls, a woman overcome with heat tumbled into the Niagara River; another fainted and fell in. Both were rescued. Cherry crops ripened too fast and could not be picked.</p>	<p>2006: At Edmonton's (AB) Commonwealth Stadium, football players and fans ran for cover as 80 km/h winds, lightning, and sheets of rain came down with 6:07 minutes left in the second quarter. The game was delayed for 28 minutes. Rain flooded the field's track and sideline advertising signs went sailing. An Edmonton Eskimo player smacked by a sign said, "That was the best hit of the game on me ... I was blindsided."</p>	<p>2006: On 3 consecutive days in the first week of July, Okanagan (BC) orchards were pelted with pea-sized hail and torrential rains during some of the worst storms in 20 years. More than 600 Okanagan growers filed storm losses. The hail laid waste to fruit crops in certain areas but hardly touched others. Some growers paid for helicopters to fly over their orchards to shake off excess water.</p>	<p>1930: The fiercest heat wave in years was scorching the Canadian prairies. Several people drowned in lakes and rivers as thousands tried to escape the heat, and damage to crops was extensive. A Winnipeg, MB, man thought to be suffering temporary insanity due to the heat attempted to kill himself with a razor; when his wife tried to stop him, he inflicted serious wounds to her face and throat.</p>	<p>2006: Warm, humid weather and increased rainfall across Prince Edward Island caused an earwig explosion. The pincher-like creatures are named for the superstition that they crawl into the ears of sleeping people and bore into their brain. Actually, they are harmless. Insecticidal soaps and wrapping duct tape, sticky side out, around a house foundation (an old Red Green trick) get rid of them.</p> <p>First Quarter ○</p>	<p>2006: Wiarlon Willie, one of Canada's best-known weather forecasters, died in his sleep at the ripe old age of about 8. In February, Willie marked Wiarlon's (ON) 50th year of groundhog forecasting. The albino groundhog's last prediction—an imminent end to winter—was spectacularly wrong. Within days of his forecast, February became the snowiest month on record in parts of Bruce County.</p>	<p>1908: A fire whipped by fierce winds swept through Fernie, BC, destroying more than 1,000 buildings. The heat was so intense it melted the steel wheels of ore cars where they stood. At least 10 people perished. The toll would have been greater had not coal miners skilled in disaster response calmly helped hundreds of potential victims escape by train just before the worst of the conflagration.</p>
<p>Weather Quiz</p> <p>More people die of heat prostration in North America in which month?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) August 2) May 3) July 4) September 5) mid June <p>(Answer on inside back cover)</p>	<p>1911: Almost 300 people died and over 3,000 lost their homes when flames consumed the mining communities of South Porcupine, Cochrane, and Goldlands near Timmins, ON. Residents ran for a lake or river, some as their clothes burned; hundreds drowned, pushed into deep waters by the crush of later arrivals. A bank clerk spent the night on a lake in a canoe guarding the bank's cash with a loaded revolver.</p>	<p>1905: London, ON, was suffering a severe ice shortage because the Board of Health had ordered icemen off their traditional icefields last winter. They moved 8 km away, but the ice there, while pure, had a bad odour. Just before winter ended, the icemen scurried back to the old site to cut what ice they could. It was not enough, and ice had to be brought in from Port Huron and Hamilton.</p>	<p>1921: Old settlers in west-central Saskatchewan couldn't recall a fiercer wind, rain, and hail storm. Hail destroyed 2/3rds of the crops and winds smashed windows and levelled small barns, shacks, and garages. Unsheltered cattle were badly knocked about and poultry and birds were killed. Missing washtubs, pails, and buggies were found in strange places. A bundle of hay hung from telephone wires.</p>	<p>2006: Storms raced from Manitoulin Island through North Bay, ON, and into Quebec. A hot, juicy air mass gave way to a cold front that exploded with funnel clouds, straight-line winds, microbursts, and tornadoes. Hydro poles snapped and power lines fell, leaving chaos and states of emergency. Some 800 hydro workers toiled to repair the worst damage to Ontario's power grid since the 1998 ice storm.</p>	<p>1857: A waterspout moved onto land and devastated a parish in Beauce, QC. The priest said it was "revolving rapidly, hissing like escaping steam, swinging to and fro, and imitating the contortions of a snake." Boards, timber, carts, stones, and building parts were lifted. Its suction raised a horse and 3 cows high into the air, then let them down gradually, unscathed, but covered with mud.</p>	<p>2006: Blistering temperatures across Prince Edward Island, boosted by humidity, sent Islanders scrambling for shade and prompted health officials to issue warnings about heat exhaustion. The hot, sticky weather incited brisk sales of fans, air conditioners, and anything else that could beat the heat. Retirement and nursing homes took extra precautions to ensure their residents stayed well.</p>

1863: A violent wind struck Woodstock, NB, destroying all in its path. Partridge egg-sized hailstones drove in windows (1 owner lost 100 panes), cut down grass and grain as if scythed, and felled trees, barns, and fences. Only their chimneys kept houses standing. Not a bushel of oats, grain, or potatoes was reaped. Hailstones larger than musket bullets were shovelled out the next day.

20

2006: The temperature in Lytton, BC, soared above 42°C, a new record. The province-wide heat wave was massive. On 2 days, 63 daily temperature records were broken from Vancouver Island to the Peace River country. So far that summer, over 130 children and 40 pets were rescued from locked cars. On a sunny summer day, the temperature inside a parked car can reach over 50°C in less than 20 minutes.

21

1850: Lightning entered the window of a telegraph operator's room in Halifax, NS. The charge struck the relay instrument, passed along the connecting wire, fused the coil, and melted the copper wires leading into the battery room. The shock was felt throughout the building, but fortunately the operator was not there at the time of connection. Lightning also damaged 15 poles, destroying 2.

22

2006: Atlantic waters had heated up much earlier than normal, causing more jellyfish than usual to appear at Parlee Beach (NB), along Northumberland Strait, and in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The most commonly seen species was the purplish lion's mane, its numerous tentacles increasing its chance of contact while swimming. More sightings occurred because people were at the beach much earlier.

23

2006: A record heat wave gripped Alberta. Increasing power demands for air conditioning and irrigation led to power-conserving 30-minute rotating outages, so when lightning struck a major transmission line, Calgary's afternoon rush hour turned chaotic. Traffic signals were off, part of its light-rail transit system shut down, major roads became parking lots, and commuters were stuck downtown.

24

2006: Great Lakes' water levels declined in 1998 and remain low. Lakes Huron and Michigan are 1 m lower than in 1997, some 50 cm below their 140-year average, and Georgian Bay wetlands are drying up. Recent above-average yearly temperatures have meant less winter ice and more summer evaporation. Massive freighters ran aground in Lake Huron's shallow waters, forcing ships to carry lighter loads.

25

2006: Lightning from a line of thunderstorms hit Mountain Top House at Dorchester Penitentiary (NB). The two-storey house is used by families visiting inmates across the street. The structure lost its roof and part of an attic and received extensive smoke and water damage. One resident ignored the storm until the home's windows began to rattle and he heard a loud clap of thunder nearby.

26

Last Quarter 

2006: A downpour sent 3 golfers in Emeryville, ON, dashing for cover. As one loaded his clubs into a van, lightning struck him and threw him into the vehicle. Never losing consciousness, when put in an ambulance he was amazed to see the image of his best friend's father, who died 3 weeks before. The golfer had severe burns and nerve damage to his feet, one foot turning purple almost instantly.

27

2006: In Canada's Arctic, Hudson and Baffin Bays had the lowest amounts of sea ice (about a 3rd less than normal) since record keeping began in 1971. The lack of ice in Baffin Bay and along the Labrador Coast had a huge impact on Newfoundland-Labrador tourism. Few icebergs survive the long open-water drift south without enough ice to protect them from eroding waves. St. John's saw none in 2006.

28

2006: A microburst wreaked havoc on the Belleville (ON) Cemetery, the resting place of Susanna Moodie and Sir Mackenzie Bowell. The city was left with toppled trees and no power (briefly). The damage took 10 days to repair. Microbursts cover 0.5 km or so and occur when air gushes to the ground and spreads out. Their winds can reach 113 km/h but rarely last longer than 5 minutes in any spot.

29

2006: In Alberta, a thunderstorm spat out winds, cluster rains, and hail around Olds and Red Deer. The cold air downburst bore 87 km/hr gusts that felled trees and power lines and dropped the temperature about 12° in minutes. Near Balzac, a 680-kg, 2-seat helicopter was pushed over, injuring the pilot slightly. On Calgary's Glenmore Reservoir, 6 boats capsized.

30

2006: Southern Manitoba's record dry summer followed 2 miserable summers. In Winnipeg, the June-July rainfall (39.5 mm) eclipsed the 1886 record, but July (10.5 mm) was the driest on record, April through July (40% of normal rainfall) was the 2nd driest, and July's average maximum temperature was 2nd warmest. Winnipeggers were happy to have fewer mosquitoes, warmer temperatures, and no rain.

31

JULY

SEPTEMBER

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AUGUST 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<p>2006: Lightning struck a seniors' residence in Gatineau, QC, and 80 tenants scurried to safety. About 3:00 AM, a loud bang and acrid smoke woke a resident, who shouted and pounded on doors until his knuckles were sore to wake everyone up. Firefighters broke down the doors of those who were hard of hearing. Despite the smoke, everything went smoothly as the residence has regular fire drills.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1</p> <p style="text-align: right;">New Moon ●</p>	<p>2006: A storm left 100s of kilometres of Ontario's cottage country in shambles. At Combermere, an F2 tornado, with 180 to 240 km/h winds, tossed docks on shore, pushed over cottages, and reduced towering pines to de-barked stumps. The roof of Gravenhurst's rink was peeled back. Fourteen tornadoes (a year's average), including 2 F2s, set down, the greatest single-event number ever in Ontario.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">2</p>
<p>2006: Lightning struck a century-old farmhouse run by the SPCA near Midland, ON, and started a fire. More than 30 cats, rabbits, puppies, and other small creatures perished in the blaze. Before fire crews arrived, a staff member kicked down the farmhouse door and saved 27 animals, some of them requiring treatment for burns and smoke inhalation.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">3</p>	<p>2003: A brief but violent thunderstorm swept through London, ON. Lightning sounded like a gunshot, causing many residents to duck for cover, and made roofs shake. A bolt set one house ablaze. Inside, firefighters found the family cat. After being told by neighbourhood children that hamsters lived there, too, the fire crew emerged from the burning house with a hamster cage.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">4</p> <p>Civic Holiday</p>	<p>2006: A tornado devastated tiny Gull Lake, MB, uprooting trees, flipping vehicles and boats, and demolishing small buildings, a fishing lodge, and an 8-person outhouse. It injured dozens and killed a 64-year-old woman. Hers was the 1st death from a tornado in Canada since 12 people died at Pine Lake, AB, in July 2000 and the 1st in Manitoba since a tornado claimed 3 lives in Rosa in July 1977.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">5</p>	<p>1957: Near Gravelbourg, SK, winds felled buildings, uprooted trees, and flattened crops. The almost 160 km/h winds swept a farmhouse into the Notokeu River (the family of 6 in its basement escaping unharmed) and razed 2 barns and a granary on another farm. In town, the storm unroofed a college, toppled sheds and trees, twisted aerials, and tore down a \$20,000 circus tent, but the show went on.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">6</p>	<p>1979: A series of tornadoes, including 2 F4s, struck around Woodstock, ON, killing 3, injuring 130, and leaving 1,000 homeless. Winds up to 400 km/h destroyed or damaged over 600 homes and buildings. Damage was estimated at \$100 million. Dozens of farms were ruined, 100s of cattle and pigs died or were maimed, and 45,000 chickens perished. One man said that chickens flew past him like bullets.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">7</p>	<p>2003: In the Maritimes, high humidity swelled books in bookstores and collected in transmission equipment, disrupting calls and dial tones and setting off security alarms and smoke detectors. Mould spores put those with breathing problems or allergies at risk. Humidity-related auto repairs were up 20% over last summer, dehumidifier sales soared, and mildew and leaf diseases ruined vegetables.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">8</p> <p style="text-align: right;">First Quarter ●</p>	<p>2004: After being capsized by a huge wave, 2 young men clung to a canoe for 4 hours in Lake Nipissing (ON). The wind and waves drowned out their screams and they were close to giving up when a legally blind man and his friends found them. When they were unable to reach them with a rope, the blind man jumped into the lake, recognized their outline, and grabbed one before going back for the other.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">9</p>
<p>2006: A supercell storm in central Alberta left tennis-ball-sized hail; highways and runways had to be cleaned with snowplows. Near Red Deer, a 30-km-long and 12-km-wide hail strip destroyed 80 to 100% of what was likely a bumper crop. Hail broke windows and punched holes in the siding of almost every house in Springbrook and denuded trees, covering roads in poplar leaves and spruce needles.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">10</p>	<p>1923: During a severe thunderstorm at Eastern Passage, NS, lightning entered the chimney of a house and passed through every room in it. Glass and plaster flying in all directions alerted the startled family to the danger. Boards were ripped from the front of the kitchen sink and the sewing machine. Hinges were wrenched from the piano. The front door was blown into the yard, hinges and all.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">11</p>	<p>1924: Dense fog mixed with smoke from nearby bush fires around Vancouver, BC, reduced visibility to 15 m in the harbour and outside waters. Two marine accidents occurred that morning. A ferry to Vancouver collided with a fishing boat in the First Narrows; the <i>Kickapoo</i> sank in 10 minutes but ferry workers rescued its 3-man crew. In the other accident, a passenger vessel ran aground.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">12</p>	<p>2002: Grasshopper densities on the Prairies were 10 to 20 per square metre, enough to eat crops to the ground. In Saskatchewan, some fields had densities of 50, with grasshopper clouds so thick farmers put cloth over their animals' mouths. Highways were black with them and windshields of passing cars became so packed with their smashed bodies, drivers had to stop and scrape the goopy mess off.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">13</p>	<p>2006: A mix of hot weather, the Edmonton Oilers' playoff run, and a labour shortage fuelled by Alberta's sizzling economy produced a cocktail of trouble for the province's liquor industry. Days above 30°C numbered 11; 4 is normal. Shelves sat empty while bar and liquor store owners waited days for orders. The spectacular spring and summer weather led to an unexpected growth in sales.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">14</p>	<p>1961: In remote Mashagama Lake, ON, 4 brothers aged 4 to 8 drowned. A sudden squall and high waves swamped the family's 4-m boat. The frantic father found 3 boys and got them to the partly submerged craft. By the time he found the 4th child, the other 3 were gone. His plunge back into the 15-m depths to look for them was fruitless. He returned to the boat to find his last son gone.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">15</p>	<p>1922: The worst lightning in years passed over Yarmouth, NS. At one home, it split a chimney, tore plaster from walls, and burst windows. It damaged the outside of a local church before entering it. A barn was set on fire but rain kept it smouldering till morning, when it was put out. A wire fence was struck, shattering fence posts for 35 m, and the town's telephone system was disabled.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">16</p>

1833: Charlottetown, PE, was struck by a violent gale. Crops were injured but less than they would have been had heavy rain swamped the area. The English Church capsized with a crash that many took for loud thunder. Everywhere trees were torn up. Part of one man's house was blown down, and 1 cow and 3 pigs were killed by the falling ruins. The next day it turned "November cold."

17

2004: A "mini tornado" struck a Saskatoon, SK, golf course, hitting a sand trap and peppering a foursome. Seconds later, "a fist of wind" pitched one of them over 5 m down the fairway. His fellow players had dug their hands in the turf to anchor themselves and laughed as the 6-foot-1, 225-pounder skidded helplessly along the ground. All four elected to finish their round to let their clothes dry.

18

1911: Near Edmonton, AB, lightning set ablaze a well-known cattleman's stock barn, consuming it in less than 1 hour. His prize stock (4 stallions, 10 brood mares, 1 Jersey bull, and 1 heifer) were put in the barn a mere half hour before the bolt struck. The stock was saved, but the stallions resisted being taken out of the burning building. Once out, they made every effort to return.

19

2006: Southern Manitoba got toonie-sized hail, lightning, wind gusts, and rotating clouds. Near La Broquerie, an F2-tornado left the pregnant occupant of a house bruised, scratched, and kneeling where the bathroom had been. Her husband watched the roof and walls lift and belongings and debris scatter 400 m. Outbuildings were flattened, but windows in 2 walls and ceiling light bulbs were intact.

20

1906: A lingering heat wave in Montreal, QC, raised concerns about the dwindling ice in storage. If the heat wave did not end in 2 weeks, serious shortages would occur. Not since the summer of 1899 had there been such a demand for ice. The handicap arose because last winter's ice harvest was very poor. Ice dealers kept busy calculating their supply all through the summer.

21

1916: Dynamite stored in a shack in Montreal, QC, blew to smithereens after lightning hit the shack. The ground shook violently, shattering windows and ripping roofs from houses. The district was in an uproar, men's shouts mingling with the screams of terrified women and children. A German invasion was feared, but police rushed to reassure the frightened citizenry that it had been lightning.

22

1839: A thunderstorm struck Amherst, NS, during hay harvest. A boy on a cart was killed, as were the oxen pulling it. A 2nd boy was stunned and stupefied, his hair singed and skin from his face and body peeling off in narrow strips. His cotton jacket and under frock were partly burned. Between his 1st and 2nd toe on each foot, a slight break in the cuticle marked where the lightning charge exited.

23

Discovery Day (YT)

Last Quarter ☾

2003: An attempt to create the world's biggest hug fell short in Pouch Cove, NL. The weather worked against them when rain began to fall just before 4:00 PM, the designated hugging hour.

24

1906: Near Fort Francis, ON, a cow chained to 5 other cows in a stable was lifted by a violent wind over the others and set down in the next field, the chain snapped off near her neck. A threshing machine was turned around and all its teeth blown out. Some cedar posts had 2 cm of poplar leaves driven into their ends, and a birch tree, 0.5 m in diameter, was hurled about as if it was so much ivy.

25

2006: On the Prairies, what at first glance appeared to be falling flower petals or bushes of white fluttering leaves was an influx of cabbage butterflies. Disgruntled motorists scraped bug guts off windshields and picked snow white butterfly wings off front grilles. According to entomologists, the warm, dry summer brought on rapid reproduction for a 2nd or 3rd time.

26

Weather Quiz
Which province has the highest yearly sales of The Did Farmer's Almanac?

27

- 1) Manitoba
- 2) Ontario
- 3) Nova Scotia
- 4) Newfoundland and Labrador
- 5) Saskatchewan

(Answer on inside back cover)

2006: The conductor of Regina's (SK) symphony orchestra claimed to have waved his arms as much to keep wasps away as to conduct the Mozart in the Meadow concert. Last winter's mild weather allowed more wasps than usual to burrow away in warm spots and survive the winter, and ideal warm-season weather let them develop and grow colonies. Several concert goers were bitten by wasps.

28

2006: Tofino, BC, was almost out of water. Lodgings and businesses were told to shut down and conserve water. Tofino's average annual precipitation is 3,310 mm (6 times Canada's average). Rainfall totals from May 1 to August 30 were half the norm; 2 months had no significant rainfall. August's 5.6 mm set a new record low. Temperatures averaged 1 to 2° above normal and several days were near 30°C.

29

1926: A farmer from Mundare, AB, was leading his horse to pasture when a bolt of lightning struck and killed both him and his horse. In Edmonton, drenching rain accompanied thunder and lightning. For 3.5 hours, rain fell in torrents, sending water coursing down streets in streams. Lightning struck the city's electric light system, blowing fuses, throwing switches, and burning transformers.

30

31

2005: Remnants of Katrina dumped up to 100 mm of rain on southern Ontario and Quebec. In Kingston, winds uprooted trees, tore down a power line, and damaged homes.

New Moon ●

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SEPTEMBER 2008

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p>2006: This summer was Canada's 2nd warmest on record, with temperatures 1.4°C above normal. Most of Canada had above-normal average temperatures from June 1 to August 30, but northern temperatures were more than 2.5° above normal. Canadian summers had not been below normal since 1992, when volcanic ash from the Philippines' Mount Pinatubo caused temporary cooling worldwide.</p> <p>1</p>	<p>2006: Tropical Storm Ernesto brought windy, damp, chilly weather to southern Ontario for the Labour Day weekend, also known as "moving weekend." Winds blew canoes, appliances, mattresses, building supplies, and camping equipment off vehicles onto roads. Poor visibility and low clouds grounded planes at the CNE air show or forced pilots to modify routines. The Ottawa-Gatineau Hot Air Balloon Festival's 82 balloons never moved.</p> <p>2</p>	<p>2006: Fire consumed over 1,000 ha near Manning Park in British Columbia. Thick smoke made sending crews to fight ground blazes or launching aircraft to view them from the air unsafe. In Princeton, thick smoke and ash sent at least 4 people to hospital. An Air Canada Airbus made an emergency landing in Vancouver after smoke filled the cockpit; the smoke was from the forest fire, not the plane.</p> <p>3</p>	<p>1921: Near Estevan, SK, a family saw a whirling dust storm looming toward them. The farmer rushed into the farmhouse, closed the windows, and told his family to lie on the floor. In the fields, 15 men who had just finished stoking the wheat crop laid on the ground. From there, they heard and saw a newly finished barn being swept away. Only pieces of its roof were ever found, 2 km to the north.</p> <p>4</p>	<p>1916: South of Spy Hill, SK, a cyclone shifted a school on its foundation, then lifted a student, spun him in the air, and dropped him in some bushes. All the stokes were blown off nearby fields and piled against fences, boards from a shed were woven in and out of a wire fence 2 km away, and a big granary was lifted and carried some distance before being dropped, the oats still inside it.</p> <p>5</p>	<p>2006: A dozen customers in a tavern between Harrow and Amherstburg, ON, spotted a strange, swirling, funnel-shaped cloud. As almost 100 km/h winds whipped around outside, they took refuge in the bar's basement, emerging to find clear skies and a big mess. The storm flung patio furniture in every direction, broke branches, flattened corn stalks, and hurled a cat more than 300 m.</p> <p>6</p>
<p>1921: Nova Scotia's south coast had been without rain for a long time. Wells were drying up, only a 4-day supply of water remained, and typhoid fever had broken out. At Gold River, timberland fires could not be controlled because the woodland turf burned 1 m down. Fog dampened fires at Brookfield and west Caledonia and made fighting the flames much easier.</p> <p>7</p>	<p>1940: Two lightning bolts struck a Toronto, ON, church within a minute, destroying the organ control box and ripping shingles from the steeple. Another put out traffic lights and disabled at least 15 streetcars for 10 minutes. At Erindale, lightning struck a tree and set fire to hay intended for an elephant kept in a farm's private zoo. Heavy rains held up harvesting for several days.</p> <p>8</p>	<p>1907: A telephone work crew laying a new phone line between Lethbridge and Calgary, AB, found 25 poles broken off 2 m from the ground, as though a hurricane had passed over the spot. That morning, only a light dusting of snow, with light winds, had occurred. Neither the snow nor the wind could account for this peculiar affair.</p> <p>9</p>	<p>2003: The bow plate of a boat plying Lake of the Woods (ON) was hit by lightning, which burned a huge hole in the metal. Unbelievably, none of the 4 fishers aboard was seriously hurt. One of them managed to paddle the boat to an island where there was a cabin. Luckily, the cabin owner was at home. He gave them pyjamas and found a fuse for their motor.</p> <p>10</p>	<p>1900: A hurricane that killed up to 10,000 people in Galveston, Texas, reached Ontario greatly exhausted but sustaining gale-force winds. At Lake Erie's Crystal Beach, 40 to 50 yachts and canoes were lost or wrecked, trees were uprooted, awnings ripped, glass windows smashed, and electric wires downed. Only 1 Great North-western Telegraph Co. line was working between Ottawa and Toronto.</p> <p>11</p>	<p>1946: Heavy frost damaged flower and truck gardens across central New Brunswick for 3 nights in a row. Squash, tomatoes, beans, cucumbers, and potatoes were excessively injured. Frost also froze water in pails and shallow pools sufficiently thick to prevent chickens from breaking it. Heavy fog in the Fredericton and Marysville areas was effective in reducing frost damage.</p> <p>12</p>	<p>2006: Tropical Storm Florence violently shook a 3-bedroom bungalow in Francois, NL, while a young mother watched a soap opera. She grabbed her bible and fled; 15 minutes later, the house and all its contents were bobbing in the ocean. Raintall totalled 125 mm and winds generated high water surges along the coast. A weather buoy on Sagona Island recorded 163 km/h winds and 10-m waves.</p> <p>13</p>
<p>First Quarter ☾</p>						
<p>2003: To end their Alberta Special Olympics fundraiser, 2 Edmonton (AB) police officers camped on a Wal-Mart roof, cursing the weather. Battered by wind and rain the 1st day, sunburnt the 2nd, and soaked the last, they also faced 12°C temperatures, close to 50 km/h winds, and a risk of frost. Downtown, 2 men, drunk and nude except for yellow hard hats, were arrested for streaking.</p> <p>14</p>	<p>1921: A rancher living in a cabin in the Alberta foothills travelled to Longview for supplies. On returning the next day, he found half of his bed hanging outside the east wall of his cabin. A cyclone had lifted the cabin roof by removing about 4 rounds of logs used to tie it down. It then blew his blankets through the wall cracks and let the logs settle down on them.</p> <p>15</p>	<p>2006: Prince Rupert, BC, experienced a baby rat boom, prompting the city to look at bringing back a vermin-control program it had axed in 2004. The public works manager attributed the increased numbers of both Norway rats and black rats, which can weigh up to about 0.5 kg, to cooler-than-normal summers and milder-than-usual winters—conditions that allow the vermin to breed like bunnies.</p> <p>16</p>	<p>2006: In Edmonton, AB, 3 young South African women waiting to play their next match in the Women's Rugby World Cup hunkered beneath blankets. The temperature hovered around 6°C but the breeze inside the stadium bowl made it feel even colder, and there was an overnight frost warning. Even locals were finding it abnormally cold; there had been a run on toques at most clothing stores.</p> <p>17</p>	<p>1930: At the height of a squall off Cape Breton Island, lightning split apart a schooner, drowning 10 men. Waves washed the ship from stem to stern as the frantic helmsman tried to bring the vessel into the wind. Trapped below deck, the survivors struggled clear of the submerged cabin and tangled rigging, only to endure 70 hours of harsh wind and salt spray, without food or water.</p> <p>18</p>	<p>2006: The largest caribou herd in the Northwest Territories continued its precipitous decline. The Bathurst herd had 472,000 caribou 20 years ago; this year, it had 128,000. The decline was attributed to severe ice that left a hard layer of snow cover and reduced the caribou's ability to feed, as did the constant harassment of a bumper crop of mosquitoes, produced by unusually wet years.</p> <p>19</p>	<p>1940: The <i>Mina Prince</i>, bound for Parrsboro, NS, with a cargo of rock plaster, was caught in a tropical hurricane off Nova Scotia. Her engine failed and the winds ripped apart her sails. The crew and captain remained aboard for 2 days in a failed attempt to save her. At the same time, a man from East Bathurst and his small shack were carried out to sea during the storm.</p> <p>20</p>

21 1924: A fire, propelled by 70 km/h winds, ravaged Saint-Constant, QC. The church, general store, post office, telephone station, and many homes were destroyed. The telephone operator saved several lives by staying at her post. As the flames approached, she alerted the priest who rang the church bells to warn the community and she contacted Montreal and other nearby villages to request help.

22 2005: A spectacular thunderstorm raged over the Windsor, ON, area, knocking down trees, flooding yards and roads, and sparking widespread power outages. The wind picked up a tall, 115-kg man and hurled him more than 2 m. Lightning split a 30-m century elm down the middle, toppling a lamp standard and power lines that crushed 3 vehicles. Cars had to be towed out of flooded viaducts.

Autumn Equinox
11:44 EDT Last Quarter 

23 2006: Over 50,000 fans soaked up music and rain for 8 hours as the Rolling Stones headlined the largest rock concert ever held in Halifax, NS. Rain began early in their set, dousing both fans and the band. People wore ponchos, sou'westers, and garbage bags to stay dry but were soon soaked to the skin and chilled to the bone. Several were treated for hypothermia. A muddy bog surrounded the stage.

24 2006: Forest fires exploded in northwest Ontario, sending thick acrid smoke over eastern Canada. There had not been so much late-season fire activity in 25 years. People found it strange to see the fall colours on fire. Bone-dry forest litter ignited nearly 300 fires, forcing 1,000 people to move into shelters and hotels near Thunder Bay. Wind-fanned flames made containment more difficult.

25 1941: In Ontario's Ottawa Valley, winds fanned fires that had already razed several farms and outbuildings. The sky glowed fiery red as far as Hawkesbury. Some 200 volunteers worked an 8-km-long front to quell the flames. An elderly woman with severe facial burns lay in a ditch almost an hour, encircled by flames, before being rescued. A million young pine and spruce were saved by a wind shift.

26 1882: A violent storm with torrents of rain caused extensive damage to dwellings and property around Markdale, ON. It toppled fences, tore off shingles, and uprooted countless apple trees, carrying 1 tree over 30 m. The chimney was blown off the English Church through the vestry roof, its contents destroyed. Lumber wagons were pushed 250 m and small buildings were tossed over willow trees.

27 1861: Atmospheric pressure had fallen all day in Quebec. Late in the evening, a strong nor'easter set in and increased in strength. At its height the next morning in Montreal, the gale blew down 2 solid-brick partition walls almost 1 m thick. In collapsing, 200 beams and fully 200 m of brickwork were destroyed.

28 Weather Quiz
Which city is known as the city of umbrellas?

- 1) Seattle
- 2) London
- 3) Paris
- 4) Vancouver
- 5) Hong Kong

(Answer on inside back cover)

29 2003: Hurricane Juan destroyed up to 70% of the trees in Point Pleasant Park in Halifax, NS, leaving the park as it looked over a century ago and generating over 10,000 tonnes of wood chips and mulch, much of it infested with the brown spruce longhorn beetle. Juan also left the city without power for a week, cutting the planned 1-hour season opener of *This Hour Has 22 Minutes* to a half hour.

New Moon 

30 2006: A mild winter, a wet, mild spring, and an unusually warm summer in parts of Canada created ideal conditions for mosquitoes and fears of a severe outbreak of human West Nile virus. Of the 127 confirmed cases (Alberta 24; Saskatchewan 11; Manitoba 50; Ontario 41; Quebec 1), 2 resulted in death. In the United States, 3,752 cases and 117 deaths were reported in the 1st 10 months of 2006.

Rosh Hashanah Begins

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OCTOBER 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<p>2006: Near Cayuga, ON, a 17-year-old girl was killed while test piloting a drag-racing rocket car at more than 500 km/h. When she cut the engine and deployed the parachute braking device at the finish line, a wind gust caught the parachute and pulled the car to the concrete barrier. The vehicle rolled violently several times and the teenager was ejected and killed.</p>	<p>1934: Early winter squalls, freezing temperatures, and icebergs prevented the Catholic mission ship <i>Plus XI</i> (coated in 5 cm of ice) from resupplying Igloodik, NU, the church's northernmost mission. All efforts had proved futile, and there had been no word for 18 months from the priest who was ministering to the Aboriginal residents. Food had to be taken overland to Igloodik Island.</p>	<p>2006: The remnants of Hurricane Isaac, the 2nd storm in just a few weeks, brushed the south coast of Newfoundland-Labrador, with nearly 100 km/h wind gusts and over 25 mm of rain. Isaac was not expected to be as damaging as previous storms and by mid evening was still more than 300 km from St. John's. Few people were worried. As one said, "We're a little bit desensitized to wind and water."</p>	<p>1872: The fiercest storm ever recalled occurred on Lake Winnipeg (MB). Water tell 4 m at the lake's north end and rose 4 m at its south end, inundating 20 km inland up to a depth of 3.5 m and drowning 10 or 15 people. An Aboriginal lost his wife and 10 children; he barely escaped by climbing a tree. Hunters camped 10 m above the water survived, but no trace was found of those camped in low land.</p>
<p>1910: Near Cornwall, ON, lightning ruined a farmer's barns, crop, harness supply, and some of his wagons. It wrecked a house's gable, then entered its parlour, tearing plaster and ruining pictures and a mirror. In the next room, it shivered the occupants' bedstead and scorched the mattress and springs; they would have been killed had the bolt struck at night. Oddly, the house did not catch fire.</p>	<p>2004: Some 160 km off Ireland, a fire started on Canada's newly commissioned HMCS <i>Chicoutimi</i>; a Navy lieutenant suffocated to death, 9 other sailors suffered smoke inhalation, and the submarine lost engine power. Gale-force winds, heavy seas, and 8-m waves rolled and buffeted the sub and hampered efforts to tow it back to port. The injured were taken by chopper to Northern Ireland.</p>	<p>1825: Fire burnt 1000s of hectares of New Brunswick forest, its progress so rapid residents could only run to a lake or river. A courthouse, prison, Government House, churches, schools, and 3 river vessels were lost; flames and ash-filled air made breathing arduous. Newcastle was consumed. Cattle died or suffered greatly. Water heated up so much that fish beached themselves.</p>	<p>1920: The Halifax (NS) Sailing Race Committee cancelled the great ocean race. As race time neared, the spectators gathered to watch it murmured that the Weather Man "had decidedly fallen down on his job." After promising "fresh westerly" breezes for race day, there was but a 3-knot northeast breeze and haze shrouded the harbour. To propel the big schooners required a breeze of at least 10 knots.</p>	<p>1785: The "Dark Days" occurred today in Montreal and for a week after. Fog persisted until 10 o'clock, when wind cleared the air. Within 30 minutes, darkness succeeded but rain dispelled it. Near noon the dark stopped church services until candles were lit. At 2:00 PM and 4:30 PM, perfect darkness held for a short time and candles were lit again. A storm followed each darkness, the rain filled with sulphur.</p>	<p>1949: A 100 km/h gale toppled trees onto power lines, plunging Geraldton, ON, into darkness. On the curling rink's stage, 4 young musicians were in the middle of Schubert's <i>Serenade</i> when the lights went out. Said one, "I kept right on singing for the next few bars, but then remembered my accompanist couldn't see her music." Foresighted concert-goers shone flashlights and the concert went on.</p>	<p>1863: A violent gale struck Cape Breton Island (NS) and several vessels carrying 1,000 tonnes of coal were lost. The brigs broke from their anchorages and were turned into total wrecks by the fury of the sea. The crew of one brig, dreading the horrors of another night on the wreck, headed for shore in a boat but scarcely got away from the ship when their boat capsized and 7 sailors drowned.</p>
<p>2006: Winds funnelled through downtown Winnipeg, MB, shattering windows on a parkade and closing streets for fear more glass would rain down. Winds at the airport were over 60 km/h, with 80 km/h gusts. Across the city, branches, signs, garbage cans, and recycling boxes were tossed about. Water levels rose 1 m on Lakes Winnipeg, Winnipegosis, and Manitoba, prompting a flood advisory.</p>	<p>2006: A Friday the 13th storm buried Ontario's Niagara Peninsula in 30 to 50 cm of wet snow. The Peace Bridge to the United States was closed and up to 90 km/h winds snapped snow-laden branches onto power lines, leaving over 155,000 customers in the dark. Repairs took up to 5 days. Fort Erie had never had snow before October 13; the biggest October snowfall to date was 4.5 cm on October 31, 1993.</p>	<p>1901: The CPR steamer <i>Hating</i> set out from Skagway, Alaska, with 175 passengers and a large load of treasure. Near Texada Island, BC, she encountered dense fog, ran onto rocks in the channel, and settled with a large hole in her bottom. The ship's pilot and 2 sailors left immediately to get help. On reaching Vancouver, they alerted officials and 2 steamers were sent to assist the <i>Hating</i>.</p>	<p>1954: Hurricane Hazel killed 81 and left 1,896 families homeless. In a house on the Humber River (ON), a man stood on a piano to punch a hole in the ceiling so his family could climb into the tiny attic. Minutes later, water lifted the piano to the ceiling, inches below them. They watched a small barn float by, its tethered horse neighing frantically as it fought to keep its head above water.</p>	<p>1956: In Quebec, the day's last race at Montreal's Richelieu Park was run in a thick fog between the clubhouse turn and the home stretch. The race announcer couldn't identify the horses' numbers except when they came into view at the halfway mark. Horses ghosted in and out of the fog to the finish line.</p>	<p>1914: A widow claimed \$2,025 in damages under the Workmen's Compensation Act when her husband was struck by lightning and killed while working for the CPR near Drummondville, QC. Permission to sue Workmen's Compensation was granted by a Quebec judge. It was the 1st case in which lightning had been involved and the hearing attracted much interest among lawyers and justices.</p>	<p>Weather Quiz</p> <p>Who was the first European to see a hurricane?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Jacques Cartier 2) Christopher Columbus 3) Henry VIII 4) Leonardo da Vinci 5) Samuel de Champlain <p><i>(Answer on inside back cover)</i></p>

1920: About 11:00 PM, lightning struck the Royal Jubilee Hospital in Victoria, BC, at the identical point it was struck just a few weeks before. Fortunately, this time it did not set fire to the building; a few shattered shingles and 2 broken windows in the nurses' home was the only damage. Patients were a little perturbed, but the staff soon ascertained there was no cause for alarm.

19

1921: Falling rocks caught a CPR freight train in a tunnel about 2 km east of Palliser, BC, killing 4 men and injuring 2. Heavy rains had caused the mountain to move above the tunnel, resulting in overwhelming pressure on the tunnel's roof and sides. Following the cave-in, oil escaping from the locomotives caught fire and burned 4 freight cars.

20

2006: In Quebec, flooding forced 300 people from their homes in Quebec City and affected 7 municipalities in the Beauce region. It was already Montreal's rainiest year in 65 years (1,073.4 mm and counting), surpassing its previous 12-month record (1,034.6 mm), set only last year. The average total for 1971 to 2000 is 766 mm; in 2006, Montreal got 1,225.2 mm of rain (about 60% above normal).

21

Last Quarter ☾

1929: A freighter staggered into Thunder Bay, ON, after surviving a titanic 36-hour battle against 120 km/h winds and 15-m waves on Lake Superior. Damage was extensive: twisted hull, wrecked fore-castle, and crew's quarters reduced to matchwood in 1 m of water. The 33 officers and crew were cut by flying glass and splinters but miraculously escaped going to watery graves in icy Superior.

22

1908: A blizzard stalled trains for 2 days in heavily bushed areas of northern Saskatchewan. The storm drove 2,500 sheep into a lake, where they perished. A young rancher lightly clad in a sweater and no coat and with neither matches nor food left home to look for his herd. Although 25 settlers searched for him for 2 days, they found no trace of him.

23

1941: For 4 days, thick fog hung over Vancouver, BC, with only intermittent breaks. The foul weather disrupted plane and ship schedules and caused a rash of traffic accidents. Citizens walked to work when traffic pileups and accidents tied up bridges. Police used flares to guide "lost" motorists and received several reports of thugs strong-arming and purse snatching under cover of the fog.

24

1933: The stormy waters of Lake Winnipeg (MB) held fast the fate of 26 persons aboard 2 lake fishing boats, their whereabouts unreported for 5 days. Snow-laden winds converted inshore craft into miniature icebergs. Search planes were used to locate the 2 vessels, believed to be frozen in somewhere.

25

1851: A gale with rain, snow, and freezing rain assaulted the Bay of Chaleur, at Miramichi, NB. Several vessels lying in Paspébiac were driven ashore and destroyed. One ship tried to ride the storm with 4 anchors cast and top masts lowered but near midnight broke away from her anchors and was pushed ashore. Trees, fences, and telegraph poles were felled and wharves were damaged by high tides.

26

2004: The growing season was over, but weather stilled plagued Prairie farmers. In Saskatchewan, heavy rain, fog, and mist delayed combining and ended fieldwork till next spring. Baling straw for livestock bedding had yet to be done, grain taken off in the past week had a high-moisture content that required expensive hot-air drying, and migrating waterfowl continued to feed on the crop.

27

2006: In Alberta, winter's first blast created icy roads and poor visibility, causing 1 death and several injuries and a rush on hardware and sporting goods. Over 1 m of snow stranded 40 surveyors of pine beetles in remote Kakwa Wildland Provincial Park, but they were equipped with blankets, plastic sheets, waterproof matches, food rations, first-aid kits, global positioning devices, and radios.

28

New Moon ☀

1897: It was cool in Toronto, ON, about -2°C at night and 7 or 8°C in the daytime, and police warned of an epidemic of thefts. "We've had such a fine, open fall that the tramps and petty thieves have not yet reached their winter quarters," said one officer. They'll come indoors in search of overcoats and caps, wearing or pawning any they steal. If captured, they'll spend the winter in jail.

29

2004: A helicopter crash near Shepherd Bay, some 150 km south of Kugaaruk, NU, killed 1 person and injured 4. Rescue was delayed 2 days until high winds and heavy snow abated. Two search and rescue technicians from Winnipeg, MB, were parachuted onto the site to provide emergency medical care. The survivors walked about 250 m from the crash site to a radar station.

30

2006: In Winnipeg, MB, 100 fans braved a -12 wind chill to see an escape artist's tribute to Harry Houdini, who died 80 years ago today. Wrapped in chains, locks, and handcuffs and submerged in 2 tonnes of wet cement in a phone-booth-sized box, he escaped in about 3 minutes. The locks were hard to work because the cement had gummed them up and the sub-zero weather had frozen his hands.

31

Halloween

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NOVEMBER 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<p>1872: The wreck of the <i>Mary Ward</i> in Lake Huron (ON) ended in tragedy. She grounded 5 km from shore in dense fog. Toward morning a terrific storm sprang up, and high winds and heavy seas prevented two relief boats from reaching her. Seeing the failed rescue, 8 crew members attempted to reach shore but had gone only 100 m when they were swamped, perishing in full view of their <i>Mary Ward</i> comrades.</p> <p>All Saints' Day</p>
<p>1769: Halifax, NS, experienced a violent gale. Wharves were vastly damaged and salt and sugar stores were almost wholly ruined. Roads were rendered impassable, 1000s of trees were blown over, and 3 schooners were driven ashore. The tide rose 2 m above normal, breaking dykes on the Bay of Fundy. At Fort Cumberland, 700 cords of firewood siffing 3 m above the tops of the dykes were lost.</p> <p>Daylight Saving Time Ends</p>	<p>2005: The windstorm across Vancouver Island, BC, was described as "nature's pruner." The 80-km/h gusts also felled power lines, knocked out street lights, and caused delays on BC Ferries. Failed traffic lights created virtual gridlock in Victoria, and several residents assessed property damage to roofs, patios, and garden sheds. For surfers at Clover Point, the storm was good news.</p>	<p>1978: At Grassy Lake, AB, eyewitnesses reported a twister in town, one of the latest tornado accounts on the Prairies. In Regina, SK, as a motorist waited to enter a car wash, gale-force winds gusting to 110 km/h blew down the wall of a neighbouring building, scattering cinder blocks everywhere. Despite extensive damage to the car, the driver escaped uninjured.</p>	<p>Weather Quiz</p> <p>How long does a snowflake take to reach the ground on its own from a height of 3 km?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) 10 minutes 2) 30 minutes 3) 1 hour 4) 2 hours 5) 6 hours <p>(Answer on inside back cover)</p> <p>First Quarter ☾</p>	<p>1912: The mail ship <i>Royal George</i> from Bristol, UK, crashed on treacherous shoals in thick fog near Ile d'Orleans (QC). It was her last trip of the season in the St Lawrence. In order to reach Montreal in time to allow landing of her passengers in compliance with existing immigration regulations, the vessel came up the river at full speed. The passengers and crew were all safe..</p>	<p>1951: An ice storm swept Quebec, claiming a life in Montreal, cutting power in nearby communities, and marooning Lachute residents in flood waters. Snow and rain left traffic chaos, disrupted plane, bus, and streetcar schedules, and caused even taxi drivers to stop working. Ice cutters were put on streetcars to keep overhead wires ice free. At Dorval Airport, a KLM jet skidded on an icy runway.</p>	<p>2006: High humidity and low winds led to a foggy morning commute in Windsor and Essex County (ON). An overnight temperature of 9°C plus 100% humidity produced zero visibility, and local school boards cancelled bus service. The fog didn't lift till noon. For the 2nd time in a week, thieves took advantage of the foggy weather to steal high-end cars from a Kitchener car dealership.</p>
<p>2006: The crews of 2 Canadian yachts had to be rescued during a North Atlantic storm. A 10-m yacht, with 3 aboard, foundered some 360 km from Yarmouth, NS, in 7-m seas and 92-km/h winds (over 100 km/h on Cape Breton Island). The 2nd vessel lost its navigation systems and engine power. A tanker rescued the 4 aboard the <i>Rochelle IV</i>, 1 suffering a broken arm from the battering taken by the boat.</p>	<p>1767: "It is very remarkable we have no snow on the ground nor have we had but one day's snow this year which thawed very quickly. Lack of snow at this date was a foreboding of a hard winter because snow cover was essential for successful survival of plants and animals through the winter." [From Hudson Bay Company records at York Factory (MB)]</p>	<p>1916: Calgary's (AB) main natural-gas line broke when a CPR irrigation ditch washed out. It was -23°C and the rupture deprived residents of fuel and caused suffering. Hotels, stores, moving-picture houses, and churches shut down. Some families had to leave their homes and be taken to warmer quarters. Others used cars, baby carriages, wheelbarrows, and sleds to carry coal from coal yards.</p>	<p>1933: In British Columbia, thick fog enshrouded Vancouver and the Lower Mainland following a bright sunny day. No serious accidents were reported but traffic and shipping were delayed considerably and ferry schedules were badly disrupted. The fog prevailed for several days, disrupting deep-sea shipping on the Fraser River.</p>	<p>1933: Gale-force winds played havoc with trains on the Prairies. At Biggar, SK, 2 crew members were hurt when 4 rail cars crashed into a freight train, smashing the engine and destroying 2 cars. At Northgate, SK, a freight car was pushed 5 km into the United States (not stopping at Customs). Near Edmonton, AB, the wind lifted 5 moving freight cars off the tracks, pushing 3 down an embankment.</p>	<p>1929: Of the 40 fishers lost near Isle-à-la-Croise, SK, 10 had straggled home. The remaining 30 had only 4 loaves of bread. Trail conditions, a blizzard, and thin ice (no more than 5-cm thick in places so that loads bent it as they passed over) delayed them a week. A wagon went through the ice near the settlement earlier that day, but the horses were saved and the wagon and contents were salvaged.</p>	<p>2006: November had brought rain, wind, and high tides to the British Columbia coast but today's storm was the worst in 2 years. About 200,000 were without power and a steel building frame collapsed. Over 150 mm of rain in 15 hours caused numerous landslides that muddied 3 Vancouver reservoirs and forced Canada's 3rd largest city to issue a boil-water advisory, the broadest in Canadian history.</p>

16 1998: In its Atlantic passage to St. John's, NL, the *Corean* confronted powerful hurricane-force winds. The ship's bridge was badly twisted but passengers seemed convinced that nothing worse could be in store for them. Only 4 days later another fierce storm sprang up, accompanied by snow, rain, and freezing rain. Sea spray froze as fast as it touched the vessel.

17 2006: The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence basin (ON) had the wettest fall on record (some 42% more rain than normal). Worse yet, the sun stayed away in near-record amounts. Toronto's fall sunshine deficit tallied over 130 hours (less than 1 hour of sun on 40% of the days). Ontario's vintners had forecast a bountiful grape harvest but the dullest, most overcast fall in 29 years dashed their hopes.

18 1929: An undersea 7.2 earthquake off the Grand Banks (NL) triggered a tsunami that killed 27 people on the Burin Peninsula and left the harbour filled with fat, green, now useless cabbages from a surplus summer harvest. Potatoes, salt cod, herring, salmon, barrels of pork and beef, jams and pickles, and firewood for winter were also lost, as were fishers' boats, nets, hooks, and salt.

19 2003: Winter's 1st big storm dumped 17 cm of snow on Edmonton, AB, as crews worked frantically to prepare Commonwealth Stadium for an outdoor NHL hockey game in 3 days. The snow blew so hard that the end of the football field was not visible. The Old-timers had to skate in the roofed-in Skyreach Centre instead. In the city, traffic accident numbers doubled and tow trucks ran an hour late.

20 2001: Yousuf and Malak Karsh loved Ottawa, ON, and photographed it often. Malak's son and Yousuf's nephew told an Ottawa reporter that his father's last photograph before he died was to have been the Parliament Buildings, but a sudden change of weather caused the leaves he was trying to photograph to fall.

21 2006: Yellowknife, NT, had already had its snowiest November ever. The earliest municipal snow-removal operations on record began today. By month's end, 98.2 cm of snow had fallen, swallowing the previous record of 61 cm in December 1974. Crews worked overtime to clear streets and parking lots, using crushed rock and salt on icy surfaces. Sales of skis and outdoor gear were brisk.

22 1941: Near Sudbury, ON, 3 German prisoners of war escaped from a prison train. A railway worker examining a broken window in a tool shed found them inside, huddled together to keep warm (it was -10°C at night). Not realizing who they were, he was marching them to a nearby police station to pay for the broken glass when 1 ran into the bush. The RCMP captured him a few hours later.

Last Quarter 

23 1972: An intense, 2-day blizzard was underway in St. John's, NL. Before it was over, close to 40 cm of snow had accumulated. The storm wreaked havoc with ground and air transportation. Many people received a 1-day holiday from school or work.

24 2006: Nearly 100,000 Alberta Progressive Conservatives ventured out to face a -45 wind chill, as well as slick city streets or snowy country roads, to cast a vote in the 1st round of the campaign to find Premier Ralph Klein's successor. Cold exposure contributed to 4 deaths, heating companies were run off their feet, and social agencies scrambled to find shelter for the homeless.

25 2006: For the last 2 weeks, much of Western Canada had suffered from a vast, dense pool of cold air that sat over Yukon, the coldest in about 10 years. In Saskatoon, SK, university football players bravely competed in the Vanier Cup, while their even braver 13,000 fans faced wind chills of -30. The footballs were like frozen blocks and so heavy that 2 had split during practice when kicked.

26 2006: Snow fell on Victoria and Vancouver (BC) for 6 days and temperatures hit -12°C. Abbotsford Airport set a new 1-day November record (44.1 cm). Vancouver's November snowfall was 38.6 cm; Victoria's 40 cm (with 2 days of 15+ cm) was the 2nd greatest in 66 years (91% of average annual snowfall). Downed trees and branches left 1000s without power and 100s of flights delayed or cancelled.

27 1950: Nearly 1,000 people fled their ice-sheathed homes on the west end of Lake Ontario as a howling 150 km/h gale lashed the air with snow, sand, and water. Exhaustion, shock, bruises, and chills from icy water immersion led to casualties. The storm pitched 12 cabins into the churning waves and tilted several others on their footings. Waves flooded furnaces and sanitation equipment in cellars.

28 2006: Alberta's recent big chill led to 5 deaths, including 2 people found frozen solid, huddled by a spent propane heater in a converted school bus in Stony Plain. A postal worker who stumbled on a 3rd frozen body thought it was a mannequin until he saw the man's face. Calgary's homeless shelters cared for nearly 1,500 people. At Edmonton's Valley Zoo, animals had to be fed twice as much food.

29 1919: A nasty storm swept across Ontario. Winds levelled a thrill ride at the CNE and unroofed the grandstand at Scarborough Beach. In Stratford, the storm toppled trees, smashed windows, ripped awnings, and wrecked a factory's top storey. In Sarnia, the front of a school was blown in and the Free Methodist church roof was lifted and carried 100 m, before being dropped on the parsonage.

30 1955: Gale-lashed seas pounded southwest Nova Scotia, damaging power and communications lines. In Inverness, hope of finding alive a Cape Breton lighthouse keeper and his wife ended on discovery of their 7-m motorboat.

New Moon 

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DECEMBER 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Chanukah Begins	<p>2004: A retired schoolteacher in Willow River, BC, said her cat Tyger can predict the weather better than the pros. If it is going to be sunny, she cries to go outside. At -10°C or colder, she sleeps in the kindling box. Ahead of a bad storm, she crawls under the weaving loom to sleep. If it is going to snow, Tyger jumps up on the porch window and meows. [Adapted from the <i>Prince George Citizen</i>]</p>	<p>1950: The ice-jammed, rampaging Bow River flooded 23 square blocks of Calgary, AB, to a depth of nearly 2 m, forcing 3,000 people to flee their homes. Firefighters and police manned boats in -30°C weather to rescue 100s of residents. Rescuers suffered frostbitten feet and hands; some filled their boots with hot water before wading through the flood waters.</p>	<p>1938: A board of inquiry ruled that fog and a pilot's fatal error of judgment led to the crash of a Trans-Canada Airlines plane at Regina, SK. The fog, only 1 to 2 m above ground, likely deprived the pilot of a horizon to gauge his height, causing him to depress the machine's nose to gain speed and hit the ground. At takeoff, there was a 2,000 ft ceiling and 1 3/4 mile horizontal visibility.</p>	<p>1953: Unusually phenomenal weather, more benefitting May than the Christmas season, occurred on Manitoulin Island (ON). Pansies were picked in some gardens, and fields were plowed that week. Another unusual happening for this time of year was a very brilliant rainbow, following a sudden shower. Its colours were vibrant and it was visible for quite a few minutes.</p>	<p>2006: Moby, a 9-month-old pup, went missing for 10 days in Calgary, AB, at -30°C and a brutal wind chill. Her owners used tracker dogs, animal behaviouralists, and psychics to find her. Somehow, Moby survived the weather, prying animals, wild birds, and vehicles but was just a skeleton when found. Burrs and twigs had to be cut from her fur and her once-black nose was pink from frostbite.</p>	<p>1992: Christmas tree growers in Nova Scotia who had waited until closer to Christmas to cut their trees were concerned about a possible shortage of trees for sale. The previous week's snowstorms had left knee-deep snow in many tree lots, hampering efforts to get the trees out of the woods.</p>
<p>2006: London, ON, dug out after one of its biggest snowstorms ever. The city was blanketed with 47 cm (more in some areas) that crippled traffic, shut businesses, and left 1000s stuck at home. For kids, it was the 1st snow day in more than 25 years. All bus services were cancelled for the 1st time since 1978 and mail delivery was halted in what Canada Post said was a 1st for the city.</p>	<p>Weather Quiz At which temperature does frostbite occur? 1) 0°C 2) +2°C 3) -2.2°C 4) -5.1°C 5) -0.1°C <i>(Answer on inside back cover)</i></p>	<p>2005: Canada's 1st winter general election in 25 years had some meteorological moments. On the Prairies, -40 wind chills halted door-to-door canvassing and "permafrost" foiled the posting of lawn signs. In central Canada, candidates faced poor driving conditions and election signs buried in snow. Bad weather at Windsor, ON, diverted NDP leader Jack Layton's campaign plane to Ottawa for 11 hours.</p>	<p>1941: Police arrested a car thief in Waterloo, ON, after following his car tracks for several blocks. The theft was reported at 3:10 AM. Calling a taxi, a police officer on patrol trailed the pilfered car in the fresh snow. At no time during the 15-km chase did the officer and the taxi driver gain sight of the stolen car; they just followed the fresh tracks.</p>	<p>1926: Torrential rain, a rapid temperature drop, a 70 km/h gale, a blizzard, and atmospheric pressure at a 12-year low hit Alberta. Near Calgary, a farm wife and her 2-year-old who went out in the blizzard to search for the child's sister were found in a nearby snowdrift, dead in each other's arms. Near Coronation, a farmer took 18 hours to get to town; his horses collapsed upon arrival.</p>	<p>1955: One of the worst blizzards in living memory raced across Saskatchewan, closing schools and disrupting bus, train, and plane schedules. An RCMP officer suffocated in his snowed-in car near Cutknife. Farm children spent the night in schools or nearby homes. In Regina, 4 motorists drove over a steep embankment and a truck plunged into snow so deep only its box and spare wheel were visible.</p>	<p>1919: Near Revelstoke, BC, 2 young men jumped from a CPR train and threw \$8,000 in stolen money into the bush. The temperatures dipped as low as -30°C, and 1 thief suffered severe frostbite. A provincial constable recovered the money and returned it to the boys' father. The fear of being caught had so thoroughly frightened the 2 young thieves that they became panicky and fled to the hills.</p>
<p>2006: Although winter's 1st official day was near, it was very slow arriving in central Canada. Toronto, ON, had had less than 1 cm of snow (41.6 cm had fallen by winter's 1st day in 2005), while Montreal, QC, had 8 cm (75 cm in 2005). Late fall average temperatures were 4 to 5° above normal and Christmas shoppers in Montreal experienced an unusual but not rare thunder and lightning storm.</p>	<p>2006: Vancouver Island and Lower Mainland (BC) residents were reeling after the 3rd powerful storm in 5 days. Wind gusts over 100 km/h struck the same locations straight on, toppling groves of trees seeded 2 centuries ago. Stanley Park lost 1000s of trees and was closed for days. It was the most destructive storm in provincial history for electrical and telephone infrastructure.</p>	<p>2005: Two women survived a deadly drop when their SUV slipped off a bridge and catapulted into an icy river along Winnipeg's (MB) ring road. Their vehicle fell 10 m onto an ice-covered section of the Assiniboine River, still missing open water. Although they landed on solid ice, the impact weakened the ice and made rescue difficult.</p>	<p>1940: A low, thundering crash that could be heard blocks away startled Bridgeport, ON, residents after warm temperatures and rains triggered an early season breakup on the Grand River. Large ice chunks piled up in the smashing swirl of waters and raised the risk of an ice jam at the bridge. The water rose 2 m within minutes but an hour later the 12-cm-thick ice chunks were flowing downriver.</p>	<p>2006: In Eastern Canada, Christmas shoppers went golfing as temperatures hit double digits, 4 to 5° above seasonal norms. Birds, plants, frogs, and many animals (some emerging from hibernation) thought it was spring. Golf clubs outsold skis and snowboards; by 10:00 AM, golf courses were full. Cities began summer operations. Christmas shoppers in shirtsleeves filled the streets of Montreal, QC.</p>	<p>1854: Montreal, QC, strictly enforced a winter sidewalk bylaw. When snow or ice accumulated on a sidewalk, the owner or occupant of the property was duty bound to cut said snow or ice to a depth of 10 cm above said surface, under a penalty not exceeding 15 shillings for each offence. If ashes were not then strewn on the surface to be made rough, a penalty not exceeding 10 shillings was issued. Last Quarter</p>	<p>2005: In British Columbia, the Prince George Airport opened its new international customs, but the inaugural launch of non-stop Mexican resort charters was disappointing and embarrassing due to the weather. The first non-stop charter flight to the Mexican resort of Puerto Vallarta departed 3 hours late due to freezing rain.</p>

1938: On their way from The Pas, MB, to the New York World's Fair, 2 northern mushers and their 7 huskies arrived in Winnipeg. Lack of snow had forced them to put their heavily loaded sleigh on wheels, only to have it break down some 2 km away, in the Riding Mountain area. They then hitchhiked, loading everything onto a truck, into Winnipeg, where things were looking up—it had started to snow.

21

Winter Solstice
07:04 EST

1923: Cape Breton Island (NS) began recovering from the effects of a blizzard that cut its communication lines. Maritime Telegraph and Telephone lost 50 poles between North Sydney and Little Bras d'Or. Broken poles and a maze of downed wires blocked the highway for several hours. The glazed ice that formed on the 9-gauge wire averaged 30 cm in circumference, despite gale-force winds.

28

2004: Winnipeg's (MB) temperature dipped to -33°C, with a -47 wind chill. The auto club had 477 calls by noon for battery boosts and tows. The Winter Park at the Forks, with 1.2+ km of skating trails and snowboarding hills, was devoid of people. Homeless shelters were full and there were too few volunteers to deliver Christmas hampers. Burst water pipes caused some restaurants to close.

22

Chanukah Begins

2004: About 30 cm of new snow, a weak snow-pack, and rain created dangerous avalanche conditions in the Rockies. North of the Whitewater Ski (BC) area, fog and freezing rain prevented a rescue helicopter from gaining much height, delaying the rescue of 3 lost backcountry skiers. They dug a cave to wait out the fog; low cloud foiled their attempt to leave so they built a fire to keep warm.

29

Islamic New Year

1835: The Maritimes had been enduring unusually cold temperatures, heavy snow, and high winds. Steamers between Saint John, NB, and Digby, NS, took 32 hours instead of the usual 6. One, with 20 cabin passengers and several sheep and oxen on deck, returned to port after only 12 km at sea; 2 oxen had died and several others were coated in thick ice. No sheep died, their coats being more protective.

23

2006: A massive winter storm dumped up to 36 cm of snow on southern Manitoba. The Trans-Canada Highway near the Manitoba-Ontario boundary closed for several hours. Churches cancelled services, kids' hockey games were iced, flights were delayed or cancelled, and Winnipeg's Meals on Wheels shut down. Steinbach's fire department ensured that nurses got to work safely and on time.

30

1848: In the Miramichi region of New Brunswick, it had rained heavily for 10 days. Rising waters in several rivers and streams inundated huge tracks of land and carried away several bridges, mill dams, and mills. Mail service delays exceeded 24 hours, which was unheard of in those days.

24

2006: Toronto, ON, had the warmest December on record, with balmy days and rain showers. December's average temperature of 1.9°C (4.8° warmer than normal) broke the record set in December 2001 (1.7°C). Just 32.2 cm of snow fell at Pearson Airport; the yearly average is 115.4 cm. Overall, 2006 recorded the least snow ever, and a new record low of 1.4 cm was set in December.

31

2006: A hiker lost in a Vancouver Island (BC) park was rescued after making a last call on his dying cellphone. Search and rescue aircraft dropped 56 flares throughout the park. The search was hampered by rain, strong winds, near-freezing temperatures, and trails obliterated by recent wind storms. Rescuers had to trek over and under downed trees, using chainsaws to get through the tangled mess.

25

Christmas Day

2004: Climbers at Kluane National Park (YT) found a hypothermic adult moose that had fallen through thin ice at -26°C. They lifted him from the water, put warm water down his throat, and covered him with a tarp, leaving protective snow and a fire nearby. The next day, he was 100 m away eating willows. He put his nose on 1 rescuer's hand, as if to say thanks. [From Dave Rogers, *Ottawa Citizen*]

26

Boxing Day

1951: The ice-clogged Rivière des Prairies left 200 Montreal (QC)-area families homeless. The Red Cross fed and housed them and a school for retarded children provided shelter. Rescue boats passed over some houses; a fire in 1 house was fought from another's roof. Rescuers worked in hip-deep water and a woman froze and cut her legs and hands on ice battling through 10 km of waist-deep water.

27

New Moon ●

WEATHER QUIZ ANSWERS

January: 3) Quebec

February: 5) swan

March: 1) Antarctica

April: 3) China

May: 3) Saskatchewan

June: 1) France

July: 2) May

August: 1) Manitoba

September: 4) Vancouver

October: 2) Christopher Columbus

November: 2) 30 minutes

December: 3) -2.2°C