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JANUARY 2011

Sunday

Monday

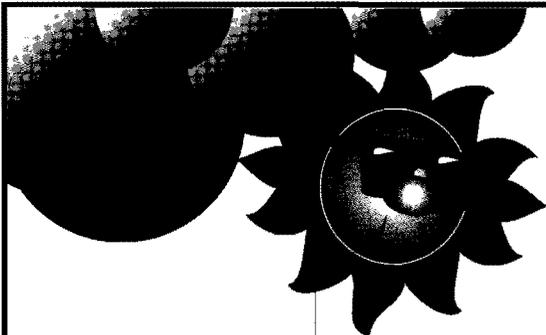
Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



2010: A nasty blast of weather sped through eastern Quebec and Atlantic Canada. As much as 45 cm of snow, whipped by winds reaching 113 km/h, inflicted much damage. A storm surge of 6-8 m compounded the impacts. The storm torpedoed travel plans, prompted power outages, and even made walking treacherous. On the west side of the Cape Breton Highlands, NS, Les Suetes winds gusted to 90 km/h.

2

2010: Retreating tides transformed Petit-Rocher, NB, into an "all-you-can-eat lobster buffet." Hundreds of people with flashlights scooped up lobsters in 19-L pails. Everybody in town was boiling lobster; the general store ran out of salt. Some fishers worried that people walking around were crushing many "cigarette-sized" lobsters without even noticing.

3

Perihelion 14:00 EST

1910: Thirteen boats left Guysborough, NS, to engage in haddock fishing. The fishers all were too busy to notice the threatening storm that suddenly came upon them. The wind soon increased to gale-force with heavy blinding snow and increasing cold. The boats that managed to return to shelter in the harbour were coated with ice, many minus their dories and sails. The storm claimed 42 lives.

4

New Moon ●

2009: To date, snowfall in Vancouver, BC, totalled 114 cm or 230% more than normal. Some city residents went without garbage collection for more than 3 weeks because of snow-filled alleys and streets. Vancouver's mayor said his city never prays for rain but was in need of some higher intervention to help rid it of its excess snow. As if on cue, the rains came, leading to several roof collapses.

5

1956: A glaze storm blanketed everything in Summerside, PE, with a coat of ice. Two days later, there was not one utility pole left standing between Summerside and Miscouche, PE. One pole fell and the rest—2,800—toppled like a line of dominoes. Twigs on the trees were as big as your arm with built-up ice. For some rural people it was not until June that power was re-established.

6

Epiphany

2009: Snow on the ground at Chilliwack, BC, measured a record-breaking 59 cm deep. Over the next 3 days, 116 mm of rain fell, triggering mudslides, floods, and avalanches. Roads, including parts of the Trans-Canada Highway, were blocked. The flooding and slides killed numerous farm animals. One family had a basement full of floodwater mixed with manure from a neighbouring property.

7

1950: The clock at the post office in Lethbridge, AB, bonged at the wrong time, confusing passersby. Officials said that due to accumulated dust, fog, and freezing temperatures, the hands on the clock had become frozen, causing the large timepiece to act up. The post office could not say when the clock would sound the correct time—at least not until the weatherman could promise warmer weather.

8

New Year's Day

1955: One of the most memorable 2-day storms in Newfoundland's history wiped the waterfront at Carbonear clear of its wharves and buildings. Lashing seas sent water thundering 65 m up steep cliffs against wharves and fishing stages. All around Conception Bay, NL, debris littered low-lying highways. At one point, a snowplow pushed rocks, seaweed, bottles, and cans off the roads.

9

1939: Mild weather attracted the first January butterfly on record in Atronto, near Smith Falls, ON. More unbelievable, one man reported that the green frogs were out in force, deluded into believing that spring was here when fast-melting snow left the fields bare. There were many frogs out and about and the green fellows were very lively for this time of year.

10

1925: A shepherd and his dogs drove 2,000 sheep in the face of a blizzard, mistakenly hoping to corral them before nightfall in Brooks, AB. Even with daytime temperatures of -40°C and straggling sheep, the shepherd and his dogs managed to keep with the herd. By the third day, a successful search party helped move the flock back to Brooks. In the end, only 8 sheep were missing, 4 carried off by coyotes.

11

1950: The 4th annual Ontario travelling ski school had to put up with no snow for 5 days. The 66 skiers got bored doing crossword puzzles. Finally, the school's director called it off: "We've looked everywhere for snow. Last night one of our instructors was out at midnight with flashlights, poking into ravines and valleys looking for snow. Personally, I don't think snow exists. So let's go home!"

12

1965: Seven people died when, without warning, rain-loosened snow and earth fell at Ocean Falls, BC. More than 200 families left their homes for safer quarters in a hotel ballroom and at a pulp and paper mill. Torrential rain following an unprecedented December snowfall was blamed for triggering the avalanche. The fast-moving snow-mud-rock mixture narrowly missed a crowded apartment building.

13

1923: Following a snowstorm that dumped in excess of 35 cm of snow, fox ranches on Prince Edward Island became so badly banked with snow that some 40 foxes walked out over the wire fences. Search parties scoured the neighborhood for prized foxes, but breeders lost much of their valuable captive stock.

14

1922: A couple lay dying from influenza near Watcomb, ON. The father gave his oldest son \$1,200 from his trapping and asked him to take care of the family. The boy left his now-deceased parents and the rest of the children to go fetch help. He returned 2 days later to find the children near freezing and gnawing raw moose flesh. The boy packed them on the dog sled and found help in town.

15

1

1925: A Prairie farmer shattered his right thigh bone when his horse kicked him. Using a kitchen chair as a crutch, he dragged himself through a blinding snowstorm for more than 2 km to a neighbour's house. No one was home. It was 9 hours after the accident before the farmer received medical attention.

2010: The Halton District School Board in Ontario accidentally sent out a phone message on the new auto-dial software system, advising parents that school was cancelled. This “inclement weather” message went out on a balmy Saturday morning at 5 A.M. Parents in 25,000 households in Burlington, Milton, and Oakville, ON, scrambled out of bed to retrieve the message and then went back to sleep.

16

2009: Environment Canada issued a province-wide wind chill warning for New Brunswick. In Edmundston, NB, the “real” temperature dropped to -43.6°C early in the morning, setting an all-time record for the city. The deep freeze took its toll—frozen pipes, power outages, and school closings. Homeless shelters were filled up. Surprisingly, hospitals reported no cases of frostbite or hypothermia.

17

1920: Outside of Halifax, NS, the army transport ship Powhattan had been without heat or light for 4 days, and had been tossed by the seas in the face of a terrible storm. With moderating weather, beleaguered passengers were removed to the steamer *Northern Pacific*. Some historians consider the transfer of the 300 passengers aboard the disabled ship as one of the world’s greatest marine feats.

18

1950: Neighbours and police searched the nearby river in Guelph, ON, fearing a 2-year-old girl was lost. While search plans were being made, her father took a last walk around the farm and found his daughter huddled in the snow, cold and very angry that her glove had gotten caught in a fence on her farm home. Had she been there much longer, she would have frozen to death.

19

2009: A blast of Arctic air solidified the 30-cm thickness of lake ice needed to establish the ice bridge between Hudson and Oka, QC. About 250-300 vehicles a day use the ice bridge. The 2-km bridge is a favourite for families who want to experience the thrill of driving on ice out over the lake. The ice bridge did not open the previous year—snowfall amounts prevented the ice from getting thick enough.

20

2010: Two alleged members of an international organized crime syndicate were found shivering at the side of a Manitoba highway after sneaking into Canada. The fugitives were walking to Winnipeg, MB. RCMP found the pair near the Canada-US border, crossing with relatives, including 4 children. All residents of Guatemala, they were underdressed and relieved to be picked up.

21

2010: Alone on the Arctic Ocean, a stranded Inuk hunter was rescued almost 3 days after the ice floe he was snowmobiling across broke away and began floating across the Northwest Passage. Rescue by plane and helicopter had been repeatedly hindered by high winds, snow, and mechanical problems. Eventually, rescue planes dropped a tent, a stove, food, and extra satellite-phone batteries.

22

2010: A bus travelling to Halifax, NS, from Sydney, NS, in bad weather smashed through a bridge guardrail and plunged 8 m into the icy Tracadie River. Everyone on board escaped but 5 were hospitalized.

23

2010: A Prairie blizzard made driving treacherous, knocked out power, and even paralyzed snowplows. The storm left thousands of people in Saskatchewan shivering in cold homes for 3 or 4 days.

24

1918: An Aboriginal trapper 80 km from The Pas, MB, contracted the Spanish flu. He set out for help by dog team, but he could not remember his journey when he awoke in hospital at The Pas. The dogs had ploughed through -41.7°C weather to deliver their passenger.

31

1955: A heroic mother saved her 4-year-old boy from drowning in the Otonabee River at Peterborough, ON. As she walked along the riverbank looking for her son, she saw him floating in the river. She crawled onto the lake ice, but it gave way. She swam to her son and dragged him to shore. The fire chief said the buoyancy of the boy’s gabardine snowsuit kept him afloat.

25

2010: Workers used heavy equipment, wood, and straw bales in a battle to save the snow at Cypress Mountain ski area, home to the Vancouver, BC, Olympic freestyle skiing and snowboarding events. Warmer temperatures ate away at the snow base and hampered snow-making. Snowcats pushed snow from higher elevations and helicopters ferried straw bales to the venue for use as backing for banked corners.

26

1942: Relaxation of wartime censorship restrictions permitted disclosure of the first of 2 major blizzards striking the Maritimes. The storm dumped 15 cm of snow, halting street transportation and causing at least 2 deaths. On Cape Breton Island, NS, the storm was the worst in 10 years, isolating towns in the area. All of the collieries had to stop operations because workers could not get to work.

27

2008: Residents of Yellowknife, NT, were left in the cold (-40°C) and the dark when a power outage hit the entire city. The enduring cold filled emergency shelters to capacity. In Yukon, ice fog obscured any hope of seeing more than a city block away. And every bump reminded you how taxed your shocks and tires are when it gets that cold. Locals feel cold weather always arrives around Robbie Burns Day.

28

Weather Quiz 29
Which community holds the world record for the greatest number of snow angels made in the snow?

- 1) Bangor, ME, USA
- 2) Miramichi, NB
- 3) Malmo, Sweden
- 4) Saskatoon, SK
- 5) London, ON

(Answer on inside back cover)

1968: Extreme winter conditions (-8°C) endured for most of the week in British Columbia’s Lower Mainland. Monkeys at the Stanley Park zoo in Vancouver, BC, were given scarves to keep warm.

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FEBRUARY 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<p>1911: The worst blizzard in years raged all day and night in Fort William (Thunder Bay), ON. Knee-deep snow kept the downtown deserted, except apparently for curlers. In Winnipeg, MB, snow particles as hard as hail filled the air. Deep snow clogged streetcar rails. Exasperated motormen tried starting streetcars, but instead whirring wheels threw tongues of blue flames. 1</p>	<p>1959: A Bruce County, ON, farmer needing hospitalization had to wait for a snowplow and bulldozer to push 3-m drifts through 4 km of road leading to his farm. He bled internally from stomach ulcers for nearly a day before an ambulance reached the farm. Nearly 100 families around Paisley, ON, were snowbound for 11 days. One woman walked 16 km for groceries. 2</p>	<p>1955: A pilot flying from Vancouver, BC, to Portland, OR, in fog realized his gas was running low. Customs and immigration officials, hearing the plane make passes over their buildings, turned all of their lights on and directed motorists to turn their headlights on a 200-m stretch of highway. The aircraft glided down to the lighted strip and coasted within a few metres of the immigration building. 3</p>	<p>1952: Two men rescued several families when ice-clogged Highland Creek swept over its banks near Toronto, ON. The men waded neck-deep through ice-infested waters to rescue those trapped in their homes. A young boy guided his miniature paddle wheeler to 3 other homes and carried occupants to shore. A 67-year-old man refused to move until his 2 pet dogs and a canary were removed. 4</p>	<p>2010: This date often marks the dead of winter in Iqaluit, NU, with temperatures lows of -43.3°C. The media were surprised when Canada invited world financial ministers and bankers to Iqaluit for two-day meetings. Surprisingly, the weather was more like an Arctic heat wave with temperatures of -13.5°. Financial ministers and bankers went dogsledding and ate seal meat at a communal feast. 5</p>
			<p>Groundhog Day New Moon ●</p>			
<p>1913: A pair of Ontario provincial police pursued a couple of whisky thieves from Cobalt, ON. The two officers travelled by horse-driven sleighs and on snowshoes in a raging blizzard, over 2 days of whiteouts and intense cold. They snowshoed 25 km over frozen lakes. After 53 hours and with less than 2 hours of sleep, they apprehended the pair. 6</p>	<p>2007: Residents of Winnipeg, MB, endured a night of -41.7°C, not a record but enough to push everyone to seek warmer climes. Last-minute decisions to flee winter's wrath account for about 20% of all southbound travel. However, ice cream sales do not change a whole lot despite the cold weather. As one ice cream addict said: "If you want an ice cream, you'll come get it regardless of the weather." 7</p>	<p>1928: In Ontario, drizzle froze as it fell, making roads a glare of ice. Many cars ended up in ditches. A Kitchener, ON, hockey club was motoring back from Hamilton, ON, when their bus broke down. Five of the players donned their skates and skimmed along the highway for 17 km, arriving at Kitchener early in the morning. The players reported the ice was excellent, and the trip was made without mishap. 8</p>	<p>1951: During a blizzard with near-zero visibility, 2 trains between Montreal, QC, and Halifax, NS, collided in the station at Mont-Joli, QC. Twenty-eight people were injured, 4 seriously. One of the trains was standing in the station when it was rammed by the other, moving at about 18 km/h. The engineer applied his brakes when he spotted the standing train, but the -22°C temperature affected stoppage. 9</p>	<p>1999: Southern British Columbia was experiencing the windiest, wettest, and dullest winter in about 2 decades. To date, the region had 12 days with wind gusts of more than 60 km/h. November through January was also the second-wettest for that period since 1936. Local ski resorts reported near-record snowpacks. A Vancouver, BC, umbrella shop had about 50 wind-damaged umbrellas dropped off for repairs. 10</p>	<p>1913: A fur trapper north of Sudbury, ON, was returning with his cache of furs when he encountered a snowstorm. He stowed the furs in a safe hiding place before wandering for 4 days with nothing to subsist on but frozen bread. Reaching civilization in an exhausted condition, he hired 3 men at \$3/day to search for his cache, with a detailed description of the location. He never heard from them again. 11</p>	<p>1955: Heavy rain, mild temperatures, and melting snow caused rivers to flood homes in and around St. John's, NL. The normally peaceful Rennie's River roared along and piled up tonnes of rafted ice at the bridge at the head of Quidi Vidi Lake. The rising waters stranded 150 children attending Sunday school at St. Mary's Church. City streets became pools of water. 12</p>
					<p>First Quarter ○</p>	
<p>2009: An 18-hole golf course opened on the harbour ice in Georgetown, PE. A round of "golf" cost \$10. Discarded Christmas trees lined the fairways and putting greens were painted with green food colouring. The course also had "sand traps" made of snow. A 16-team tournament was held in March. In 2008, the tournament had to be cancelled owing to unseasonable warmth—the harbour never froze. 13</p>	<p>1955: A US Air Force captain survived -30°C temperatures after his Stratojet bomber crashed northwest of The Pas, MB. Chief among the reasons he survived were the tiny sulphur capsules his wife had insisted he carry because he recently had pneumonia. These pills prevented infection from spreading in his broken leg and severely frostbitten foot. Two days after the crash, a search party found him. 14</p>	<p>2010: After the warmest January on record, Vancouver, BC, 2010 Olympic workers hauled snow from elsewhere in the province to Cypress Bowl, site of the snowboard events. Beset by rainy spring-like weather, they worked around the clock to groom the skiing venue. The next day, heavy rain and warmth washed away most of the snow in the fenced-off area for standing room at the snowboard cross site. 15</p>	<p>1939: Taking milk from a baby, but how about blankets from a baby! With temperatures in Winnipeg, MB, dipping to -38.9°C, a man stole the blankets out of a baby's carriage. The child was not in the carriage at the time. His mother had taken him into a photographer's studio, leaving the carriage sitting outside. When she came out, she found all the blankets and covers in the buggy had been stolen. 16</p>	<p>2010: The mild winter in Labrador, with unfrozen rivers and lakes and no sea ice, forced organizers to scrap this year's 6-day Cain's Quest race. Founded in 2006, it sends snowmobile riders bushwhacking through untracked land from Labrador City, NL, to Nain, NL, and back. In other years, teams had to turn around and go back to the checkpoint because it was too cold. 17</p>	<p>1904: The ocean liner <i>Pallanza</i> left Germany with cargo for New York and 150 immigrants bound for Winnipeg, MB. It finally arrived in Halifax, NS, a month later. Six days out from Hamburg, Germany, the ship ran into a storm, which continued for 70 hours, during which its smokestack was smashed and everything moveable ripped off its decks. In a subsequent storm, a huge 8-hour smoke fire broke out on board. 18</p>	<p>1954: Thieves escaped with about \$25,000, mostly in postage and unemployment insurance stamps, from a Montreal, QC, post office. The robbery was believed to have taken place while noisy snow blowers cleared streets near the building. The caretaker was asleep upstairs. 19</p>

20 1903: Two passenger trains in Newfoundland became frozen in 10-m high snow banks. Relief parties were unable to venture far from their own trains because of the blizzard. One train advanced only 3 km in one day. The trains, having consumed all their coal, were burning the wood off fences and trees alongside the tracks. Dogsleds, laden with food, were sent out to try to reach the passengers.

21 2010: The weather at Winterlude in Ottawa, ON, was near-perfect—no rain, traces of snow, only 3 days where the wind chill fell below -20, and average afternoon temperatures of -3°. One person said: "I've been here in other years when it was -30°C and it was impossible to get out on the canal. Organizers said the weather couldn't have been better." Winterlude attracts about 600,000 people each year.

22 1956: A blizzard that raged for 36 hours in western Saskatchewan reached its peak wind intensity of 100 km/h. The storm halted all forms of transportation across the province (e.g., buses were not running, flights were suspended, 6 trains became stranded, and highway snowplows were pulled until the storm abated). Huge drifts made digging out impossible.

23 1982: Roads in West Prince, PE, were blocked for a week following a storm. The weather turned cold and the wind blew, creating drifts that could support the weight of large vehicles. With blocked roads, farmers had to find ways of storing their ever-expanding milk supplies. Some resorted to bagging milk in garbage bags. The weather remained cold throughout the ordeal, saving the milk from spoilage.

24 2010: Based on recent weather conditions, maple syrup producers in New Brunswick were not sure what to expect this year. Instead of the ideal 5°C during the day and -5°C at night to get the sap flowing, it was not freezing at night. The previous year was the best year ever; the year before that was one of the worst. One producer said, "We can't predict it; it's all up to Mother Nature."

25 1926: Afternoon rains fell in Dundas, ON. An hour or two later, residents were astonished to see hundreds of small fish on the ground. The majority were the size of small fry and resembled pickerel or whitefish fry. Eyewitnesses said the creatures did not come from the sewers, nor were they washed from the town's creek because it was frozen. Most were satisfied the fish fell with the rain from the sky.

26 1960: An argument in Toronto, ON, over a shovelful of snow led to a head injury and an assault charge. Two residents were removing snow from the sidewalk in front of their properties. One man dumped a shovelful on his neighbour's section of the sidewalk. In the ensuing argument, the snow-dumper received a cut on the head from a shovel. The shovel-wielder was charged with assault causing bodily harm.

Civic Holiday

Last Quarter 

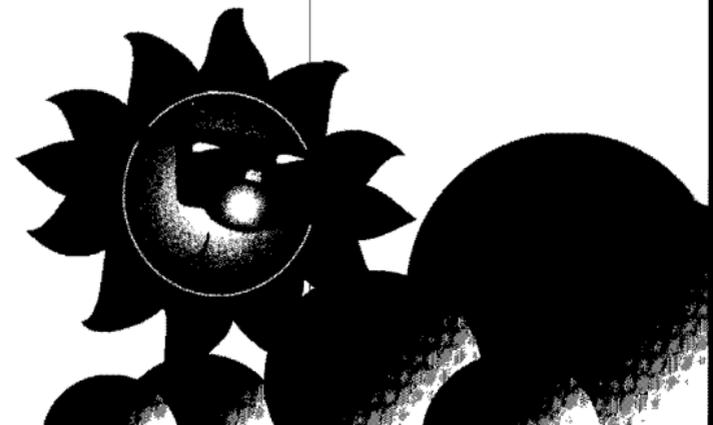
Weather Quiz

27 What is the most popular weather term used in naming geographical areas, features, and places in Canada?

- 1) sun
- 2) rain
- 3) snow
- 4) wind
- 5) cloud

(Answer on inside back cover)

28 1952: Eighteen United States airmen parachuted to safety in a blizzard outside Sydney, NS, as their transport plane hurdled into the woods at the edge of the city. The men leaped safely after 20 attempts to land at the reserve airport. Several narrowly missed high tension wires. Others dangled from trees for a time, bashed by 80-km/h winds. Shoulder-deep snow on the ground helped cushion their fall.



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MARCH 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<p>1954: Residents of southern Ontario had been basking in summer-like temperatures, but on this day the region was in the grips of the worst winter storm in years. Snowbound motorists slept along highways or packed into motels and fire halls. At Toronto, ON's Don Jail, a patrol wagon loaded with prisoners skidded and stuck in the driveway. A tow truck was sent but it also became bogged down.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1</p>	<p>2009: The Saint John, NB, area endured another snowy day a week after a record snowfall buried the region. Crews had just enough time between snowstorms to clean the sidewalks, widen streets, and trim snowbanks. Streets were clogged with so much snow that plows had to lead fire trucks and ambulances on their emergency calls.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">2</p>	<p>1953: Several rivers in southern and eastern Ontario spilled over, sending torrents of water into neighbourhoods. In Trenton, ON, a dog tied up in the woodshed began treading water. His barking finally woke his owner and likely saved the family. Rising waters isolated 70 families in Highland Creek Valley, in the eastern suburbs of Toronto, ON.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">3</p>	<p>1951: Blinded by strong north winds, drifting snow, and numbing cold temperatures, road crews in Prince George, BC, struggled to clear roads using bulldozers, truck-plows, and graders. Due to the extreme cold, several water jacket pipes froze and burst, fires broke out, and pieces of stove metal went flying through some homes like bits of shrapnel, driving them into window and door frames.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">New Moon ●</p>	<p>1944: A group of loggers at a camp 40 km east of Pine Falls, MB, waited hours in a blinding blizzard in order to donate blood to the Canadian Red Cross. Snow-blocked roads prevented the medical staff from arriving. By the time they did arrive, they were faced by a gang of food-starved donors. Despite the weather, the staff reported an exceptionally high blood count.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">5</p>
<p>2010: Another Atlantic storm drenched the Avalon Peninsula in Newfoundland and Labrador with freezing rain and snow. The bulk of the precipitation fell as rain. Just a week into March and already it was the rainiest in recorded history in St. John's! On the northeast coast, ice was having the greatest impact, downing 200 hydro poles. Newfoundland Power said it was the worst storm in over 20 years.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">6</p>	<p>1910: The congregation at Drummond Hill Presbyterian Church in Niagara Falls, ON, remained shaken a day after the service was interrupted by a lightning show. Bright bolts burned out the church fuses, throwing it into darkness. The crash of broken glass and falling plaster in the basement added to parishioners' fears. Panic might have ensued had not a doctor walked to the pulpit and called for calm.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">7</p>	<p>2007: A rash of ice-damming problems in Winnipeg, MB, kept roofers busy for weeks. Water poured through ceiling fixtures in the middle of rooms like a bathtub had been left on above. Water also flowed down inside walls like interior waterfalls. The ice damming was due to many things, including early snows, heat rising through thinly insulated attics, and a rapid March melt.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">8</p>	<p>2010: Winter gloom gripped normally sunny southern Saskatchewan as a blanket of thick fog persisted for weeks with at times zero visibility. The last time Regina, SK, saw a full sunny day was more than 2 weeks previous. The fog formed when mild air aloft trapped cool air at the surface, creating a stable, saturated, sluggish layer of fog.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">9</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ash Wednesday</p>	<p>2008: Near-record snowfalls this winter created stress on roofs in eastern Canada. A family escaped tragedy after their bungalow's roof buckled in Ottawa, ON. Creaking sounds woke the family in time. In Montreal, QC, a roof truss on a riding stable broke, causing a chain reaction that resulted in the breaking of 20 trusses. Near Hawkesbury, ON, part of a barn collapsed, killing more than 40 goats.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">10</p>	<p>2010: An exceptionally dry winter with low snowpack, warmth, and high winds led to an early outbreak of minor grass and brush fires around Nova Scotia's eastern shore. Three fires spread into brush and woodlands. Several fires reached high intensity with tall flames. Officials called it a record spring for the number of fires that ignited.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">11</p>	<p>2010: Mild weather and scanty snow across Manitoba forced more than half of the province's ice roads to close after less than a month, cutting off the winter lifelines for dozens of northern communities. They now had to fly in everything from building materials and bulky groceries to gasoline at huge increased costs. Ice roads that had previously been open for 60 days were now only usable for about 20.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">12</p> <p style="text-align: center;">First Quarter ●</p>
<p>1954: Lightning blew apart a television set in Milbank, ON. The bolt wilted the TV aerial, destroyed the wiring of the house, cracked the plaster walls, started a small fire in the kitchen, then shot across to the home of a neighbour. There, it followed the wiring to the bed lamp and started a fire in the bedding. Fires in both houses were quickly extinguished.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">13</p>	<p>1922: A ball of fire descending from a low-hanging storm cloud lit up Truro, NS. The accompanying loud crash rocked buildings to their foundations. Three forks of lightning struck nearby: one set fire to a barn; another killed a horse in a stable; and a third felled a man who was tossing coal into his furnace. The bolt wrenched the shovel from his hands and flung it into the basement ceiling.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">14</p>	<p>1951: A 3-day blizzard lashed the Prairies with hurricane-like winds. The storm dumped several feet of fresh snow, paralyzing traffic and snarling communications. In total 11 people died. At Oyen, AB, a bulldozer crashed through a wall of snow for 5 km to rescue 42 train passengers and crew members. The train engine was encased in ice, and the rear end of the last coach was buried in snow.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">15</p>	<p>2010: Montreal, QC, broke a record for the warmest day when the temperature hit 13°C. Terrace chairs and tables began sprouting along with crocuses. It was a blessing there was no ice on the St. Lawrence. Melting days and freezing nights bodes well for flooding season and maple syrup harvest. At Mont Blanc, QC, the conditions were fantastic for spring skiing: freezing at night with full sun in the day.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">16</p>	<p>1927: During a blizzard at Benito, MB, a family and a farmhand fled outside when fire razed their home. Leaping from the second-story bedroom window, the family landed safely in a deep snowdrift. The farmhand later made a similar escape after all of the exits were cut off by flames. Sheltered by horse blankets, the party tramped through the heavy drifts to a neighbouring farm a kilometre away.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">17</p>	<p>Weather Quiz</p> <p>Fifty years ago, which day of the week was deemed the most important day to get the forecast right?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Saturday 2) Sunday 3) Monday 4) Friday 5) Wednesday <p><i>(Answer on inside back cover)</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">18</p>	<p>1899: On the cliffs overlooking Quebec City, QC, an immense amount of snow had gathered over the winter. A strong gale triggered an avalanche. A passing freight train was completely swallowed up. It took more than 150 men to dig the train out before another avalanche buried 15 workers. All but one was accounted for. After about an hour's hard labour, rescuers found him unconscious and weak.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">19</p>

1907: During a fierce gale, the roof and upper portion of a house were blown down at St. Simon, NB. The father took one child to the nearest house, 0.5 km away. On returning home, he got lost in the storm. Reaching home the following morning in a very exhausted state, he found his wife and 3 other children frozen to death in a snowdrift.

20

1955: Southern Saskatchewan marshalled all of its snow removal equipment in an effort to dig out after the season's worst snowstorm. South of Regina, SK, a Bombardier snowmobile carrying 20 children got lost. Two boys followed the telephone line to a farm for help. At Carnduff, SK, farmers tried to take children to school but had to turn back when the horses pulling the sleighs foundered in the drifts.

21

1907: An all-day storm in Victoria, BC, blustered down streets and across roofs. Winds shook frame houses and rattled windows, until it seemed as if no glass could withstand the stress. Around Beacon Hill Park, many fences blew down and roofs were damaged. The worst damage occurred when the whole tin casing of the roof of a city block blew into the middle of the street, blocking traffic.

22

2007: In March, Victoria, BC, had only half the usual sunshine and twice the monthly rainfall. The sun shone for only 56 hours—1/3 of recent March totals. Even on the days when the sun shone, it came out for less than an hour. On 8 out of the first 22 days, the sun did not shine at all. There were 3 days when the sun shone for 8, 9, and 10 hours, making it one of the gloomiest and dooziest months ever.

23

1955: An ice mass on the Niagara River in Ontario smashed a customs building, and splintered boats and cottages as it spun downstream toward Lake Ontario. The chunks of ice were so thick that the usually roaring whirlpool rapids were stilled for the first time in memory. The ice clumps were said to be the largest since 1909. Power production at the Niagara hydro plant was cut to 1/3 its capacity.

24

1929: Lightning crackled over Parliament Hill in Ottawa, striking the Peace Tower and causing it to tremble with the shock. Torrential rainfall followed the crash. Several government workers, fearing an earthquake, rushed into the streets. There was near-panic in the West Block of the Parliament buildings when a fork of lightning struck the fire alarm system.

25

1955: A couple from Alabama touring Quebec with their child as a night club acrobatic team died of asphyxiation in their snow-covered car during a blizzard. Likely, the husband tried to keep the motor running for heat, not realizing the danger of carbon monoxide. The province-wide blizzard killed at least 6 people. Twenty-foot drifts halted trains, isolated villages, and threw traffic into chaos.

26

Purim
Spring Equinox 19:21 EDT

World Meteorology Day

Last Quarter 

1961: Snowbound Prince Edward Island declared a state of emergency. Search and rescue authorities in Halifax, NS, assigned 2 helicopters to the island to handle medical cases and deliver snowplow crews. A plane dropped cigarettes and baby food to the Canadian National Railways ferry, William Carson, locked in thick ice off the Nova Scotia terminus of North Sydney.

27

1986: Farmers in southern Alberta watched helplessly as persistently strong winds stripped the soil. Conditions were especially bad near Lethbridge, AB, where clouds of soil filled the air and reduced visibility to a couple of kilometres. The violent gusts toppled trees in the city, and several panes of glass fell out of a downtown office tower, blocking rush-hour traffic.

28

1902: A Selkirk, MB, farmer crossed Lake Winnipeg to buy some hay for his horses. He confronted such deep snow that his horses became exhausted and could go no farther. After a few hours' struggle, he came upon a ship caught in the ice the previous fall. He broke into the ship's cabin for the night. The next morning he reached a house where he was met by a search party sent out by his son.

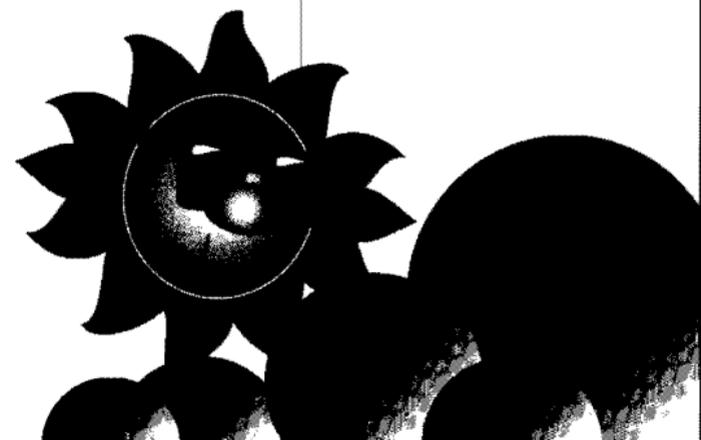
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1967: A storm, described by some as the worst of the winter, immobilized northwestern Manitoba. It dumped 22 cm of snow in the Dauphin, MB, area, leaving 500 rural families without telephone and hydro services. Near Pipestone, MB, it badly damaged several homes and their contents. The storm blew up one home's electric furnace, broke several windows, and damaged its ceilings and floors.

30

1913: Ice-jam flooding around Montreal, QC, left 10 suburbs on the south shore of the St. Lawrence under metres of water. In St. Lambert, QC, people went about in boats, saving residents and carrying away their household effects, oftentimes from second-story windows. At a convent, rising waters terrorized hundreds of pupils trapped inside. Montreal, QC's waterfront flooded, disrupting businesses.

31



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APRIL 2011

Sunday

Monday

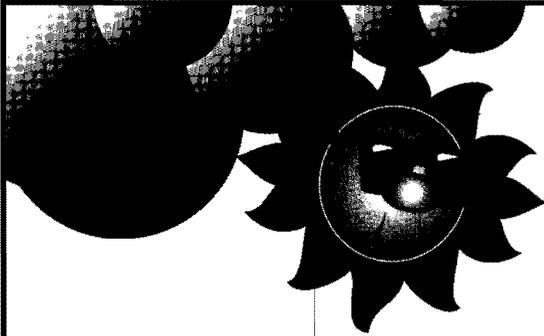
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Friday

Saturday



2009: Dave Devall's final day as a Toronto, ON, TV weather broadcaster ended with a salute from the prime minister. The Guinness Book of Records honoured Devall with the world record for the longest career as a weather forecaster—48 years, 2 months, and 27 days. He started working before the advent of satellites and super computers. His talent was drawing backwards on boards and Plexiglas.

3

New Moon ●

2009: Rapid snowmelt combined with warm rain to swell watercourses in New Brunswick. Nervous residents along the Saint John River anxiously watched water levels rise as ice jams grew. Huge blocks of ice struck and damaged the world's longest covered bridge at Hartland. At Perth-Andover, NB, the floodwaters rose 10 cm/h, forcing 200 residents to evacuate their homes and businesses.

4

1952: Lightning struck a dwelling in Havelock, ON, reducing the interior of the house to ruin, but left its 3 occupants relatively unharmed. Although all the wall plugs and electric fixtures were blasted from their places, the dwelling did not catch on fire. The high intensity charge knocked pictures off the walls and burned telephone wires for 3 pole-lengths leading from the house.

5

1954: A Hanover, ON, woman—an invalid housebound with arthritis—walked upstairs for the first time in 2 years after lightning struck her home. Another bolt struck the home of her son on the farm next to hers, blowing out all the windows on the main floor, making a shambles of one room and leaving the family dog deaf. Flowerpots in the windows of the house were thrown to the centre of the room.

6

2009: Manitoba's Red River recorded its second-highest spring flooding in nearly 100 years. North of Winnipeg, MB, at Breezy Point and St. Clements, MB, ice jamming caused the worst flood of the century, forcing full-scale evacuations. At the height of the flood, nearly 3,000 people left their homes. Total flood insurance claims exceeded \$40 million with 500 homes damaged or destroyed.

7

1927: Two men left the foundering schooner *Nellie* near Cape Chignecto, NS, and fought their way to the seeming safety of land, only to find themselves trapped between a high unscalable cliff face on one side and the pounding sea on the other. They eventually succumbed to their injuries on the narrow beach. One man was the schooner's captain; the other was identified from the address in his pocket.

8

1955: A man lost his life in the bay at Penetanguishene, ON, when a sudden shift in wind brought slush ice together, crushing his 5-m boat. Another man and his wife crawled and swam 70 m across the slush ice to shore. They left their friend with some boards and went for help. Upon returning, they discovered their friend's body standing on the bottom of the bay.

9

2009: A snowmobiler was trying to see how far he could ride up a steep climb near Valemount, BC, when he triggered an avalanche that killed him. The young rider had been "high-marking" on a slope in the Monashee Mountains—going up until his snow machine or nerves gave out. With 25 deaths, 2009 was the worst year for Canadian avalanche fatalities since 2002-03 when 29 people were killed.

10

Weather Quiz

Which city has the greatest amount of spring snowfall (March, April, and May)?

- 1) Edmonton, AB
- 2) Moncton, NB
- 3) St. John's, NL
- 4) Quebec City, QC
- 5) Charlottetown, PEI

(Answer on inside back cover)

11

1944: The lack of snow in southern Manitoba generated small cracks—some measuring 5 cm wide—marring the usually flawless surfaces of various golf greens. Less than half a year's snowfall enabled deeper frost penetration. The greens were criss-crossed with crevices 1.5 cm higher on one side, preventing accurate putting. Sand traps were also ripped by the contraction of the earth.

12

2007: A resident near Glencoe, ON, was asleep when a tornado struck, driving a steel rod from a nearby barn through his bedroom window and into the mattress on which he slept. It missed him by just a few centimetres.

13

2009: Along the Red River in Manitoba, massive ice slabs became moving rampsarts that ripped through properties. Giant pans of ice were shoved up on the shore and deposited more than half a kilometre from the riverbank. The ice took out trees and ripped apart hundreds of homes. Two people drowned. There was good news. The Government of Canada extended the tax deadline for flood victims to June 1.

14

1954: En route to Vancouver, BC, from Skagway, AK, a 5-m tug with 14 crew members aboard towing a barge load of ore concentrate mysteriously sank 7 km west of Cape Decision in the Alaska Panhandle. Winds blew to 86 km/h at the time, generating 5-m waves. Snow was falling and visibility was poor. The area is studded with remote capes and islands and there was false hope survivors would be found.

15

1955: The worst April snowstorm on record dumped 42 cm of snow on St. John's, NL. Cars were stuck all over the area. Snowplows cleared roads, only to return 15 min. later to plough again. Two-metre drifts hid abandoned cars. Biting cold air and granulated snow stung pedestrians' faces. Outside the capital, weather conditions were even worse. By dinner, not a single outside road was open.

16

1892: The oldest settlers called the storm across Manitoba an old-time blizzard of the rarest kind. The barometer reached bottom and winds peaked at 150 km/h. Wires and poles were prostrated; electric streetlights disappeared; and large buildings vibrated. Pedestrians struggled to protect exposed skin, and horses suffered, from the stinging snow and ice.

17

Palm Sunday

Full Moon 

1893: Strong winds brought several foreign birds to the Newfoundland shoreline. Birders rescued a tri-coloured heron. Sightings of these birds are unusual this far north—only 3 on record. The heron is supposed to be in the Carolinas or Florida in spring. Birds caught in storms often end up on the Grand Banks. Unless they find a drill rig or a boat, they usually perish.

18

2009: During the swift passage of an intense cold front, a spate of thunderstorms broke out across Ontario. Winds at Toronto Pearson International Airport gusted to 115 km/h—the strongest wind gust reported in 32 years. Power lines and trees came down across the province, knocking out power to 100,000 customers. In Windsor, ON, weak tornadoes ripped the roof off a union hall building.

Easter Monday

1896: Floodwaters rose in many Quebec rivers. Water in the Richelieu River rose 15 cm higher than in 1883, the year of the great flood. Debris was piled on top of the ice to a height of 15 m. The ice-infested St. Lawrence River rose 7 m above the summer level. Several houses in the lower part of Trois-Rivières, QC, floated away. Trois-Rivières wharf required 5 t of pig iron to keep it steady.

19

Passover

2008: Albertans shivered with temperatures around -10°C. Between 10 and 15 cm of snow piled up in the province's 2 main cities. Local ranchers reported calves came fast and furious. Dry spots for birthing had to be cleared by bulldozer. The cooler temperatures went easier for night births, freezing and stabilizing the muddy patches that could cause drowning at birth.

20

2009: After being abducted and abandoned by his father, a one-year-old boy miraculously survived nearly 12 hours overnight outside Ste-Anne-de-la-Rochelle, QC, in 5°C weather wearing nothing but a T-shirt and a soggy diaper. A frantic police operation scoured large swaths of forest for several hours before the boy was found. Except for mild frostbite, he appeared quite healthy.

27

2009: Arctic winds forced 2 female adventurers from Scotland and the United States to remain in their tents as they sailed past their destination on a field of ice. They were hoping to ski the 9 km to the North Pole. Gusting winds made it impossible. With a windchill of -25, one of them said: "You don't want to be exposing your skin much up here because it literally freezes in a couple of minutes."

21

2009: A mild southwesterly flow combined with sunny skies allowed temperatures to rise to record-breaking values across the Maritimes. In Nova Scotia, Kejimkujik at 31.5°C and Greenwood at 30.3°C registered their all-time highest temperatures for April. St. Stephen, NB, had a high of 31.7°C, making it the hottest place in Canada. The next day the temperatures dropped 13 degrees.

28

2009: Unseasonably cold winter weather dealt a blow to the Calgary Zoo's whooping crane breeding program, freezing 2 of the 10 rare birds' eggs. White cranes prefer to nest outside. When a spring blizzard started up, the zoo's cranes were on their nests, but when a strong wind blew it scared the tall birds off the nests and the eggs froze.

22

Earth Day
Good Friday

1885: Sixty-five days ago, the barquentine *Maranee* entered an ice field off Newfoundland and Labrador. Unexpectedly, the ice began to "raft" and slice through the bow-planking. The crew stuffed canvas between the shattered bow-timbers to keep water out, but soon they had to abandon ship onto a pan of ice. Marooned for days, they experienced freezing rain, ice pellets, and a spectacular thunderstorm.

23

2008: After the Petite-Nation River rose a metre, officials distributed 9,000 sandbags throughout St-André-Avellin in western Quebec. Following a rainy day, the sandbag walls on the town's main street collapsed, causing streets to flood. Electricity was cut off. Twenty families were forced to flee, using boats to get around.

30

Easter Sunday

Last Quarter 

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MAY 2011

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

<p>1940: Terrific gale-force winds with snow and freezing rain lashed Lake Superior sending the 1,870 t freighter <i>Arlington</i> to the bottom. Another freighter, the <i>Collingwood</i>, stood nearby to rescue all 16 crew members, but the captain went down with his ship. Other vessels hugged the coast for protection. The <i>Arlington</i> was the first major loss in the Great Lakes shipping industry in 3 years.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1</p>	<p>1910: During an electrical storm, lightning struck and instantly killed a boy from Walsingham, ON, as he was driving his horses to the barn. In another incident, a nurseryman went to see how "a duck that had stolen her nest" was doing. He was next to the nest when lightning struck and killed the duck. The shock dazed him for a few minutes, but he was unharmed.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">2</p>	<p>1956: A pocket-sized tornado, perhaps a dust devil, ripped shingles off a roof and broke a window in the eastern section of Vancouver, BC. The whirlwind lifted about 200 asphalt shingles from a roof, moved a wheelbarrow a couple of metres, and carried a piece of corrugated iron across a yard. The whirlwind also chased painters down from ladders, and a woman said she was "whipped off her feet."</p> <p style="text-align: right;">3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">New Moon ●</p>	<p>1923: Ocean fogs and washouts could not dampen the enthusiastic spirit of 350 young Hebrideans who were heading for Ontario farms after landing in Saint John, NB. The newcomers were stuck in trains as workmen struggled with high tides and severe storms on one side and walls of rock on the other side. Further, a washout occurred 12 km up the line. Workmen said they could work only between tides.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">4</p>	<p>1940: A single lightning bolt levelled an elm tree in downtown Winnipeg, MB, leaving a splintered trunk. The tree fell across some pavement, obstructing traffic. In one dwelling, a lightning bolt knifed through the roof over the kitchen as 7 family members sat around the table. A gaping hole was ripped in the roof, showering the kitchen with debris. The children began to cry and 5 people were burned.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">5</p>	<p>1923: After the ferry/supply boat <i>S.S. Kyle</i> became stuck in the roughest stretch of ice ever to pile up off Sydney Harbour, NS, several crew members and passengers decided to walk the 22 km to shore. It was a rough trip, as they scrambled around huge ice ramparts. A few hundred metres from shore the ice ended at open water. Luckily, townspeople had launched dories to come collect them.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">6</p>	<p>1955: Three residents of Bay de Verde, NL, walked ashore to Lower Island Cove on ice after being marooned in their small boat most of the day. Sudden wind shifts and rising tides smashed ice up against their boat, trapping her among the ice floes. The Royal Canadian Air Force flew a rescue plane over the icefields after a resident with binoculars spotted the men.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">7</p>
<p>1901: Lightning struck a schoolhouse near Beebe, QC. About a dozen pupils in the school were injured, 2 girls fatally. The friends were sitting together and had their hair burned and their shoes torn off. They were found unconscious and paralyzed in their lower limbs. Their teacher, who was out to dinner, escaped harm.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">8</p>	<p>1923: Ten days previous, a high wind blew away most of the freshly planted onion seeds from the fields near Point Pelee, ON. At the height of the storm, growers could see a great black dust cloud whistling over the point and out into Lake Erie. The work of reseedling had just been finished on this date when a snowstorm struck, accompanied by powerful winds and low temperatures.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">9</p>	<p>1943: Arbor Day in Winnipeg, MB, was marked not by tree-planting but snow-balling. By noon, 4 cm of snow had fallen in the city. Train coaches packed with holidayers had left for the Grand and Victoria beaches. The chairman of the city's antimosquito committee said that a large percentage of May-born mosquitoes would perish in the storm. Stronger mosquitoes survived, but their development was delayed.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">10</p> <p style="text-align: center;">First Quarter ☾</p>	<p>1953: Fishers readying their boats for the opening of the halibut season instead rescued 18 people from a crashed Canadian Pacific Airlines amphibian that smacked down on the choppy seas in a stiff breeze in Prince Rupert harbour in British Columbia. The plane's stewardess and an RCMP constable died in the crash. Most of the passengers clambered onto the wing of the half-submerged plane.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">11</p>	<p>1956: A tornado slashed a 3-km path of destruction through McGregor, ON. Eleven people were dragged or crawled from the wreckage of one farm home. Farmers in Kent and Essex counties counted heavy losses after hail and rain swamped hundreds of hectares of rich farmland. Dead livestock, as well as mud and debris, clogged upstream grates and lodged against bridges.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">12</p>	<p>1986: Calgarians sloped and even skied their way through a May blizzard that dropped more than 30 cm of snow over 2 days. Strong winds of 80 km/h toppled trees and power lines. An hour before, the sun had been shining and temperatures had soared to 15°C. Alberta's Transportation Minister called it the worst spring storm in history.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">13</p>	<p>2009: The Victoria Day long weekend was one of the chilliest in Yellowknife, NT's weather history. The city saw a record low of -9.6°C. On the same weekend, Aklavik, NT, reached temperatures as high as 18.3°C, leaving Yellowknife residents wondering when summer would make its way south. Yellowknife campers toughed out the holiday weather, but one complained that his frozen beer had exploded overnight.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">14</p>
<p>Mother's Day</p> <p>1907: On board a ship destined for Montreal, QC, from Liverpool, England, a young Englishman fell overboard during dense fog and lost his life. He left his wife friendless and totally destitute. The husband carried their tickets and their total savings of 20£ in an inner pocket of his jacket. Fellow passengers collected 24£ for the wife to either return to England or start a new life in Canada.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">15</p>	<p>2009: The Victoria Day long weekend in May looked more like Christmas morning for most of Western Canada. At Grand Beach, MB—a popular getaway for Winnipeg, MB, residents—the usually crowded beach was instead populated by stragglers throwing snowballs. In Edmonton, AB, snow fell on the May holiday for the first time in 15 years. In Saskatchewan, graders plowed roads and crews restored power outages.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">16</p>	<p>1864: The townspeople of Port Pemberton, BC, were startled by a rumbling noise. Rushing outside, they witnessed an immense portion of the steep hill behind the town sliding toward them, bearing before it enormous rocks, logs, and trees. Fortunately, the avalanche did not fill the town but rather some 10-15 m of the upper end of Lillooet Lake. Residents congratulated themselves on their good fortune.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">17</p>	<p>2008: There have been several black bear sightings in British Columbia's Lower Mainland recently. At one school, students were kept inside during recess after a bear was spotted nearby. Experts have attributed the appearances to longer-than-normal hibernations due to cold winters, followed by rapid warm-ups. About 700 bears are euthanized each year in the province after run-ins with people.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">18</p>	<p>Weather Quiz</p> <p>Which eastern Canadian city records on average the greatest number of days with sunshine?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">19</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Thunder Bay, ON 2) Niagara Falls, ON 3) Montreal, QC 4) Fredericton, NB 5) Windsor, ON <p><i>(Answer on inside back cover)</i></p>	<p>1962: An excruciatingly long heat wave gripped southwestern Ontario with 7 straight days above 30°C. Two 10-year-old boys in London, ON, tried to beat the heat by stealing and eating over 100 ice cream bars. They obtained the ice cream by removing a screen from a refreshment booth. Police found the ice cream bandits behind a bush and confiscated most of their loot. Their parents agreed to pay for it.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">20</p>	<p>2009: Short sleeves and sunglasses were the order of the day as temperatures neared record highs in New Brunswick. Temperatures in Miramichi and Kouchibouguac, NB, soared to 33°C. People out for a tasty cool treat like ice cream all had one topic of conversation in mind—the hot weather. The province's Ministry of Natural Resources ordered a fire ban because of the elevated risk of forest fires.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">21</p>

Full Moon 

1991: A fierce wind in Rapid City, MB, destroyed a concession booth at a local baseball ground. The wind carried the structure 25 m to the north through a chain link fence and smashed it to the ground.

22

1940: Residents of Hazelton, BC, were surprised by the strength of a whirlwind. Its first mighty blast cut a path 10 m wide and took the roof off a fish storehouse. Some big logs were also carried 150 m away before hitting the ground and splitting in two. A family tried going outside, but the wind was so strong they could not get their door open. Two hours later, a second blast inflicted more damages.

23

Victoria Day

2007: Unprecedented flooding raised the levels of saltwater in Dead Moose Lake, SK, to levels 2 m above normal. No one could remember the lake being so high. Saltwater inundation made the land almost worthless. Said one local farmer: "You can't even give it away; once the water goes down it will probably take 20 years to dry out before anything will grow again."

24

Last Quarter 

1910: In Halleybury, ON, a huge rainfall of nearly 50 mm overflowed gullies and washed out roadbeds. Ratepayers contended that all the work done on the clay roads was now a waste. Large-sized holes opened around some sewer traps. One irate taxpayer commented that an hour's shower turns the earth to soap.

25

2009: Across the Avalon Peninsula of Newfoundland and Labrador, large snowflakes began trickling out of the sky for most of the day. It was hardly a blizzard—the accumulation was mostly limited to car windshields and open fields. In total, 5 cm of snow fell, yet it was a record snowfall for this date. Most residents in St. John's were horrified by the sight of snow in late May.

26

1950: Lightning, momentarily brightening the stormy waters of Lake Deschenes, QC, aided the rescue of 2 fishermen pitched overboard. A cottager heard cries for help and rowed for about 0.5 km where he picked up one of the men. The rescuer then started rowing again, not sure where to go, when the lightning struck and he spotted an overturned boat with someone clinging to the keel.

27

1950: Winnipeg, MB's, great flood in the spring of 1950 was still an unreal memory to those affected by the greatest disaster ever to hit the province. Most of the 80,000 city and rural dwellers forced from their homes by silt-laden water were still assessing their losses, unable to return to their dwellings. The first of Britain's \$310,000 in relief supplies arrived by air as a gift from the British people.

28

1996: Ice pellets, rain, snow, and poor visibility contributed to dozens of accidents and 1 fatality on the Laurentian Autoroute in Quebec. Police closed 7 km of the highway in both directions. The unseasonably cold weather meant that the small ice pellets did not melt as they hit the ground.

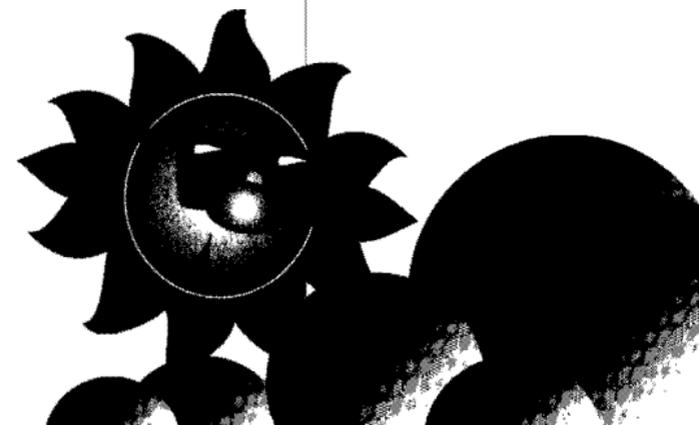
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1928: A lightning bolt tore a hole in the roof of a house in West Chezzetcook, NS, killing a baby instantly. Neighbours who rushed to their assistance found the dead child and the remainder of the family dazed or unconscious. The bolt knocked down the child's mother, partially paralyzed his grandfather, and temporarily deafened his grandmother.

30

2008: The forest fire season in New Brunswick began slowly. The largest fire covered a mere 3 ha. To date, there had been 89 reported fires province-wide, compared with 197 the previous year. As well, 76 ha of forest had been burned, compared with 509 ha the previous year. Following a long winter, the fire season was about 4 weeks late compared to other years.

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JUNE 2011

Sunday

Monday

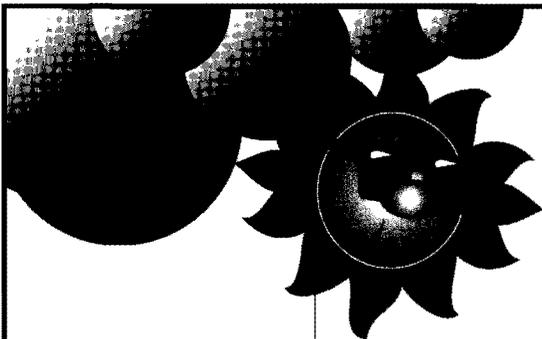
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2009: Calgarians in Alberta faced a rare June snowfall. When the snow finally ended, it amounted to 3.8 cm, but it disappeared in a few hours. The blast of winter weather left 1,245 bare-skinned participants of The Underwear Affair covered in goose bumps. They had stripped down to raise money for cancer diseases that strike below the belt.

5

2009: In Riverview, NB, sunshine was plentiful, and there was barely a breeze. Suddenly, a swirl of wind stirred the air over the black asphalt parking lot near the baseball park. The wind picked up a massive amount of dust. It caused a loud slapping sound as it passed over Lake Petitcodiac. Rare in the Maritimes, dust devils form under clear sunny weather in still air.

6

Weather Quiz
Which activity accounts for more deaths and injuries from lightning in Canada?
1) golfing
2) camping and hiking
3) picnicking
4) boating
5) outdoor construction work
(Answer on inside back cover)

7

1945: A severe electrical storm lasting 15 min. passed over Sault Ste. Marie, ON. It hailed and the stones were larger than ever before seen in the recollection of the oldest inhabitant. The hailstones smashed windows in homes and other buildings all over town. The crashing sounds caused several teams of horses to run away. The hail was so thick that boats on St. Mary's River were delayed as in a fog.

1

New Moon ●

1944: Following a week of unprecedented heat, severe storms broke out across Manitoba. In the neighbourhoods of Portage la Prairie, MB, hail damage was enormous. More serious damage was averted because winds were surprisingly light during the hailfall. Still, gardens were shredded, tree foliage slashed, and grain badly battered. Culverts ran full of water and large tracts of land were flooded.

2

2009: Victoria, BC, nearly toppled a 20-year-old record high when the temperature climbed to a stifling 30°C. The hot weather caused a big stink at Matsqui Prison, where prisoners had been locked in their cells 23 hours a day since May 11 and were complaining about having to wait hours to use the bathroom. There are no toilets in the cells. Frustrated inmates began tossing human waste out the windows.

3

1923: During a severe thunderstorm in Whitby, ON, lightning was so intense that people within a radius of several hundred metres of a stable were all affected. A 3-year-old boy playing in the stable loft was struck and killed instantly. Another strike hit the stable roof, ripping through the timbers before killing a horse and knocking 2 other horses senseless. It then shocked a man and stunned another.

4

World Environment Day

2009: One resident of Churchill, MB, said this was the latest spring he had ever seen. As a consequence, the cold snowy weather doomed local birds. The first Canada goose nests were built on June 7, more than a month later than normal, and probably too late to allow goslings to mature enough (100 days) to endure the long southbound fall migration. Most species of birds did not nest at all.

12

2009: A couple from Mankota, SK, was working on a barbwire fence when lightning struck about 30 m along the fence line. The charge killed the man instantly, while the woman suffered injuries that required hospitalization. It was just one of those freak lightning hits—a single bolt and a sprinkle of rain.

13

1962: A thunderstorm travelling from Estevan, SK, to Winnipeg, MB, left flooded basements and washed-out roads following a rainfall of 95 mm. At Goodlands, MB, lightning burned the home of a widow and her children, killing a dog and a canary and leaving the family homeless. A Brandon, MB, resident was struck by lightning when lightning came through an open window in his bathroom.

14

1964: The Mayo and Stewart rivers in Yukon flooded their banks, filling a quarter of the town of Mayo, YT—the worst flooding since 1936. Floodwaters backed up sewers and refuse gushed through manholes into the streets. About 300 people were forced to live on higher ground in tents, trailers, and vehicles at the Mayo Airport. Two-thirds of the town's residents were inoculated against typhoid.

8

First Quarter ●

1950: A severe electrical rainstorm ripped through Windsor, ON, injuring nearly 20 people and inflicting a lot of property damage. The storm smashed a large window at the Ford Motor Co., spraying several workers with splintered glass. The winds peaked at 110 km/h, damaging trees and hydro lines. The holiday island of Belle Isle was left a shambles with an estimated 4,000 trees bowled over.

9

2009: Tinder dry conditions in forests across British Columbia had firefighters on high alert throughout the year. Never had the forests been so dry. From December through August, British Columbia's Pacific coast was the driest it had been in 62 years. At the height of the 2009 forest fire season, virtually every region was ablaze. Firefighting costs were close to \$400 million—6 times that budgeted.

10

1933: A brief but intense summer storm passed over Cobalt, ON. Thunder and lightning, rain so heavy the streets ran with water for a short time, and hailstones larger than a nickel all were included in the mixture. Plus, for a few minutes the ground was covered with a fleeting white blanket of ice balls. During the storm, temperatures plunged 10 degrees.

11

1923: A fierce gale whipped through the village of Ernfold, SK. Buildings came down in all directions. Flocks of poultry simply disappeared. One man drove into his father's garage for shelter. When the storm cleared, he was left sitting in his car on the spot where the garage had stood, dazed and injured. Heavy rains accompanying the high winds came just in time to enhance the value of crops.

17

2007: Hot and dry conditions fuelled forest fires in northern Quebec, prompting a ban on open fires under penalty of heavy fines north of the St. Lawrence River. The acrid smoke could be smelled hundreds of kilometres away and the smog-like haze blanketed Quebec City and Chibougamau, QC. Officials forbade campers, canoeists, and fishers north of the Lac St. Jean area; only firefighters were allowed.

18

<p>1959: The salmon run in the Northumberland Strait was the best one in years when a nor'easter came up. "The wind was so strong I couldn't even talk to my father," said a fisher. "I tied myself to the mast . . . A big sea came and washed the old man overboard. I never saw him again . . . I never thought our best run would have such an awful ending. But I'm going back fishing."</p> <p>19</p> <p>Father's Day</p>	<p>1951: Everyone reported hearing a singing sound just before a twister struck Hornby, ON. Winds carried people through the air, ripped homes off their foundations, and tore down trees and hydro lines. At one barnyard, the storm killed 400 capons. One man told of standing under a chestnut tree. Suddenly, he looked up and saw the top part of the tree soaring nearly 175 m in the air.</p> <p>20</p>	<p>1934: A heavy gust of wind in Montreal, QC, the precursor to a severe thunderstorm, scooped up a roof and deposited it in a vacant lot, 100 m away. The wind blew over a number of transmission poles and trees in the northern section of the city, tying up traffic. Several residents went without light and telephone services for days following the fall of poles and resultant entanglement of wires.</p> <p>Summer Solstice 13:16 EDT</p> <p>21</p>	<p>2007: A weather bomb washed out roads and forced students and teachers out of their schools in parts of Nova Scotia. More than 50 mm of rain fell in just half an hour. There were reports of hail the size of cherries. Lightning from the storm struck a woman standing on an aluminum ladder. There was a whole bunch of paint blotches left where she was painting around her living room window.</p> <p>Full Moon </p> <p>22</p>	<p>2009: A rogue wave swept a woman from Montreal, QC, off the rocks near the Peggy's Cove lighthouse in Nova Scotia. A teenager and 2 other youngsters ran to the rocks and started tossing out a life preserver. After a few tries, they were able to reach her. The victim stayed calm during her ordeal, floating on her back in the rough waves. The woman was cold and tired after having spent 30 min. the water.</p> <p>Last Quarter </p> <p>23</p>	<p>1891: A washout of a Canadian Pacific Railway work train near Ashcroft, BC, caused by a cloudburst, followed by a mudslide, resulted in the death of 1 worker and serious injury to 9 others in a gang of track repairers. The work train actually backed into the landslide overturning the caboose and flat cars.</p> <p>St. Jean-Baptiste Day</p> <p>24</p>	<p>1999: Water wells on Prince Edward Island some 12 m deep ran dry after a lengthy warm dry spell. The spring drought, combined with a scanty snowfall and a lowering water table, reduced the volume of water in the wells to their lowest levels in decades. Residents were not able to shower or bathe at home for a week. Dishwashing and laundry were done sparingly.</p> <p>25</p>
<p>1915: Following a fierce storm and flood in and around Calgary, AB, the Bow and Elbow rivers rose nearly 3 m in a few hours. The floodwaters carried away 2 bridges, flooded scores of houses, and disrupted the supply of natural gas to the city. The Canadian Pacific Railway line was washed out, sending 2 men to their deaths.</p> <p>26</p>	<p>1944: Violent winds slashed through a section of Riding Mountain National Park in Manitoba, felling trees and causing damage that took a year to repair. Disrupted communications and highway traffic isolated the park's Clear Lake resort. News of the storm did not reach the outside world for several days. The storm was described as the worst in the region's history. Surprisingly, no one was injured.</p> <p>27</p>	<p>1928: Lightning struck and killed 2 men and damaged many buildings in Ottawa, ON. One victim was standing at the corner of his veranda waiting to welcome guests arriving to attend his golden wedding celebrations. Lightning also knocked off a portion of the spire of St. George's Anglican Church and rains flooded a number of cellars and intersections.</p> <p>28</p>	<p>1953: Described as a small tornado, winds struck a farm near Lethbridge, AB, ripping off the barn roof and tossing wagons about like matchwood. The winds sucked a tiny body of water 30 m into the air, like a column of smoke. One eyewitness said the storm peeled off a barn roof like a bunch of feathers, tossing pieces 2 km away. Flying wooden rafters killed a lot of chickens and speared a granary shed.</p> <p>29</p>	<p>1963: According to witnesses, a farmer near Birtle, MB, stepped to the door to photograph an approaching storm when the house apparently exploded in a tornado. The farmer's body was entirely stripped of clothing and found about 50 m to the south.</p> <p>30</p>		

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JULY 2011

Sunday

Monday

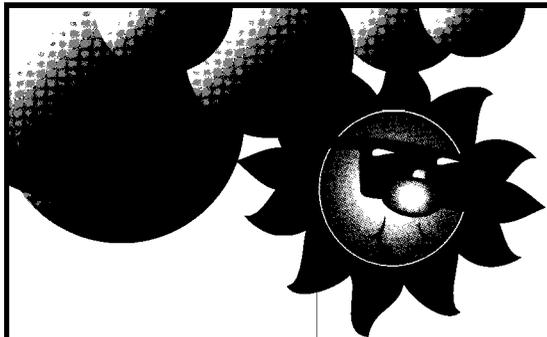
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Saturday



1928: Lightning killed 2 men in a group of 33 workmen huddled in a small shack at the Canadian Pacific Railway bridge in Toronto, ON. Most of the workers were thrown to the ground or tossed against the walls of the shanty, their limbs momentarily paralyzed. Lightning entered the shed used for storing tools along incoming telegraph wires.

3

1939: A man narrowly escaped death by tornado-like winds that raced through southern Manitoba. Wind, rain, and hail cut through much of Winnipeg, MB. In the St. James district, the storm struck the Conkin Midway shows, turning the midway into a melee of flying canvas and gewgaws. The Ferris wheels were moved 2 m off their sites. An amusement attraction, "The Globe of Death," was wrecked by the wind.

4

Aphelion 11:00 EDT

1922: A 72-year-old trapper was rescued after being marooned on a northern Manitoban island for 22 days. He had canoed to a small rocky island to search for duck eggs when a storm blew up, carrying away his canoe. His only food had been 6 duck eggs, water snails, small crawfish, wild mint, and the roots of reeds. He recovered rapidly, claiming it was the wild mint that kept him alive.

10

2009: A burst of extreme wind and rain flooded sections of highways and basements in Montreal, QC. By 8 p.m., 36.6 mm had fallen at Trudeau International Airport. Several cars stalled on a section of a downtown highway as water nearly submerged the vehicles. North of the city, possible tornadic winds sent an above-ground pool and a garage roof flying.

11

1921: The Niagara region baked under torrid heat registering 35.6°C in the shade. One woman resting on a ledge near the water's edge was overcome with heat and tumbled into the Niagara River a short distance from the falls. Another woman fainted from the excitement and followed her in. People near the Goat Island Bridge saw the women slip into the whirling river and sounded the alarm. Both were rescued.

5

2007: Shrouded in fog, 25 vessels floated into an eerie Halifax, NS, harbour as an international tall ships festival got underway. Another 35 vessels, including military training vessels, were also anchored along the waterfront. Tourists donned raincoats as the vessels emerged from the fog and settled into the harbour. With coolish temperatures below 18°C, the weather was a big topic of talk.

12

1911: Thirty-three people died from heat prostration in Toronto, ON, in a week. Most of the victims were either very old (one being 103!), very young, or suffered from heart conditions. A butcher succumbed to the heat. Just before his death, he was heard praying for rain. Sleeping outdoors on verandahs, in backyards, and in cemeteries was commonplace throughout the city.

6

1906: While numerous lodge members and friends celebrated, lightning struck the Welsford Loyal Orange Lodge in Saint John, NB. One man died instantly and 20 were rendered unconscious. A young woman, who was dancing at the time, was struck and badly burned about the hips and legs. A man had the back burned out of his trousers, and another had the tails burned off his coat.

13

2007: A thunderstorm dropped golf-ball-sized hail around Saskatchewan, breaking a brief heat wave with record high temperatures of 37°C. The hail smashed windows and high winds downed several trees. A church in Allan, SK, lost almost every window from the golf-ball-to-baseball-sized hail. On a golf course near Delisle, SK, tents blew onto neighbouring property.

7

1964: A thunderstorm began in Saskatchewan and hurred northeast across Manitoba. At Kamsack, SK, 85 mm of rain fell over 2 days, resulting in numerous outhouses and roads washing away. Trees were broken, plywood was hurled around the site, and television antennae were blown down. The short bursts of hail beat down local gardens.

14

1912: It rained again in Lethbridge, AB, making a 2-day total of 17 mm. Also falling with the rain were beetles. The "shower" caused those on the street to take shelter, and left thousands of beetles lying all along Round Street. The immense heat occurring during the previous couple of days was said to be the cause of the storm and the manna from heaven.

1

Canada Day New Moon

2009: It was the coldest night ever recorded on this date in Charlottetown, PE, at 3.3°C. Outside the city, strawberry and other sensitive fruit and vegetable growers fretted over the possibility of frost as chilly arctic air and calm winds generated ripe conditions for killing frost at dawn. Fortunately, the fields escaped any touch of frost.

8

First Quarter

Weather Quiz
Most tornado deaths occur when:
1) roofs blow off
2) houses lift and drop
3) windows smash
4) walls collapse
5) victims get sucked up in the tornado

15

(Answer on inside back cover)

1958: Near St. Catharines, ON, a golfer opened his umbrella when a lightning bolt struck the tip of it and knocked him unconscious. Two of his golf buddies were also knocked off their feet. A woman who witnessed the incident ran across the fairway to administer artificial respiration. The victim was taken to the hospital where he was treated for burns to his fingertips and numbness in his legs.

2

2009: Tornadoes killed 3 tourists at a fishing and hunting resort on Lake Seul in northwestern Ontario—an area where tornadoes are relatively rare. Winds of 180-240 km/h downed several large trees and lifted 2 cabins and a dock 2 m off the ground and tossed them into the lake. Ironically, the victims were from Oklahoma's tornado alley, home to some of the deadliest tornadoes in the United States.

9

Nunavut Day

2009: Oawson City, YT, experienced some of the warmest daytime temperatures in the country. It recorded higher afternoon temperatures than Toronto, ON, during the first half of July. At the Gold Rush Campground business was good, although not too busy for the proprietor to sneak in a round of golf on North America's most northerly golf course with grass greens. The last tee time is at midnight.

16

1961: A Lyleton, MB, farmer survived after he was "scalped" following the collapse of his barn during a violent rainstorm. He was milking a cow when a gust of wind lifted the barn roof and sent it crashing down, pinning him until a second gust lifted the roof off. The farmer's scalp was split from the middle of his head to the back. Still, he managed to drive 5 km to a neighbour before collapsing.

17

2009: Residents in Edmonton, AB, cleaned up after a vicious thunderstorm toppled trees, damaged buildings, and knocked out power to thousands of homes. Wind gusts might have clocked at around 134 km/h. At Northlands Coliseum, fairgoers were urged to seek shelter in one of the 3 secure buildings on the grounds. One hundred people decided to hide in the Arctic Spa dome, but pounding hail deflated it.

18

1960: The famous nine o'clock gun in Vancouver, BC, was not the same after it was hit by lightning in June. The gun seemed to take its own sweet time in firing, about 100 min. past the appointed hour in the evening owing to a wiring defect. The gun is fired by a signalman on Lions Gate Bridge who presses a button that triggers the Stanley Park timepiece.

19

1955: More than 40 buildings were destroyed when hurricane-force winds of 130 km/h ripped through Saint-Thomas-Didyme, QC. The storm wounded 7 people when trees fell and debris was scattered during the 20-min. storm. Some witnesses said rooftops whizzed through the air "like a shower of meteorites." Several farmers reported that some of their livestock perished when barns and stables collapsed.

20

2007: No umbrellas were permitted at a summer concert at Dartmouth, NS. Thousands of Rihanna fans, their hair dripping and matted to their faces, stood crowded for hours under makeshift ponchos. Despite the foul weather, as the singer was announced, cheers rang out from all corners. When she took the stage, she yelled out: "It's pouring rain outside, but you guys still came out. That's why I love you."

21

2009: For 5 hours, Brenda Lussier plied the waters of Lake Ontario, with waves up to 2 m high as a storm brewed in the distance. Determined to be the first deaf person to swim across the lake, she refused to quit, even as the weather deteriorated. She had to give up 11 km into the swim. The rules governing lake swims forbid the swimmer from having any physical touch with those on support boats.

22

2007: In Victoria, BC, an all-time record-high temperature of 36.3°C occurred during the second week of July. Yet by the third week, residents had to endure an unprecedented 7 straight days of measurable rain. The rainy reign started July 17, with July 21 the wettest at 9 mm. Vancouver, BC, also broke an all-time wet-weather record for July with 7 consecutive days of rain.

23

Last Quarter 

1907: At Carnduff, SK, a fierce storm lifted everything from boards, paper, and refuse into the air. The storm completely demolished a large barn, even lifting the stonework. One of the farm owner's 2 boys was blown into a feed chute, the other out onto the prairie.

24

2008: For 4 days, the main hospital in Corner Brook, NL, rescheduled some surgeries due to high humidity levels. Temperatures soared to 29°C and the humidex reached a sultry 35. On hot muggy days, there is an increased risk of infection. Measures to improve the interior conditions in the hospital had begun the previous year, so the situation was better than the previous summer.

25

2009: Waves of thunderstorms from a stalled weather system pounded Hamilton, ON. In intersections and parking garages, floodwaters rose to the height of vehicle door handles. Radar estimates confirmed rainfall amounts in an unofficial gauge totalling 109 mm in 2 h—one of the most intense short-duration rainfalls on record in Canada. Insurance losses totalled close to \$200 million.

26

2009: Montreal, QC, set a record for the least number of hours of sunshine ever recorded for July—a mere 212.5 h—easily smashing the previous record of 230.8 h. It was not the wettest July on record at Val-d'Or, QC, but with 27 rainy days out of 31 it was about as miserable as it gets. For beach-lovers, pool owners, festivalgoers, and patio-bar patrons it was the year without summer.

27

1923: West of Thunder Bay, ON, a young woman searching a house attic for clothes for the baby she was expecting within a month was killed when lightning from a severe thunderstorm crashed through the chimney. The bolt threw the young woman into a corner of the attic, burning her. The woman's brother and a friend saw the lightning enter the house, but arrived too late to save her.

28

2009: In Vancouver, BC, temperatures above 30°C brought smog warnings and high humidity. The city experiences a hot day at or above 30°C once every 5 years on average, but in 2009 there were 4 days like this. On July 29, the mercury rose to an all-time high of 33.8°C; the next day that record was broken when the temperature topped 34.4°C. Residents were suffering: fewer than 5% have air conditioning.

29

2008: In Regina, SK, people taking in the opening of Buffalo Days scurried for cover from the pelting rain and hail during a wicked storm. Tall rides were closed first, but soon all attractions on the midway were shut down for at least 15 min. Some airlines diverted in-bound flights to Saskatoon, SK, because of the weather.

30

2009: Saint John, NB, recorded its wettest July on record—195 mm of rain—twice the normal amount of rain. For the entire month, the temperature never crept above 25°C.

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AUGUST 2011

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

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Saturday

<p>2009: Heavy rains forced most of the activities at the premiers' conference in Regina, SK, indoors. Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall said that while sunshine was always nice for guests in his province, he always welcomed rain as important for the economy. By afternoon, the rain had stopped but it was still cool and overcast. Still, it did not deter some premiers from getting in a round of golf.</p>	<p>2009: "Hurricane-like" weather broke loose in Camrose, AB. At the site of the Big Valley Jamboree, violent winds flattened the main concert stage where up to 100 people stood. Emergency crews worked frantically to rescue those trapped under twisted lumber and steel. One person died and 75 were injured. The "tornado" was actually later confirmed to be a freakish plough wind.</p> <p>Ramadan Civic Holiday</p>	<p>1950: Near Thornhill, ON, a girl was eating dinner with her grandmother's old-fashioned fork with its bone handle. Suddenly, a lightning bolt struck the chimney and flashed through the house's wiring system. The electric charge danced around the prongs of the fork, but apparently the bone handle spared the girl from severe burns and possibly saved her life.</p>	<p>2009: A vicious storm pounded Calgary, AB, with lightning, thunder, and hail, with wind speeds reaching 107 km/h. In its wake, it left downed trees, broken windows, and a swath of hail damage. Canadian insurers put loss estimates at \$0.5 billion, making it the second- or third-largest catastrophic event in Canadian history.</p>	<p>2009: Quebec's most powerful tornado of the season tracked just east of Maniwaki, QC, to Mont-Laurier, QC—a distance of 40 km, which is unusually long for a tornado in the province. It blew away roofs, pushed over walls, tossed cars around, snapped utility poles, and downed power lines leaving 4,000 people without power. Twenty-eight homes in Mont-Laurier were rendered uninhabitable.</p>	<p>1859: Eyewitnesses described the tornado as the most terrific one ever seen on Prince Edward Island, tearing up trees and inflicting extensive property damage. The storm swamped several fishing vessels in the harbour and out to sea and drowned scores of people. A telegraphic dispatch was received at Charlottetown, PE, from New Brunswick giving notice of the storm 20 min. before it burst upon them.</p>	<p>2008: A woman was mauled by a black bear in the garden of her home in Coquitlam, BC. Roaming bears were also spotted in Burnaby, BC, Langley, BC, and close to the Pacific National Exhibition grounds in Vancouver, BC, and at a school in Surrey, BC. Conservation officers blamed the weather and residents' garbage as the magnets for the wildlife.</p> <p>First Quarter ☾</p>
<p>2009: Powerful thunderstorms, spectacular lightning strikes, and baseball-sized hail hammered a wide area of southern Manitoba from Winnipeg to Steinbach, MB. At one residence, a man tried to drive his car to safety in his garage. The noise from the crashing hail was so loud he did not even notice that his car's back window had smashed in until after he drove into the garage.</p>	<p>Weather Quiz</p> <p>During which season of the year do fingernails grow the fastest?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) summer 2) fall 3) winter 4) spring 5) it makes no difference <p>(Answer on inside back cover)</p>	<p>2009: Finally, some summer weather arrived across Ontario. The day had oppressive humidity, high humidex, and pounding thunderstorms. People scrambled for cover from the rain and lightning. Through Orangeville, Caledon, Barrie, Coldwater, Cookstown, and Aurora, ON, wind gusts peaked close to 100 km/h. North of Sarnia, ON, lightning killed a woman hiding under a dinghy at a beach.</p>	<p>1972: A tornado struck the community of St. Cléophas, QC, about 50 km north of Joliette, QC, killing 12,000 chickens; cutting off electricity and telephone wires; destroying a house, a stable, a barn, and a garage; and pulling up about 100 trees.</p>	<p>1908: A woman west of Brockville, ON, discovered an unusual but violent cure for rheumatism when she was struck down by lightning at a summer resort. She suffered a severe shock and burns, but after being struck, the pain from her rheumatism completely disappeared. Although the burns had not entirely healed days later, she said she felt perfectly well.</p>	<p>2009: Early in the afternoon, a small thunderstorm whipped up northwest of Toronto, ON, sending down a savage lightning charge that struck and killed a 5-year-old boy and injured his mother and another child. As the storm cell moved over the community of Brampton, ON, it intensified. Lightning left a metre-deep hole in a soccer field just in front of the goalposts and knocked 6 people off their feet.</p>	<p>1912: Lightning struck and burned a farmhouse at Sackville, NB, and badly damaged the Catholic Church at Middle Sackville, NB (its steeple was demolished). Rain fell in torrents, flooding farm buildings on the marshes. Swollen creeks and rivers overtopped 3 dams. An express train ran into a washout below Sackville, NB. The passengers received a severe jolting, but the train did not leave the rails.</p> <p>Full Moon ☽</p>
<p>2009: A super-cell storm developed just south of Lake Huron and tracked northeastward for a remarkable 200 km. It produced straight-line winds from Windsor to northeast of Toronto, ON, and destructive tornadoes from Windsor to North Bay, ON. The day's weather produced at least 18 tornadoes—a record for the most tornadoes in one day in Canada.</p>	<p>1924: An electrical storm, accompanied by vivid forked lightning and a deluge of rain, targeted Fort William (Thunder Bay), ON. Several buildings were struck in the city and environs, and streets became miniature streams. A young girl had both of her shoes and stockings torn off, but escaped in a miraculous manner with only slight burns to her legs and ankles.</p>	<p>2008: Blistering heat above 30°C broke several long-lasting temperature records at more than a dozen sites around Alberta. Albertans also set a new summer record for electricity use. Stores sold 10 times more fans and air conditioners than usual. Retailers did not even bother stocking their shelves with them but left them at the doors for people to pick up as they came inside.</p>	<p>2007: Livestock died by the dozens southwest of Saskatoon, SK, because blue-green algae flourished in the water. Some bison died within 30 min. of ingesting the water, some while standing in the water, while others lived nearly 2 days afterward. Ranchers blamed the excessive blue-green algae growing in shallow Prairie lakes on wet weather in July followed by a wave of extreme heat and still waters.</p>	<p>1860: It was an oppressively hot and humid day at Quebec City, QC, as Canadian ministers awaited the arrival of the Prince of Wales on the first royal tour in Canadian history. Dressed in ceremonial uniforms for the occasion, they perspired profusely, looking (as one newspaper put it), "as uncomfortable as so many pigs in armour."</p>	<p>2009: St. John's, NL, one of the wettest cities in Canada, was forced to declare a weeks' long water ban. This year was the first not to have a spring or summer month with more than 100 mm of rain since 2004. Winter snows were also less than normal and evaporation was greater—all leading to the lowest water supply in recent years.</p>	<p>2009: A super-cell storm developed just south of Lake Huron and tracked northeastward for a remarkable 200 km. It produced straight-line winds from Windsor to northeast of Toronto, ON, and destructive tornadoes from Windsor to North Bay, ON. The day's weather produced at least 18 tornadoes—a record for the most tornadoes in one day in Canada.</p>

21 1903: A bolt of lightning struck near a worker loading quartz ore into a rail car at Lepine Creek, YT. The blast hurled him to the ground with considerable violence, leaving him dazed but conscious. After several minutes, he was able to stand up but complained of a pricking sensation at the point where the lightning charge entered his body.

Last Quarter 

22 1917: A possible hurricane lashed Nova Scotia, drowning a dozen or more people and inflicting untold damage to crops and property. At Sydney, NS, the gale ripped a large warehouse off its foundation and carried it 18 m. In Halifax, NS, uprooted trees, broken windows, and far-flung debris bore testimony of a fierce storm. On the city commons, winds wrecked a travelling circus.

28 1974: An avalanche killed 2 Polish mountain climbers in Kluane National Park, YT. The 12-man climbing expedition was buried under tonnes of ice and snow at their base camp below the St. Elias Mountain Range. The climbers were sleeping at the time but were awakened by the thunderous noise of the speeding avalanche. The 10-m high avalanche of ice and snow rolled a kilometre along the mountainside.

New Moon 

23 2009: A storm brushed the south coast of Nova Scotia as a marginal category 1 hurricane and made landfall as a tropical storm near Burin Peninsula, NL. It moved quickly, which meant it did not have time to dump as much rain as it could have. However, it coincided with the highest and lowest tides of the year, threatening coastal property with storm surges and flooding.

30 1921: During a thunderstorm near Brockville, ON, lightning entered a residence through a window. A mother and 2 children were in the room. One of the children, an 8-year-old girl, was rendered unconscious. The father, who was in town, proceeded home with an undertaker, only to learn that his child had not sustained so much as a burn, and was suffering only from a headache.

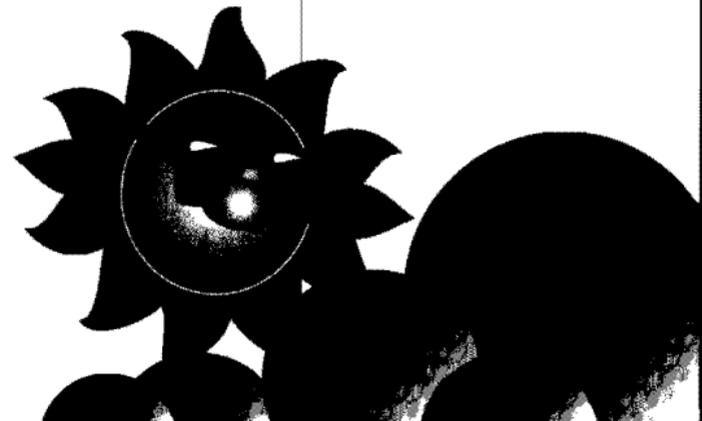
24 1951: Near Lindsay, ON, a lightning bolt drew out the bobby pins from the hair of a sleeping woman. Miraculously, it did no serious injury to herself, her husband, or young son. The lightning bolt struck the chimney of the farmhouse, passing through the upper bedrooms and the downstairs living room before it grounded. The woman said she was awakened and felt as if she was on fire.

31 2008: Several snow-soaked campers spent a cold weekend lost in the woods of the Rocky Mountains. Campgrounds in the region emptied out when an overnight snowfall caused tents to collapse. A dirt-bike rider spent the same night alone in the woods north of Coleman, AB, after getting his motorcycle stuck. Luckily, he was able to light a small fire to keep warm before walking out in the morning.

25 1931: A cyclone raced through southeastern Saskatchewan late in the afternoon. Twisting winds carried away the roof of the Canadian Pacific Railway Express Building in Estevan, SK, and at Arcola, SK, damaged several buildings, including a flour mill. The storm killed 1 and injured 2. Eight kilometres from Estevan, a 1-km-long trestle bridge on the Pacific Railway was crushed to the ground by the storm.

26 1893: A heavy cloudburst flooded the land west of Drydock, BC, delaying the Atlantic Express for about 3 hours. Homes in Siwash, BC, were caught by the rush of water and swept into the Thompson River. The Aboriginal inhabitants were away fishing, but all of their household effects, ploughs, saddles, a large quantity of dried berries, and a dog were carried into the river.

27 1991: Hurricane-force winds reaching 140 km/h, plus rain, tore through Maskinongé, QC, near Trois Rivières, QC, in what was a possible tornado. The wind blasts levelled houses and forced 1,300 residents to evacuate. Roofs were ripped off houses and trees fell everywhere. Buildings crumpled and a church steeple toppled. With so many fallen poles, the area with 20,000 people plunged into darkness.



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SEPTEMBER 2011

Sunday

Monday

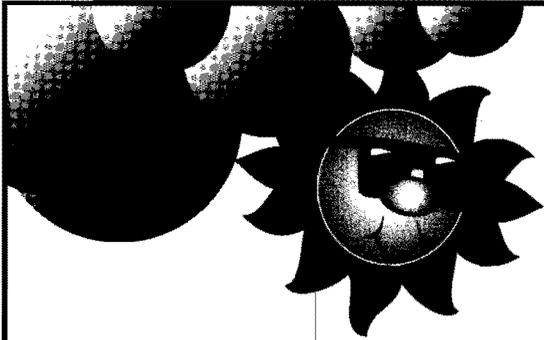
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2009: With summer in September, Winnipeg, MB, set a dubious milestone when the insect control branch fogged for mosquitoes on the latest recorded date the city has ever sprayed for skeeters, with records dating back to 1927. Warm September weather and high soil moisture content brought another generation of nuisance mosquitoes, although not the *Culex* species carrying the West Nile virus.

4

1927: Thousands of trout, sunfish, bullheads, and lizards littered the shores of Lost Lake, near Cedar Hill in the Ottawa Valley. Practically all life in the lake had been exterminated. It was thought that during an electrical storm a bolt of lightning struck the lake and killed the fish.

5

2009: Poor summer weather caused a shortfall in berries and other foods in the woods of Quebec. Consequently, residents frequently sighted wild animals in their backyards north of Montreal, QC. Hungry bears raided garbage cans, compost bins, and birdfeeders. Officials captured over 30 intruders and returned them to the forest; another dozen had to be killed because they showed aggression.

6

1953: A hurricane brought an Irish moss bonanza to fishers along the Prince County shore of Prince Edward Island. The moss piled several metres deep along stretches of shoreline. Some gatherers took in about \$300 worth in just a few hours. Moss fetched about 6 cents a pound unbleached and 11 cents bleached.

7

1941: A man from Prince George, BC, was always sceptical about creatures falling from the sky. However, after a brisk downfall of mixed rain and hail, he discovered 6, 3-m long snakes and 2 huge grasshoppers, as well as some rainwater in an old washbasin tossed out in his backyard. Looking apprehensively at the sky, he surmised there was no place else the creatures could have come from.

8

2009: Year-long events celebrating the first powered flight in Canada endured some bad weather from start to finish. The tribute commemorated the first flight of the Silver Dart, which lifted off the ice in Baddeck Bay, NS, a century ago. On February 23, the inaugural flight of the replica Silver Dart had to be cancelled due to a snowstorm.

9

1962: A twister swept in off Lake Simcoe, ON, overturning a large cabin cruiser at a marina in Atherley, ON, 5 km east of Orillia, ON. It lifted a 30-by-8-m storage shed 15 m from its foundation. There were no injuries. Other damage included knocked over trees, scattered branches, and felled hydro and telephone wires, cutting utility services in the area.

10

First Quarter ☾

Labour Day

2009: The season for the West Nile virus came and went with negligible impact in Canada. Officials confirmed only 1 human case of the mosquito-borne illness contracted in Saskatchewan. The year's low numbers were mainly due to cooler temperatures. *Culex tarsalis* mosquitoes, which carry the disease, usually peak around mid-August and then go into hibernation.

11

1903: An entrepreneur in Manitoba operated a community pasture along the shores of Whitewater Lake. When he checked the cattle herd one night, he noticed a few snowflakes but gave little thought to the possibility of a blizzard. By morning the storm was intense, and the entire herd had stampeded into the water. Over 180 cattle died—the worst livestock disaster in the province.

12

1962: A thunderstorm, packing wind gusts of 120 km/h and 25 mm of rain in 20 min., caused flooding and widespread damage in Toronto, ON. Three people were trapped in cars stalled in flooded underpasses. Homeowners removed several drivers atop their car roofs—some brought ladders to form a bridge to the sidewalk. The Metro police station in Etobicoke, ON, was without lights, radio, or teletype services.

13

2008: Following the remnants of Hurricane Ike, transit passengers in Montreal, QC, found flooding and widespread damage in Toronto, ON. Three people were trapped in cars stalled in flooded underpasses. Homeowners removed several drivers atop their car roofs—some brought ladders to form a bridge to the sidewalk. The Metro police station in Etobicoke, ON, was without lights, radio, or teletype services.

14

2009: New Brunswick's crop of seized marijuana exceeded the previous year's entire harvest by 19%, according to the RCMP. Cannabis plants need plenty of rain and sunshine. It was the hottest summer ever in Atlantic Canada, and as hot as the sun goes, August had normal amounts of sunshine and September was sunny. By mid-month, bright sunshine totals were 177%, with every day having some sunshine.

15

1955: Lightning inflicted death and injury at an isolated lumber camp in northern Ontario. One bolt struck the camp's stable, killing 2 men—one directly and the other who was crushed to death when a horse electrocuted by the bolt fell on him. The lightning charge killed 4 other horses and injured 14 workers, many who were terrorstruck as lightning streaked throughout the stables.

16

2009: Unseasonably warm temperatures made for a day of record-breaking warmth across Saskatchewan—at least 23 record highs were obliterated across the province. Saskatoon, SK, hit a toasty 33.5°C, easily beating the previous record of 31.1°C in 1928. Rosetown was Saskatchewan's hot spot at 35.4°C and again 2 days later at 37°C, likely the warmest moment in Canadian history ever so late in the season.

17

2007: A highly localized "sniper storm" cut through parts of British Columbia's Lower Mainland. The combination of a small, cold pool of air wedging up a layer of warm, humid air triggered a rare west coast thunderstorm. It shut off power to 4,000 homes and flooded 4 buildings on a school campus. Students milling around said staff were concerned about the effect the water would have on computers.

18

1846: A powerful windstorm struck St. John's, NL. Winds carried away 2 of the city's main bridges. A spacious but unfinished building came down with a crash, burying several of its inhabitants in the ruins. The storm also destroyed several fish flakes, huts, and boats in various outports. At one cove on Trinity Bay, NL, the storm totalled 60 of 70 fishing skiffs.

19

2007: Near-hurricane-strength winds swept central and coastal Labrador, leaving a trail of destruction. In Happy Valley-Goose Bay, NL, winds reached 117 km/h, just shy of the September record of 122 km/h set in 1959. One resident painting on the third tier of scaffolding descended just in time. Between her property and 2 neighbours on either side the wind bent or cracked more than 50 fir trees.

20

Last Quarter 

2009: It had been a September like no other in southern Ontario. Hamilton, ON, set a September record for the longest duration of dry weather with 22 consecutive days. Bizarrely enough, the steel city went from the second-wettest summer on record to the longest stretch of dry September weather ever. The good weather made some miserable—holidays were over and they could only look at it out their windows.

21

1911: A group of scientists collecting samples in the Arctic suffered privations east of the Mackenzie River in the Northwest Territories. Temperatures were -8°C or lower. The expedition carried provisions for 2 days, but the trip took 15. They were forced to eat whale tongue, seal- and deerskins, sole leather, and the tough skin laces used on their snowshoes. They forced it all down with seal oil.

22

1863: In Clearville, near Chatham, ON, an old gentleman and his daughter met sudden and unexpected death during a thunderstorm. The daughter was upstairs in their house, closing a window, when lightning entered it and killed her. The charge descended through the floor into a lower room, striking and killing the father, as well as violently shocking his 2 sons.

23

Autumn Equinox 05:04 EDT

Weather Quiz
Why is dew not considered precipitation like rain, freezing rain, snow, and hail?

24

- 1) it is not water
- 2) it does not fall
- 3) there is too little of it to be measured
- 4) it evaporates before it can be measured
- 5) it forms at night

(Answer on inside back cover)

1964: A man was crushed to death and 3 others suffered serious injuries when an estimated 35 t of drilling pipe fell on and around their work hut in Brooks, AB. High winds likely in excess of 160 km/h toppled the derrick. The brief but fierce wind, snow, and rainstorm delayed medical help for half an hour. One paramedic said the winds tore off one of his windshield wipers.

25

1960: Recovery of a missing shepherd was abandoned because of an avalanche threat north of Kamloops, BC. He had been missing for 3 months. RCMP officers said more than 2 m of snow had fallen in the Mount Baldy area where he was believed to have disappeared. His 200 sheep were found alive 3 km from the shepherd's camp, but there was no sign of the shepherd.

26

2009: This was the wettest summer season on record on Cape Breton Island, NS. Sydney, NS, recorded 456 mm of rain compared to a normal amount of 273 mm. Instead of 3 or 4 heavy rainfall events (> 25 mm), this summer featured 9. Among them was Hurricane Bill that dumped approximately 54 mm of rain, and post-Tropical Storm Danny that brought a total of 105 mm to some parts of the island.

27

New Moon 

2009: Crews in Edmonton, AB, worked overtime to clean up tall trees and branches after a recent windstorm helped make this one of the worst years for damage to Edmonton's urban forest. One problem was trees still bore leaves that allowed the tree canopies to catch the wind "like a sail," adding more stress. They were also much drier than normal.

28

1923: Unusually vivid lightning and thunder broke over Halifax, NS. At a milk-bottling plant, lightning struck a flag pole, stripping the wood and travelling downward into the building, burning out the fuses. A night worker standing near the switchboard suffered a shock. He said the sensation felt like "bleeding to death."

29

Rosh Hashanah

1921: During a windstorm in Kingston, ON, a portion of a tower in Macdonald Park was blown more than 200 m, striking and killing a 12-year-old boy on his way home from school. A major general of the Royal Military College was riding his horse during the storm. The animal spooked and slipped on the wet and steep hill, pinning his mount. The officer suffered a fractured shoulder.

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OCTOBER 2011

Sunday

Monday

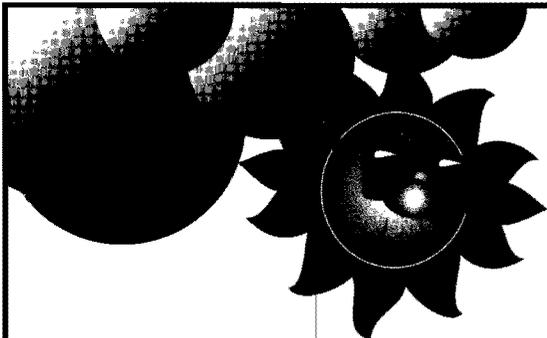
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2
1925: In the early morning in Chatham, ON, an approaching storm added eeriness to the hanging haze. The daytime darkness had a terrifying effect similar to a solar eclipse. Chickens went to roost at noon as the storm converted day into night. Without lights, it was impossible for people in the same room to see one another. Several industrial plants closed for the day.

3
1909: For about 90 min., 4 great moving columns of water, rotating violently in all directions, sent up dense clouds of spray, frightening the crew of a little Newfoundland casting schooner. The sailors gave up hope of ever seeing port again. The crew was not hallucinating—crew members aboard another schooner nearby also sighted some of the waterspouts that same day, but in a different position.

First Quarter ☾

9
2009: Two coast guard sailors were hospitalized after a large rogue wave struck their vessel just outside the Narrows at St. John's, NL. The crew was securing the vessel's anchors when the wave washed across the bow of the ship. Water shot up along an anchor's chain pipe, hitting 1 crew member directly. While washing across the deck, the water swept another off his feet, fracturing his leg and ankle.

10
2009: Cold Arctic air made for the coldest Thanksgiving weekend on the Prairies in 50 years. Banff, AB, set a record at -21.6°C. Less than 3 weeks after Calgary, AB, shattered a heat record, temperatures plummeted to a record low of -16.3°C. First winter storms of the season often take their toll in car crashes—often 10 times the usual number. Even Canadians can forget how to drive in such conditions.

4
1903: A powerful gale inflicted major destruction to the Canadian Pacific Railway property in Fort William, ON. The wind blew down the east bridge at the newly constructed coal dock. Other damaged company works were the roundhouse and the smokestack. Across town, the storm severed telephone services and plunged everyone into darkness for hours.

5
2009: Road crews in St. John's, NL, painted the centre lines on the road with yellow paint and then it rained. The paint oozed all over the surface for about a kilometre, smearing the pavement and creating big yellow puddles. A city "ice control" truck came to cover up the yellow road slick with sand, as cars whizzed along, becoming spattered with paint as they sprayed it into the air.

11
1906: Wildfires scoured Summerside, PE, destroying about 50 buildings, including the courthouse, jail, 3 churches, hotels, and lumberyards. Fanned by a southeast gale, flames that started in the railway freight shed spread rapidly, cutting a fire line through the wooden buildings. The town narrowly escaped total conflagration after there was a fortunate change in wind direction.

12
1910: Residents in Cobalt, ON, arose in the morning to find their taps temporarily frozen following a heavy bout of frost. The frost caused a number of breaks in the smaller mains, the worst being near the hospital, where the rush of water from a broken valve gave a pretty fountain effect for an hour or so. The water spouted 5 m over the roadway.

6
1959: When western Manitoba's first snowfall of the season stopped after 5 days, 85 cm lay on the ground in Brandon. The roof of the 1-story, 10-room school collapsed under the weight of the snow, but the children were on a holiday. Hundreds of cattle stampeded from community pastures. Seven thousand turkeys panicked, flew over their fences, and died in the blizzard.

13
Weather Quiz
In Newfoundlandese, a "rasher of wind" is:
1) a very thin person
2) the calm before the storm
3) winds following the passage of a hurricane
4) the calm in the eye of a hurricane
5) wind gusts
(Answer on inside back cover)

7
1999: A Napanee, ON, man was lucky to be alive after lightning struck a furnace he was installing. He was standing on the third rung of an aluminum ladder when a bolt of lightning came through an upstairs window and hit the furnace. The shock did not knock him unconscious, but it left him disoriented and woozy and the tips of his fingers and toes ached.

14
2009: A powerful nor'easter plowed into Newfoundland's Avalon Peninsula and strengthened as it crossed the province. Rain eventually changed to snow with as much as 15 cm dropping over higher terrain. Places like Bonavista, NL, were hit with 66.9 mm of rain and winds measuring 133 km/h. Police urged drivers to just stay home amid reports of flying tree branches and assorted debris.

1
1910: A severe 15-min. cyclone struck Montreal, QC. Winds blew at hurricane force, while rain and lightning stopped all activity including transportation. The storm killed 2 men when winds demolished the scaffolding they were on. On the wharf, winds took down 2 towers and unroofed or demolished buildings everywhere, felled shade trees, and pushed over several large electric signs.

8
2009: A frozen football would not be an excuse for the BC Lions when they faced the Edmonton Eskimos that weekend. The forecast called for snow and a -10 wind chill. On the final practice, the BC Lions played with frozen footballs cooling in a freezer full of ice. The quarterback remarked that tossing the frozen football felt and looked like he was throwing a "15-lb salmon" instead of a football.

Yom Kippur

15
2007: Heavy fog reduced visibility in and around Yellowknife, NT, to less than 0.4 km for several hours, grounding flights in and out of the airport. The weather kept more than 300 diamond mine workers from departing for the mines. Several conferences in the city made it difficult for the miners to find hotel rooms and many had to sleep on cots in adjacent conference rooms.

	Thanksgiving Day	Full Moon 				
<p>1957: Near Taylor, BC, one end of a 730-m-long suspension bridge fell 30 m into the Peace River, creating a gap in the Alaska Highway. The steel superstructure fell with a loud crash and crushed like an accordion. Heavier-than-normal rain and snow caused a landslide in the shale bedrock beneath the bridge. When exposed to water, shale rock near the surface of the ground becomes very weak.</p>	<p>2007: An intense storm began to cross the centre of Vancouver Island, BC, bringing with it heavy rains and high winds—the leftovers of Tropical Storm Lingling. Vancouver, BC, received 66 mm of rain over 3 days and wind gusts in excess of 40 km/h. The high winds seriously injured a woman who was struck when a tree snapped in half and fell on her in a parking lot.</p>	<p>2009: Seagulls and ducks swam on potato fields on Prince Edward Island in Calgary, AB, as an extremely wet October continued to hamper the harvest, delaying it up to 10 days. Tractors, trucks, and harvesters were mired up to their axels in muck. Added to this, the morning frost meant that farmers could not get out to their fields until midday.</p>	<p>1925: A woman was driving her brand new coupe in downtown Winnipeg, MB, during a windstorm. Suddenly, a large maple tree snapped off and fell to the pavement. She applied the brakes just in time to save herself from death, or at least severe injury, but not in time to save the car. She sued the city for \$500. The question became: is the city responsible if a tree topples over and damages property?</p>	<p>1940: Several men died when a Canadian National Railway locomotive freight car plunged over the washed-out end of a steel bridge spanning Lorne Creek, west of Prince Rupert, BC. At first wrecking crews from Smithers, BC, and Prince Rupert were hampered by mudslides on either side of the wreck. When the freight car was eventually unloaded, its contents were practically undamaged.</p>	<p>2008: Winter hit central and southern Ontario, delivering the first snow of the season. Snow dusted parts of the Greater Toronto Area, while drivers in the Algonquin and Haliburton highlands had to cope with near-whiteout conditions. In Aurora, Barrie, and Orillia, ON, motorists battled gusts of wind bringing snow and slushy conditions to Highway 400, causing almost “zero visibility” in places.</p>	<p>2008: With a month and a half still left in the fall season, northern and central New Brunswick had to contend with upwards of 10 cm of snow. Residents awoke to snow-covered lawns and fields. This got them thinking about winter—installing winter tires and winterizing their vehicles.</p>
<p>2007: A Canadian Forces artillery team assembled in BC's Rogers Pass to trigger small avalanches to keep motorists safe. The team would use 3, 105-mm howitzer guns positioned along the Trans-Canada Highway.</p> <p>1965: Winds gusting up to 115 km/h in southern Ontario halted traffic on the Welland Canal, backing up 65 ships. In Port McNicoll, ON, a man returned home to find a porch recently added to the rear of his house lying in his front yard.</p>	<p>1911: West of Lake Atlin, YT, a man had just gone inside to help his wife make dinner when a snow slide crushed their stone house. When their bodies were recovered, the man still held a paring knife.</p> <p>1851: A rapid rise of water at Grand Falls, NB, prompted a flood warning telegraph message to Fredericton, NB. The warning prevented some losses but residential damage could not be prevented.</p>	<p>2009: Yet another October storm pushed through New Brunswick, dropping more rains, ensuring one of the wettest Octobers on record. In Saint John, NB, several streets and homes flooded after 116 mm of rain fell. One store owner said she had never seen such flooding in 32 years. October rainfall in Saint John amounted to 245.4 mm, which was just 2 mm less than the record set in 1977.</p>	<p>1999: Residents of Prince George, BC, said the previous day's mighty blow was a tornado. The wind was strong and the roar so loud, you could not hear anything. Then trees—some 30 m high and 1 m around—started falling, snapping like matchsticks. The strong winds also lifted roofs. Environment Canada could not confirm a tornado, but also could not rule it out.</p>	<p>1921: Following torrential rains, floods wiped out the greater part of Britannia Mines, a town on Howe Sound, BC, drowning 36 people and destroying all the railway tracks and bridges. Rescuers said the worst part of the disaster was hearing the crying of injured villagers. Two children were found asleep in their beds, unhurt, hours after their mother and two brothers had been swept away in the flood.</p>	<p>1921: This was the day of the worst gale in Cape Breton, NS, since 1873. The wind pitched such a sea that the waves broke over wharves nearly 15 km from the harbour's mouth. The storm surge carried away several motorboats and other small craft anchored in Sydney, NS's waterfront. At Glace Bay, NS, winds blew down the spire of the Baptist church, crashing it through the roof of the building.</p>	<p>1902: One of the most celebrated mail carriers in Yukon came close to losing his life in an ice jam that blocked the Yukon River about 16 km below Fortymile, YT. By the time the mail carrier noticed the jam, it was too late to steer his heavy boat toward the riverbank. The loss of the mail, however, distressed him far more than his own narrow escape.</p>
<p>30</p>	<p>31 Halloween</p>		<p>Last Quarter </p>			<p>New Moon </p>

NOVEMBER 2011

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Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

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		<p>1998: Victoria's <i>Times Colonist</i> began publishing weather forecasts 100 years ago to this date. The first forecast called for "moderate to fresh westerly winds, generally fair, not much change in temperature." The high for the previous day was 52°F, the low 46°F, or 11°C and 8°C—almost identical to the highs and lows 100 years later.</p> <p>All Saints' Day</p>	<p>1988: Storms from the Great Lakes and Florida in the United States merged near the US state of New England to form an explosive weather bomb over the Maritimes. High winds and heavy rains downed power lines, disrupted ferry services, and briefly flooded streets in Nova Scotia. Winds cracked windows on the 19th floor of a Halifax, NS, tower.</p> <p>First Quarter ☾</p>	<p>1877: The <i>Rondeau News</i> reported about a fish shower near Harwich, ON: "I filled the pail (with fresh fish) . . . and having deposited my burden returned to collect the remainder . . . As to whether these now famous fishes fell 6 feet or 6,000, I know not. One thing I know, that they were scattered for about three-quarters of a mile." In the previous 2 days, rainfall totalled more than 15 mm.</p>	<p>1894: A storm packing powerful winds, rain, and snow grounded or wrecked several schooners near Digby, NS. After the <i>Annie May</i> lost her sails, she was driven on the rocks east of the Digby gut. The storm swept away her deck load, carrying with it the bodies of 2 crew members. The captain, seeing the last of his men washed away, lashed himself to the main gaff. He survived but suffered severe injuries.</p>	<p>2009: Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall toured Hamilton, ON, in freezing rain and snow. And that was all in just 5 minutes. Camilla shivered beneath an umbrella as she walked up the slippery ramp on the HMCS <i>Haida</i>. The rain did pause for a while as the pair toured Dundurn Castle—the 72-room, Regency-style chateau built for Camilla's great-great-great grandfather, Sir Allan Napier MacNab.</p>
<p>1994: High winds up to 90 km/h led to the cancellation of the day's final 6 horse races at Toronto, ON's Woodbine track. Conditions were unsafe as the storm toppled trees and power lines. It even blew horses sideways. In Ottawa, ON, 10,000 customers were without power due to trees being blown into power lines.</p> <p>Daylight Saving Time Ends</p>	<p>1971: Four people in a Cessna were flying to Whitehorse, YT, when the weather closed in and they became lost. They radioed for help but the airport did not have radar and could not guide them down. To the rescue came a large commercial jet, emptied of its passengers. Flying slowly, it guided the smaller plane back to the airport. The Cessna's gas tank was empty when it landed.</p>	<p>1844: A tempest of winds and rain raged through the night across Lake Erie, ON. The winds destroyed signs, fences, windows, chimneys, and in some instances, raised roofs completely off buildings. The storm uprooted trees in all directions and pushed boats away from their moorings. The shores near Kingston, ON, were littered with pleasure craft of every size and variety, shattered into fragments.</p>	<p>2009: A teenaged Inuit boy and his uncle from Coral Harbour, NU, suffered hypothermia after their snowmobile broke down while hunting. Becoming separated from his uncle, the teen was set adrift on a large chunk of shifting ice. He battled hypothermia at frigid temperatures (-21°C, -32 wind chill). He also had to shoot a polar bear. When rescued, he was soaking wet and was so exhausted he could not talk.</p>	<p>1975: Almost 35 years to the date, scientists re-analyzed weather data and confirmed that the <i>Edmund Fitzgerald</i> sank on Lake Superior, ON, in the worst possible location at the worst moment when the storm blew 110 km/h winds, hurricane-force gusts, and waves more than 7.5 m high. Six hours later or earlier, the conditions would have been bad but the ship would have survived.</p> <p>Full Moon ○</p>	<p>1865: A rainstorm caused streams in the Fraser River basin in British Columbia to break over their banks, destroying roads and sweeping away bridges. The bridge over the Douglas Portage gave way just as a man was crossing it on horseback. Burying his spurs in his horse's flanks, he succeeded with a few desperate plunges in reaching the landing, just as the bridge tumbled into the foaming cataract.</p> <p>Remembrance Day</p>	<p>2009: Two years after a tornado ripped into a Hamilton, ON, middle school, a new, spacious, techno-savvy school opened to its 550 students. The storm had blown out windows, raining shattered glass down on the volleyball players practicing in the gym. The event even sparked a change to the school's team name from the Lancers to the Tornadoes.</p>
<p>1955: The barking of his dog led searchers to an unconscious 6-year-old boy, the object of a search by more than 200 people near Geraldton, ON in temperatures around -12°C. He was found face down in the roots of trees some 3 km from where he was last seen about 2 days previous. His feet had frozen and he was in shock.</p>	<p>1901: A terrific gale raged along the Newfoundland coast, sinking several fishing craft and drowning numerous crew. The hulls of several steamers that were wrecked on the Cape Race peninsula had been broken to pieces and the cargoes still on board were washed away. In a freak incident, one man who was working on the wreck of the Swedish steamer <i>Vera</i> was killed by a stone blown from a cliff.</p>	<p>2009: Massive surges of warm, moist air from Hawaii, called the Pineapple Express, pummelled British Columbia's coastal and inland areas with heavy rains during the last half of November. The brunt of the storm struck at night, whipping wind and driving rain across southern British Columbia, downing power lines and leaving 30,000 bailing in the dark.</p>	<p>2009: After a miserable summer and disappointing October, the weather gods aligned to bring one of the nicest Novembers ever across Canada. Many claimed it was the October we never had. In Ontario, Environment Canada issued only 2 weather warnings all month. Both were for snow squalls on the last day of the month. Val-d'Or and Sept-Îles, QC, reported their mildest November on record.</p>	<p>2009: Strong westerly winds blew at least 6 transport trucks off highways south of Calgary, AB. Farther north, a storm dumped 60 cm of snow in the mountains, clogging roads and causing the temporary closure of Highway 93 between Jasper, AB, and Saskatchewan River Crossing, AB. The high winds fanned the flames of a grass fire near Lashburn, SK, which affected highway traffic.</p>	<p>2009: A wind gust tore the side off a new Sikh temple under construction in Victoria, BC, sending it hurtling toward a nearby house. It was stopped by a tall hedge. On another street, winds knocked over a tree, bringing down power lines and trapping 2 women in a minivan. Ferry travellers waited in long queues as fierce winds cancelled 59 sailings on 12 routes throughout the province.</p>	<p>2009: Unseasonably warm, dry weather enabled producers around Saskatchewan to harvest 97% of the 2009 crop. More harvesting was done in the first 10 days of November than in the whole month of October. An additional blessing was warmer and drier conditions drying some of the crop. Farmers were busy with combining, drying grain, baling straw, hauling bales, cleaning corrals, and rounding up cattle.</p>

2009: Heavy rain, melting snow, and high tides caused several rivers and creeks to spill their banks and forced hundreds of people to flee their homes in British Columbia's Cowichan Valley. Streets were flooded and homes inundated. One long-time resident said it was the worst flooding in almost 60 years. Yet, only one precipitation record was broken at Port Alberni, BC, with 817 mm of rain.

20

Weather Quiz 21
Which factor determines the seasons more than any other?

- 1) the tilt of Earth's axis
- 2) Earth's proximity to the Sun
- 3) Earth's rotation
- 4) ocean currents
- 5) sunspot activity

(Answer on inside back cover)

1930: A windstorm of hurricane proportions caused extensive damage in parts of Alberta. In Edmonton, AB, 100 km/h winds blew down building cornices and electric light and telephone poles. Ground fires spread onto farms and in bushes. In Drumheller, AB, there was near-panic at the Napier Theatre when the wind broke open the emergency escape doors and tore part of the roof off.

22

1940: Blinded by swirling snow, 2 men driving away from Steep Rock, MB, ended up 4 km out in Lake Manitoba. Their truck broke through a large crack in the ice and they plunged 6 m to the bottom of the lake. One man drowned, but his companion managed to wriggle out on the slippery surface. With his clothes frozen to his body and one shoe missing, he ran 5 km over the ice to Steep Rock for help.

23

2009: Not a month into the 2010 Olympic torch relay, the flame had been extinguished a dozen times due to cold and windy weather. Earlier in November in Nunavut, officials could not get the torch warmed up in the morning. In cold weather, the torch's burner system needs time to warm up in order to light. Engineers designed the torch to work at temperatures down to -40°C and winds up to 50 km/h.

24

1998: Regina, SK, temperatures climbed to an unbelievable 14.1°C, surpassing the previous record of 12.8°C set in 1962. The balmy, snow-free weather did not please towing companies, but Canadian Automobile Association Saskatchewan was happy: "This is one business that when you do less work, you make more money."

25

1846: During the first 3 weeks of November, the weather across the Maritimes was more like that in August. But during the last week of November a succession of storms hammered the region, inflicting considerable damage and loss of life. Several recently launched vessels were driven onshore and were not freed until the following spring.

26

2009: At Shippagan, NB, officials tried to take the 2010 Olympic torch aboard a boat for a harbour tour, but they had to cancel the trip because of high winds that caused the flame to flicker perilously as it was carried across New Brunswick's north shore. Yet, the cold and rain did not dampen the spirits of supporters who lined the normally quiet, 2-lane highway between Miramichi and Fredericton, NB.

27

1917: Some of the coldest prewinter weather ever occurred in Yukon at the end of November. Temperatures dipped to -40°C in a fierce, biting north wind. Work horses were too sick for the gruelling tasks expected of them. Three experienced northerners succumbed to the "Frost King"—their bodies were found lying stark and stiff beside the trail.

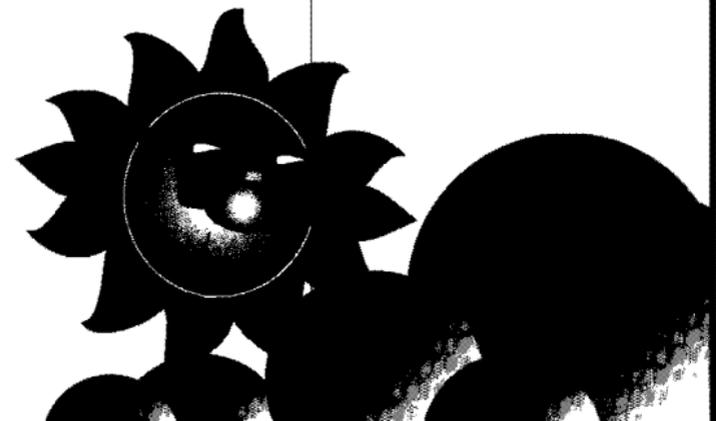
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1958: The season's first snowstorm left 8 dead across Ontario. The storm led to a rash of traffic accidents, house fires, and disrupted communications and power. The storm surprised public works because they had not fitted the plough blades on heavy trucks. Conditions delayed streetcars and buses for 45 min. Along one stretch of Bloor Street in Toronto, ON, 35 trams stood in one solid line.

29

2009: A rare November wrapped up without a single snowflake falling across Toronto, ON. Golf club owners enjoyed a late surge in business. At the other end of the country, the 2010 Olympic alpine venue at Whistler Blackcomb in British Columbia recorded its snowiest month ever in November, with 560 cm of snow, 4 times the normal amount. The previous record of 469 cm was set in January 2006.

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DECEMBER 2011

Sunday

Monday

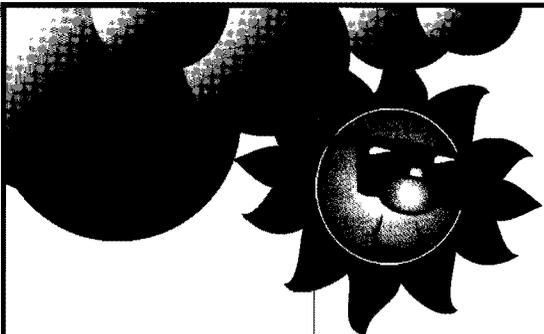
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Saturday



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<p>1949: Hundreds of hungry elk and deer, driven down from the Rocky Mountains by deep snows, played havoc with Alberta ranchers, especially their haystacks. One rancher near Lethbridge, AB, reported that one of his haystacks disappeared before his very eyes: "Those beggars just swarmed into the stack and refused to leave until there was little left for them to eat."</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1</p>	<p>1922: The lower half of the ecclesiastical town of Terrebonne, QC, burned as a fire raged with unabated fury, fanned by high winds. Among the structures destroyed: the town hall, the post office, an agricultural implement factory, and 50 houses. There was no danger to the town church, a convent, and the Juvenat—a college for priests-to-be.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">2</p>	<p>2009: The 2010 Olympic torch began the day at Canadian Forces Base Valcartier, QC, where more than 600 soldiers endured a downpour to watch the transfer of the flame from a miner's lamp to the torch. Harsh weather later forced the cancellation of the flame's crossing of the St. Lawrence River in a specialized ice canoe. Instead, it went on board a ferry to reach the south shore of Quebec City, QC.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">3</p>
					First Quarter ☾	
<p>1927: A falling rock crushed a Canadian National Railway employee on the run between Smithers and Prince Rupert, BC. About 2 km east of Terrace, BC, a large rock dropped down the slope and struck the roof of the baggage car, entering the car and crushing the worker's skull. The rock was the only large rock that came down, held in place by the frost until it was freed by a recent thaw.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">4</p>	<p>1921: A storm, likely a weather bomb, raged over Newfoundland, resulting in the loss of several boats and lives. At Capelin Cove, in Conception Bay, NL, the storm drove a large fishing schooner ashore. Through the mist, residents on shore could see those in peril. A futile rescue attempt was made—before a line could be shot over, the vessel broke into pieces in the heavy sea beating over the rocks.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">5</p>	<p>1922: The passenger launch <i>Mopica</i>, running between Sault Ste Marie, ON, and Neebish Island in Michigan, sank in the St. Mary's River when its hull was crushed by an ice cake. When the boat sank, its 3 occupants—a couple and their baby—jumped into the river and clung to cakes of ice. For 3 hours they floated with the current in freezing weather. Their screams were finally heard by the Coast Guard.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">6</p>	<p>2009: Workers in British Columbia's Okanagan Valley started picking frozen grapes for ice wine after an eagerly awaited temperature of below -8°C and clear skies. At one vineyard, 20 staff and volunteers showed up and harvested 2 t of grapes from a 0.4-ha hillside. Pre-Christmas picking made for a perfect early December harvest following a spectacular summer and a great September.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">7</p>	<p>2009: A 7-year-old autistic boy found in the woods near his home in Cape Breton, NS, died in a Halifax hospital from acute hypothermia. He had been lost north of Sydney, NS, for 48 hours. Nasty weather—24 cm of snow, blizzard conditions, and -10 wind chills—hampered the search.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">8</p>	<p>Weather Quiz</p> <p>In campaigns to lure immigrants to the West, the Canadian government forbade this word from being used in the official brochures and handouts that were sent to Europe:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) frontier 2) Communism 3) cold 4) mosquitoes 5) cyclone <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(Answer on inside back cover)</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">9</p>	<p>2009: Cold westerly winds set up across the relatively warm open waters of Georgian Bay and Lake Huron in Ontario, triggering an intense snow squall. Snow bands 30 km wide locked in across Muskoka and Haliburton, ON. Bursts of heavy snowfall and driving winds created zero visibility, forcing officials in Hunstville and Bracebridge, ON, to call a snow emergency—the first any could remember in 40 years.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">10</p>
						Full Moon ☽
<p>2009: An intoxicated, sparsely clothed man nearly froze to death after jumping onto a slow-moving train at Wetaskiwin, AB. The train sped up and the man could not jump off. He called 911 on his cellphone. Investigators discovered which train he was on after asking 2 different trains to blow their whistles and hearing the train's whistle through his cellphone. Officials charged him with trespassing.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">11</p>	<p>1843: Lightning struck a farmer at Speke, PE. The "electric fluid" entered through his window, knocking out several of his teeth and singeing all the hair off his head. It blackened the walls of the room and perforated some clothes before shattering a chest of drawers. The lightning then descended to the lower part of the building, tearing up the floor of the milk house.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">12</p>	<p>2009: Bitter cold gripped the Prairies for more than 10 days. It got down to -35°C in Regina, SK, -49 with the wind chill. At the Edmonton International Airport in Alberta it dipped to an unbelievable -46.1°C, the coldest temperature in the capital in 28 years. The record cold combined with brisk winds to produce a wind chill reading of -58—cold enough to harden exposed flesh in less than 5 min.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">13</p>	<p>1963: A severe winter storm with heavy, drifting snow hammered several isolated Lake Huron communities from Grand Bend to north of Goderich, ON. At Carlow, ON, the community hall was opened to provide shelter for dozens of stranded motorists. Fifteen men from the community walked 3 km through deep snow to rescue a mother and her week-old baby stuck in the snow.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">14</p>	<p>1964: The "Great Blizzard" struck parts of the Prairies with heavy snow, winds of 90 km/h, and -34° temperatures. Over 1,000 livestock were lost and 3 people froze to death. In Red Deer, AB, the wind chill temperature approached -70. Chief Walking Eagle, a wily old weather prophet, was not surprised. He had predicted that the winter would be long and cold with deep snow and "one really bad blizzard."</p> <p style="text-align: right;">15</p>	<p>1901: The most disastrous floods in years occurred in eastern Quebec. At St. Hyacinthe, QC, people in the lower part of town had to leave their houses via boats when the Yamaska River flooded. The St. Francis River flooded the town of Richmond, QC. The cold weather caused water to freeze around the basements of most houses. Water destroyed winter provisions and extinguished furnaces.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">16</p>	<p>1921: A gale swept along the north shore of Lake Erie in Ontario. High winds whipped snow into blizzards. Winds uprooted trees, tore down chimneys and advertisement signs, smashed plate-glass windows, and piled up the water in harbours. Never has such a volume of water poured over the brink of Niagara Falls, ON. Increased flow submerged the dock of the <i>Maid of the Mist</i> for the first time in years.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">17</p>

18
1933: A woman had a terrifying experience when the ice-filled waters of the Nechako River in Prince George, BC, swept over her farm property. For half a kilometre around the house there was a sea of water carrying hummocks of ice, leaving her no escape route. It took more than a day to reach her by boat. She suffered severely from exposure and frostbite.

19
1952: Rescuers reached a bush pilot on a northern Manitoba lake where he had been marooned for almost a week after his plane ran out of fuel. The Swedish air force veteran, who had been in Canada 11 months, waved frantically to Royal Canadian Air Force rescue planes. He was found 700 km north of Churchill, MB, in an area forsaken even by caribou at this time of year. The temperature was near -25°C.

20
2009: Dubbed the “Shopper Stopper Storm” by American retailers worried about losing holiday sales, the nasty weather system dropped record amounts of snow on the eastern seaboard of the United States. Its tail end then began hitting Nova Scotia. At Halifax, NS’s Stanfield International Airport 26 flights were cancelled or delayed. Nova Scotian retailers also felt the blow as shoppers stayed home.

21
1961: More than 500 youngsters spent the night with friends when winds gusting to 110 km/h blasted through southern Saskatchewan. A master plan to billet school children near their schools in the event of an unexpected blizzard went into effect and worked to near perfection in Swift Current, SK. Countless cars and trucks pulled into roadside service stations to sit out the storm.

First Day of Chanukah

22
2008: Staff at the Magnetic Hill Zoo in Moncton, NB, mourned the accidental deaths of 2 adult baboons. The pair of olive baboons, named Ernie and Lisa, died from exposure to bitterly cold temperatures after being mistakenly locked out of their indoor cage at night. Both animals succumbed to hypothermia. Wind chill temperatures dipped to -25 during their time outside.

Winter Solstice

23
2008: Residents outside in the midday sun in Prince George, BC, were treated to the unusual sight of sundogs in the southern and southwestern sky. Sundogs are optical phenomena caused by ice crystals suspended in the atmosphere. The hexagonal-shaped ice crystals refract the sunlight, casting a 22-degree-angle halo from passing through the crystals.

24
1963: In Ontario, a woman testified she felt a bump while driving a car in swirling snow on a road where the body of her husband was found. She said she was returning home from a party after her husband had left, choosing to walk home. She pleaded guilty to leaving the scene of an accident. Police said the car tracks showed the vehicle had driven around the body after running over it and backing away.

Christmas Eve  New Moon 

25
2008: Canada experienced its first cross-country white Christmas since records first started being kept in 1955. Following 3 days with a total of 55 cm of snow, Vancouver, BC, had its whitest Christmas morning ever with a 41-cm-deep snowcover. That year, the city boasted more snow than any other large Canadian city—even more than the North Pole!

Christmas Day

26
2009: Freezing rain and strong winds battered the Ottawa-Gatineau region in Ontario and Quebec, resulting in plenty of car crashes, downed trees, and power outages. The Boxing Day storm featured 12 hours of freezing rain, 3 hours of ice pellets, 5 hours of fog, and 10 hours of snow, accompanied by 40 km/h winds—reminding residents of the massive storm that gripped the region in 1998.

Boxing Day

27
1925: While making her way south to Vancouver, BC, along the coast through dense fog, the steamer *Cowichan* was rammed by the passenger liner *Lady Cynthia* and sank north of Vancouver. All of the *Cowichan*’s 16 passengers and 31 crew members were saved. After the collision, the crew of the steel-hulled *Lady Cynthia* kept its nose rammed into the steamer until all on board had been safely transferred.

28
1959: Ice fishers were snug in their tiny wooden shacks near Cap-Santé, QC, in the St. Lawrence River and did not realize they were castaways until after northerly winds and a high tide combined to rip the ice pack from the shore. It took 4 rescue helicopter flights to remove 37 cod fishermen off wind-lashed ice slabs drifting aimlessly in the frigid waters.



29
1933: A trapper near Fort St. John, BC, was overtaken by a storm while out on the trail. He was forced to take shelter in an abandoned, roofless cabin. Temperatures dipped to -51°C. His feet became so frozen, they swelled up and turned black. On the 8th day and desperate, he killed his sled dogs but was unable to eat their flesh. On the 9th day he had made up his mind to end his life when help arrived.

30
1922: Severe weather conditions prevailed through the Maritime provinces, greatly interfering with transportation. The “Storm King” had Nova Scotia in its grip for a day or more. Owing to the strong winds, heavy snows drifted into huge piles blocking highways, railways, and streetcar tracks. Even shipping was adversely affected. Storm snowfall measured 35 cm, making the December total a record 100 cm.

31
1949: Freezing rain brought traffic to a complete halt on Highway 27 in Ontario. Near Schomberg, ON, 130 cars and 30 passengers in an Alliston, ON-bound bus waited more than 6 hours in ditches and off roadways for plows and trucks to arrive. The stranded motorists heralded in the New Year by blaring horns and flicking headlights as they sat idling their cars until 1:40 a.m. when the sanders arrived.

New Year’s Eve

WEATHER QUIZ ANSWERS

- | | |
|-----------|--------------------------------|
| January | 5) London, ON |
| February | 3) snow |
| March | 3) Monday |
| April | 2) Moncton, NB |
| May | 5) Windsor, ON |
| June | 2) camping and hiking |
| July | 4) walls collapse |
| August | 1) summer |
| September | 2) it does not fall |
| October | 1) a very thin person |
| November | 1) the tilt of
Earth's axis |
| December | 3) cold |