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JANUARY 2012

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

1913: Lethbridge, AB, was buffeted by winds that “real old-time old-timers” said were the strongest blows in memory. The CPR station at Raley, AB, was totally demolished by the wind. On the curves of the street railway, motormen had to buck blowing sand and snow, making it almost impossible to get the cars over the line. One car took nearly 2 hours to make a 85-minute trip and was off the track 3 times.

1

1923: In a matter of minutes, a gale reversed directions as it blew into Yarmouth, NS. The wind caught and lifted the temporary roof over a downtown block of buildings fire-damaged a week earlier. The roof fell in the centre of the street, blocking it from gutter to gutter. Fortunately, the street was empty. The crash took out not a single pane of glass on the opposite side of the street.

2

1950: A snowstorm hit British Columbia’s lower mainland and Vancouver Island. The snow was so deep in places that 1000 sawmill workers were idled across the province. Trains were 5-10 hours late. What seemed to have no trouble getting through the blockade were trucks toting liquor, much to the relief of mining communities. Brutal cold followed with temperatures dipping to -50°C at Prince George, BC.

3

2011: Unbelievable warmth smashed previous temperature records across Nunavut. Rain fell and schools shut down due to icy conditions. Boats were still in the water in a number of communities and Environment Canada was still issuing marine forecasts well beyond anything they had ever done before. The year-end snowmobile parade on the Bay, NU, had to be cancelled for the first time.

4

1922: Ice fragments moved down the Niagara River, ON, forming the beginning of an ice bridge. The ice “mountain” torped rapidly and the spray on the trees in the park and on the island made the scenery picturesque. No one was allowed on the bridge because of a tragedy 10 years earlier when 3 people died. Previously, it was the custom to cross from one side of the river to the other over the ice jam.

5

1910: A man from Switzerland wrote to a Canadian newspaper asking why Canadians failed to boast about their snowy climate. He commented that to attract thousands of visitors who spend vast sums of money, you should advertise as widely as possible your winter attractions and brisk weather. Boast that Canada is not a year-round summer land but features a comparatively long winter—bracing and invigorating.

6

1949: Snow and hurricane-force winds caused damage to coal mining communities 250 km west of Edmonton, AB. Wind gusts of 150-km/h tore out power and telephone communications. It was feared that the snow, ranging from 15 to 45 cm, would weaken buildings, but it was wind that inflicted property damage. One strong blast lifted a house onto the CNR tracks, but removed it before the scheduled train arrived.

7

New Year’s Day First Quarter ☾

1920: A week-long wind and snowstorm, unprecedented in the experience of the oldest folks, raged across parts of Newfoundland and Labrador. The weather disrupted coastal train schedules, including mail, freight, and delivery services. The tracks between the capital city and Grand Falls, NL, were so blocked by ice and snow that newspapers appealed to Halifax, NS, papers to send them newsprint via ship.

8

2011: Blowing snow made highways treacherous across southern and central Alberta. Police and road crews battled 3-m high drifts to reach motorists. Wind chills plunged to -30. Some stranded motorists spent the night in a school gymnasium in Strathmore, AB. A teacher came by to set up an arts and crafts station for the children. A little girl told her mother, “This is the best holiday I’ve ever had!”

9

1894: At a land surveying camp on the shore of Frog Lake, AB, the cook exclaimed, “The bottom’s dropped out of the thermometer,” i.e., the spirit had deserted the tube and lay in the bulb. Supposedly, that meant the temperature had reached -60°F. Men rushed to see the historic temperature reading, joking they had got to the North Pole by mistake. They were jolly because the temperature meant a holiday.

10

2001: In Montreal, QC, over the previous 4 weeks it snowed on every day but 2. Consequently, windshield-washing fluid was the hot item on sale. Demand for methyl hydrate rose 50% in eastern Canada. Prices for the anti-freezing alcohol went through the roof and store shelves emptied. It was said that drivers might have to raid their liquor cabinets just to see clearly.

11

2011: A massive storm marched across much of the Maritimes, forcing schools and airports to close. In Saint John, NB, transit decided to pull its buses from the streets. The slow-moving nor’easter laid down up to 30 cm of snow with winds of up to 80 km/h. At times, the snow fell fast and hard, at about 2 cm/h. Hundreds of boats in southwestern Nova Scotia’s lobster fishery remained tied up at wharves.

12

1900: A steamer with a crew and passenger list of 70 wrecked in St. Mary’s Bay, NL, during a fierce storm with intense cold. The ship ran ashore, striking the foot of the cliff. It caught fire, fed by kerosene in the cargo. The crew launched lifeboats, but during the panic, some were crushed against her sides—all occupants perished. The lone survivor tied himself to the rigging but died of exposure.

13

2005: The cold snap in northwestern Ontario put the freeze on some Icebox Days events planned for Fort Francis, ON, and International Falls, MN. Due to the bitter cold at -34°C (-48 wind chill), Family Night in the Park was cancelled, including the old-fashioned bonfire, outdoor ice skate, and the Sister City Snowshoe Challenge. Yet, the annual Freeze Yer Gizzard Blizzard took place the next morning.

14

Full Moon ☽

2011: Top-heavy snowpacks slid down mountains throughout eastern British Columbia and western Alberta, partially burying several skiers in Fernie, BC, under 1 m of snow and killing a man near Nelson, BC. Two Calgary, AB, brothers were also killed in an avalanche while skiing in the Kananaskis, AB, backcountry.

15

1950: A thermometer at Lac la Hache, BC, recorded a temperature of -46.7°C. Weather officials said the reading was unofficial but quite possible. Residents said the cold was so intense their teeth ached when they opened their mouths.

16

2009: A federal seismologist reported the early morning rumble felt across northern Ontario was not an earthquake. Instead, it was cryoseism vibrations caused by roof structures adjusting to temperatures below -35°C. Trees can explode when the moisture inside them expands in such a deep freeze. The same thing happens in the timbers of frame homes and roof structures.

17

2011: Officials warned of a “very high” spring flood potential in southern Manitoba, due to a record wet summer—all the previous year that left the ground saturated. To be ready, the province purchased amphibious ice-breaking vehicles and added to its small army of backhoes used to smash ice from the shoreline. To date, Winnipeg, MB, received 95.4 cm of snow—80% more than normal.

18

1895: The *Berlin Daily News* in Kitchener-Waterloo, ON, suggested that the Ottawa Carnival Committee secure as an attraction the remains of those frozen to death by the cold snap occurring that year in the western United States.

19

1923: New Brunswick experienced 6 successive heavy winter storms this month. A record total of 94 cm of snow fell in Saint John, NB. City workers toiled night and day clearing away the snow. Doctors found it difficult treating urgent cases, resulting in considerable suffering and death. Rural doctors made house calls on snowshoes to reach ill patients.

20

1906: Across south-western Ontario, warm rains and a daily high of 10°C made it a day not out of place for June. The whole month had been warm—4°C warmer than usual. Rose bushes were in leaf, pansies grew, and frogs and snakes were out. In Blenheim, ON, people felt it would be better if the weather was more seasonable—without winter, the icemen would be deprived of their summer’s supply of ice.

21

1922: Tranquility finally prevailed at New Aberdeen and Glace Bay, NS, where sporadic rioting and looting had been in progress since noon the day before. A snowstorm and frigid cold of -23.9°C dispersed the mobs in about 2 hours, and there was no further disturbance. Officials of the Dominion Coal Company considered reopening their business store, which was at the centre of the attacks.

22

1909: An innocent freezing drizzle began falling on Montreal, QC. Yet, because of its duration and the increasing frigidty of the air, it inflicted more damage than any storm in 30 years. Wires became coated with ice, then miles of them lay in heaps because of strong winds. Live wires were the constant menace of pedestrians for 2 days. Two horses were electrocuted after stepping on the live wires.

23

Chinese New Year
(Year of the Dragon)

New Moon ●

GREAT CANADIAN WEATHER QUIZ

24

When was the rain gauge invented?

- 1) 1441
- 2) 1497
- 3) 1850
- 4) 1917
- 5) 1931

(Answer on inside back cover)

1895: The "storm king" swooped down on Toronto, ON, in the form of a snowstorm made more severe by high winds that heaped snow into banks 3 m deep. Traffic by steam, rail, and horse was paralyzed. The sidewalks were blocked, so thousands plodded down empty trolley-car tracks. A trainload of hogs came to a stop opposite Union Station. Fifteen carloads of squealing porkers were still there days later.

25

2011: January snowfall at Edmonton, AB, International Airport was a record 88 cm compared to the normal 25 cm. Weeks of heavy snow proved too much for the roofs of many buildings. The roof of a furniture store in Leduc, AB, collapsed, leaving a 5–10-m hole visible from the sky. As the roof started to collapse, it ruptured the sprinkler system, which contributed to a massive flood in the store.

26

1922: A Lockeport, NS, fisherman who was lost in a fierce storm and mourned as dead rowed into the harbour in his own dory. A week previous, he was out alone in a blinding blizzard. A search was made, but he was given up as dead. Under a heavy sea and wild winds, he rowed to Little Hope, NS, where he obtained shelter and existed on bread and molasses. When the weather calmed, he rowed the 30 km home.

27

2004: In the midst of a Prairie deep freeze, cold enough to freeze flesh in a matter of minutes, the coldest place was Key Lake, SK, where it was a chilling -52.6°C —making it the coldest place on Earth. It was so cold that cats' ears and noses went missing. Water mains burst everywhere. It was so cold that rear-view mirrors fell off inside foreign-made cars. Glues adhere only to about -40°C .

28

1947: It was said to be the worst winter storm in Canadian railway history. Trains were buried in monstrous snowdrifts for up to 2 weeks on the Prairies. Near Weyburn, SK, men dug down 6 m to reach the rails and only the tops of telegraph poles were visible. After the blizzard, it was not until May that snowbanks blocking highways were finally cleared.

29

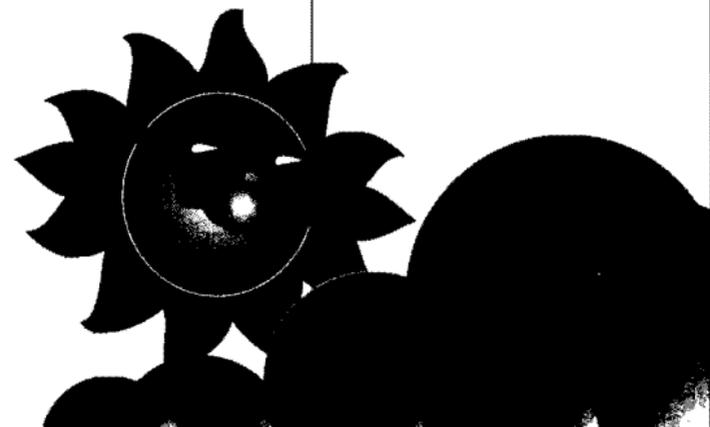
1940: Rain in Winnipeg, MB, drowning out hockey games, and blizzards in Britain, tying up trains—such was the topsy-turvy weather. To explain it, the head meteorologist in Winnipeg held a public lecture entitled: "What Happened to the Weather?" The cause was still a mystery. It was as if the January thaw had lost its way to Montreal, QC, and had come to Winnipeg.

30

First Quarter ☽

2011: Officials in Saskatchewan closed the Institute of Applied Science and Technology in Regina due to the buildup of snow on the roof. The college cancelled evening classes until an engineer could finish checking for structural damage. More than 1 m of snow had fallen in some neighbourhoods since the end of October. It was also bitterly cold, with wind chills at -45 and day-long power outages.

31



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FEBRUARY 2012

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

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|---|---|---|--|--|--|---|
| | | | <p>2011: Winter storms continued to battle southern New Brunswick, bringing everyday life to a standstill. Shutdowns were especially difficult for the Canadian Blood Services, owing to the loss of important blood donor clinics in major cities. With a storm a week, officials estimated they lost about 25% of potential blood donations.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1</p> | <p>1902: A winter storm with more than 0.5 m of snow blew into Ottawa, ON. The storm cut steam and electric railway services and kept Sunday church attendance way down. Near the canal a man saw an arm sticking out of the snow. At first, he thought it was a teenage prank, but on investigation he found attached to the arm was a small boy, unconscious. He warmed the boy to consciousness and carried him home.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">2</p> <p>Groundhog Day</p> | <p>2007: "Peeka," a Lhasa Apso, would not stop barking to get outside of her Saskatoon, SK, home. It was -29°C or -40 with the wind chill. Finally, her owner relented and was surprised to find a bundled-up newborn infant lying on the back porch, still breathing but suffering from hypothermia. Peeka was later inducted into the Purina Animal Hall of Fame—1 of 5 dogs in Canada to receive the award in 2007.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">3</p> | <p>1860: During a great storm, the steamship <i>Hungarian</i> ran aground on Cape Sable, NS. Scores of sailors clung to her spars and masts as waves swept across her decks and she started breaking up. Hundreds of stunned onlookers crowded on shore but giant waves prevented the launching of a single boat. Not a single soul of the 250 aboard was able to swim ashore.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">4</p> |
| <p>1997: A wall of ice came close to damaging several homes in Colchester South near Windsor, ON. Winds pushed the ice back toward shore with the momentum of a galloping glacier. The ice mountain became a huge tourist draw, as hundreds of tourists gawked at the piles of stacked ice. Replacing damaged breakwalls and building foundations were major expenses.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">5</p> | <p>1922: The freighter <i>Bessie Dollar</i> limped into the harbour at Esquimalt, BC, barely surviving one of the worst storms ever to sweep the eastern Pacific Ocean. Northwest gales and heavy seas rocked the ship for 36 hours. Waves 20 m high slammed the pilothouse and crumpled the crew's saloon, the bridge, chart room, and captain's cabin into a tin can. Miraculously, only one person died in the storm.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">6</p> | <p>1924: The ice bridge across the St. Lawrence River at Lévis, QC, broke at both ends, leaving 8 people stranded on floating patches of ice 7 x 10 m large and 1 m thick. The current and tide veered the ice from shore to shore. The stranded began to pray for help. A boat passed 7 m from them but could not hear their cries. Just before dawn, the ice floe jammed on shore and the people scrambled on land.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Full Moon </p> | <p>2000: The heaviest snowfall in 2 years dumped 12–20 cm in Calgary, AB, in 15 hours. Six people shovelling snow suffered heart attacks. Earlier in the day, warm weather followed by blowing snow and cold froze hundreds of vehicle door locks. The Siberian tigers and bears at the Calgary Zoo loved the weather. In the monkey cages, handlers threw in buckets of snow and watched the chimps throw it around.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">8</p> | <p>1861: Large blocks of ice, piled nearly 15 m high opposite Cornwall, ON, blocked the St. Lawrence River channel, causing the water to rise over the riverbank. A tremendous shove of ice carried away a sawmill and demolished a house. The family were awakened by the rumbling noise and fled. They looked back in time to see ice crushing their bed. Some of the bare-footed children froze their feet badly.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">9</p> | <p>2001: Near Landsdowne, ON, 100 km/h winds shook a brick farmhouse and swept away a 4 x 15 m stable housing 17 prized horses. Armed with a flashlight, the owners found a horse trapped underneath the rubble. The horse could stand and walk but was very uncomfortable. He died 12 hours later from internal injuries. A little filly was found nearby with a broken neck; other horses suffered cuts and bruises.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">10</p> | <p>1999: Snowrollers—giant snowballs formed by wind—dotted the landscape outside St. John's, NL. Some said they looked like giant marshmallows. The cylinder-shaped mounds form when warm weather converts snow into a wet cohesive mass and strong gusty winds blow the snow downslope until the snowrollers are so large, or the ground so flat, that they stop in their tracks.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">11</p> |
| <p>1999: Organizers of the Canada Winter Games in Corner Brook, NL, worried about the lack of snow with the opening ceremony a week away. In a place known for its abundant snow, unseasonably mild temperatures and heavy rains had washed it away. How desperate were the organizers? At the Blow-Me-Down resort, where the biathlon and the cross-country ski events were scheduled, they resorted to "snow dances."</p> <p style="text-align: right;">12</p> | <p>1923: Vancouver, BC, residents faced the worst snowstorm in 7 years followed closely by another gale with snow, rain, and freezing rain. The weather flooded basements and disrupted traffic. Many steamers were also delayed and sailings cancelled. The snow and ensuing cold threw thousands of men out of work, yet provided employment for 1000 snow-shovellers.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">13</p> | <p>1920: Snow in drifts and falling temperatures brought winter's worst weather to Ottawa, ON. Drifts blocked rail tracks such that trains struggled into Central Station 12 hours late. Sweepers and plows were in continuous use on the Ottawa electric railway. Streets resembled snow canyons—vehicles drove hub-deep in the drifts. The storm kept thousands of people indoors and few attended church on Sunday.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">14</p> | <p>2011: Moncton, NB, set a new record for the most snow on the ground in the month of February. At 8 AM, 120 cm of snow covered the ground—1 cm more than the previous record set in 1992. In the latest dump, snowmobilers rescued stranded drivers and adaptable commuters switched to cross-country skis to travel along Main Street. High snowbanks along streets made it hard for motorists to see small children.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">15</p> | <p>2010: A warm winter in Conception Bay North, NL, affected the beach at Northern Bay Sands. Instead of sand, rock was piled up on the grass. Normally in winter, Northern Bay Sands is ice-covered, effectively holding the beach in position. This year milder weather exposed the sandy beach to waves from the northeast. According to local history, the beach was washed away during a major hurricane in 1775.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">16</p> | <p>GREAT CANADIAN WEATHER QUIZ 17</p> <p>In the movie <i>Groundhog Day</i>, what song plays on the radio every morning?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) "It's A Beautiful Morning" 2) "The Beat Goes On" 3) "Here Comes Kathy's Clown" 4) "I've Got You Babe" 5) "Almost Like Being in Love" <p>(Answer on inside back cover)</p> | <p>2011: A 5-year-old boy in Calgary, AB, loved trains so much that on an afternoon with temperatures at -20°C (-25 wind chill), he slipped out of his home and boarded the rapid transit C-Train. Without a coat or hat and with stocking feet, he seemed happy about his adventure. His frantic parents called the police and began a search. A female passenger stayed with the boy and notified the C-Train driver.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">18</p> |

1920: A gale struck the western half of Prince Edward Island. An observer reported he had never seen the barometer fall so rapidly nor register so low. Winds were 100 km/h and 30 mm of rain fell prior to a sudden temperature drop to -6.7°C. Ice formed, making walking treacherous. In a 70-km stretch from O'Leary to Summerside, PE, 46 barns were blown over, killing hundreds of horses and cattle.

19

2011: At 4 PM on the field, or rather "ice," at Calgary AB's McMahon Stadium, it was -9.6°C but it felt more like -17 with clear skies and 19-km/h winds when the puck was dropped at the Heritage Classic hockey game. The only statistic that mattered to the 41,000 fans was Flames: 4 Canadiens: 0. Players from both teams used heaters on the bench and in the dressing rooms. But the fans were on their own.

20

Family Day

1958: An Inuit man and his son walked to safety after an Air Force plane failed to locate the ice floe on which they went adrift after a 5-day search of Foxe Basin, NU. The two reached land after the floe was blown against shore ice. They walked 30 km overland to Igloolik, NU, facing -40°C and strong winds. To survive on the floe, the pair had built an igloo and ate seal meat meant for their dogs.

21

New Moon

1898: A Montreal, QC, train got stuck in a wall of snow 5 m deep near Saint-Polycarpe, QC, following a 2-day snowfall. The passengers were comfortable and had plenty to eat. The snow blockade was the greatest in the history of the area. It took 200 men, 4 snowplows, and several engines to free the train after 2 days. The drift was so solid that a team of horses and sleighs were drawn on top of it.

22

Ash Wednesday

1898: Two houses in Quebec City, QC, collapsed following an avalanche of snow some 50 m high on a cliff at the rear of the dwellings. The accident killed a young teenage girl and injured several others. The girl was standing near the fireplace and alongside the chimney, which were totally wrecked, inside one of the houses. Two preschool children were also killed.

23

1934: Described as the wildest wind on record, a storm slammed into the West Hants area of Nova Scotia. At Trinity United Church, it took out large stained glass windows. It also unroofed several barns and a building in Wentworth, NS, owned by the Canadian Gypsum Company. A calf belonging to a farmer near Five Mile River, NS, was blown across the railway line about 30 m from its yard.

24

1958: Winnipeg, MB, struggled back to normal following a freezing rainstorm and high winds. It was the worst in the city's memory. The ice blacked out homes and businesses. Neighbourhoods became dotted with candles shining through glaze-covered windows. Telephones at a local newspaper rang constantly with questions like: "How can I get my husband's supper?" and "When will the lights go on?"

25

1893: While a farmer was driving a load of hay to the lighthouse at Thunder Cape, near Thunder Bay, ON, a blizzard struck and he lost his way. After wandering around for some time, he became separated from his team of horses. Snow-blinded, he wandered all night to the point of near-death exhaustion. Fortunately, he moved enough that another man spotted him and directed a rescue party to his location.

26

1892: With perfect weather and plenty of seals, hunters from Trinity Bay, NL, ventured farther out into the bay than usual. A storm snuck up on them and blinding snow encompassed the entire fleet of boats. Some fishers were so disoriented that they rowed in the opposite direction from land and were lost. The survivors arrived home in bad shape, frozen and weak. Twenty-five men perished that night.

27

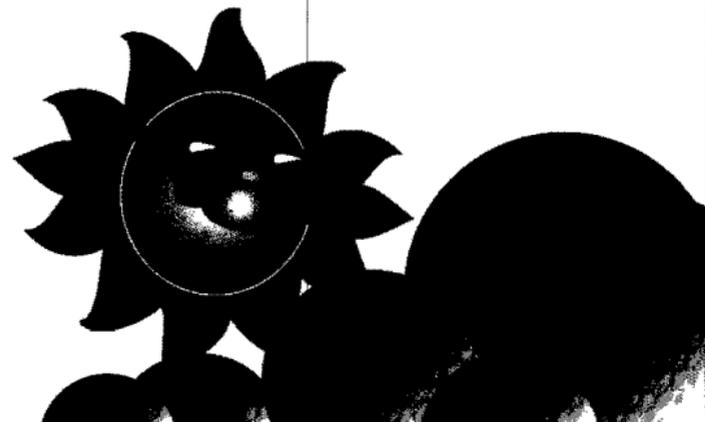
2011: Even the smug sourdoughs (old-timers) admitted it was a cold and blustery Yukon Rendezvous—it was especially the can-can girls who shivered in packs in their sheer-stocking legs and feathered hairdos in the -30°C weather. The crowds seemed smaller this year, but an official count was not taken. Staff started tallying numbers up, but the registration tent blew away in the howling winds.

28

2004: A 3-day odyssey for passengers aboard a ferry trapped in thick ice off Cape Breton, NS, ended after it finally reached shore. The usual 6-hour trip from Newfoundland took 74 hours. It took 2 icebreakers to free the ferry halted about 8 km from shore. It had been 10 years since Marine Atlantic had experienced a comparable delay on its ferry route. It took 3 days to clear the ferry traffic backlog.

29

First Quarter



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MARCH 2012

Sunday

Monday

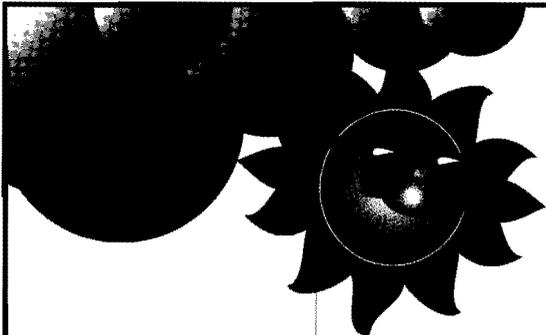
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Saturday



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|---|--|--|--|---|---|---|
| | | | | <p>1908: Snowdrifts in western Ontario were the worst residents could ever remember. Thousands of railroaders and volunteers pitched in to dig out piles of sticky snow. Farmers helped with hot meals and warm beds. It took about 8 hours to open the rail line between Mount Forest and Kenilworth, ON—a distance of only 12 km. With high banks on either side of the track, there was nowhere to push the snow.</p> | <p>2011: A nasty windstorm pummelled Metro Vancouver and Vancouver Island, BC, knocking out power to 70,000 customers, toppling trees, and causing delays or cancellations on ferry crossings. Singer Sarah McLachlan's concert in Kelowna, BC, was postponed because a cancelled ferry left her stranded on Vancouver Island. Residents were advised to secure anything outside that might blow around.</p> | <p>2003: Four adults and 2 children were car-bounded on the Trans-Canada Highway, stuck in a mountainous snowdrift in Labrador for 9 hours. The engineer of a passing train spotted the car's headlights and informed police. Road and weather conditions were too bad to drive, so the railway volunteered an engine and operator to take police to the scene where they found the car with its windows frosted over.</p> |
| <p>1935: For over 3 days, 52 cm of snow fell in Winnipeg, MB, one of the heaviest snowfalls on record—weighing approximately 2.75 million t. It cost the city dearly but was a boon to hundreds of unemployed workers. The snow came during hockey playoffs, marooning rural teams for days. The storm broke power lines and cut telephone communications. Horses were used to rescue stranded cars.</p> | <p>2011: In Edmonton, AB, 10-person teams dodged hard-packed snowballs during the first Canadian-organized snowball fight (Yukigassen) championships. About 100 teams played outside in the -15°C weather, pelting each other with an estimated 250,000 snowballs, each 6–7 cm in diameter. The “snow battle” sport started more than 20 years ago in Japan.</p> | <p>1910: At the height of a storm, a lightning bolt struck a church near Tilbury, ON, causing a panic among the congregation. It also struck a house where it desingled the roof and damaged a couple of rafters. Inside, it burned a dress hanging on a gas pipe and lifted up a dresser until the casters tumbled off. It stunned a boy and baby in the parlour and their parents sitting in the dining room.</p> | <p>2011: A storm hit Quebec and New Brunswick with up to 70 cm of snow. In Sherbrooke, QC, more than 75 cm of snow fell in 24 hours, shutting down schools, city facilities, and roads. It took 10 days to clear away the snow. Police took the exceptional step of urging residents not to leave their homes. Those who ventured out, used snowshoes, skis, and even snowboards to get around.</p> | <p>1920: Crews attempted to drive teams of horses carrying lumber across the ice on the Ottawa River between Gatineau, QC, and Rockcliffe, ON. Three horses fell below the ice and drowned, their drivers narrowly escaping. A load of lumber was safely brought to shore. The weight of two earlier loads likely weakened the ice to such an extent that when another team came along, the ice could not hold out.</p> | <p>1997: Unusually high snowfall and dogs on the loose threatened the white-tail deer population in the Winnipeg, MB, area. The snow cover made it difficult for them to forage and hard for them to escape when attacked by dogs. Officials at the Pine Ridge Wildlife Sanctuary threatened to charge dog owners whose pets pursued, harassed, or molested game animals.</p> | <p>2011: “Ralph,” the stray brown pelican blown into Nova Scotia by Hurricane Earl, was taken back to a wildlife sanctuary in North Carolina six months later. In September Ralph crashed into a plate-glass window of a Dartmouth, NS, strip bar. And if turned out Ralph is a girl! The discovery was made after she arrived at the wildlife caring facility following the 3-day road trip from Nova Scotia.</p> |
| <p>2009: In Regina, SK, a frigid -34.7°C temperature marked the coldest temperature ever on this day and the coldest so late in the season. The wind chill made it feel like -45. Scores of motorists waited hours for a battery boost. Inside a truck transporting ice cream, it was so cold that the ice cream had to be warmed up a full 8 degrees more than the outside air temperature.</p> | <p>2008: Record snowfalls in Quebec killed 3 women when the roof of the small warehouse where they were working in Morin Heights collapsed. A sports centre in Trois Rivières, QC, cancelled activities after its roof showed signs of stress. In Saint-Jérôme, QC, a paper mill had to shut down after its roof caved in. After lunch, employees had heard cracks and sounds on the roof shortly before it gave way.</p> | <p>1920: A huge volume of snow and ice surrounding the Annapolis Valley, NS, melted and the ensuing meltwater rushed toward the sea. The racing rivers carried away bridges, overflowed fields, and swamped streets in towns and villages. High waters drove people from their homes and drowned cattle and horses in barns. Water in the valley rose to the tips of the apple trees in submerged orchards.</p> | <p>GREAT CANADIAN WEATHER QUIZ</p> <p>On average, during what month are there the greatest number of icebergs in the North Atlantic?</p> <p>1) February 2) March 3) April 4) May 5) July</p> <p><i>(Answer on inside back cover)</i></p> | <p>1959: Gale-force winds gusting up to 150 km/h lashed southern Ontario. Three young sisters from Merriton, ON, escaped injury when a 10-m chimney blew down and crashed into the bedroom of their 2-storey home. In a freak incident in Toronto, ON, a little spaniel was blown from the roof of the owner's 3-storey home to the roof of an adjoining 2-storey building unharmed.</p> | <p>1868: A wind and rainstorm unroofed several railway freight sheds in Toronto, DN. Stout fences tottered and fell. Houses were unroofed and blown down. Trees across the city were lifted up by the roots or twisted off. The roof of an ice house near Lake Ontario was carried about 200 m over stables and piles of lumber. The top of the Queen Street Police Station was lifted and hurled to the ground.</p> | <p>1927: As vast herds of seals started floating south from Davis Strait, there were high hopes among the Newfoundland fleet for a record sealing season. But those hopes were dashed when a blizzard broke up the ice floes on which the hardy hunters had made their kill. The hunters killed 100,000 seals in the first 3 days of the season, but only half the pelts were brought aboard when the blizzard broke.</p> |

2001: Ottawa, ON's annual blasting of ice on the Rideau River, dating back to 1878 to prevent ice jams, was halted because there was no water in the river. The operation needs a fairly strong flow of water to carry the broken ice away. A lot of snow that winter insulated the ice. In the meantime, safety officials were concerned by the number of dog-walkers and cross-country skiers on the ice.

18

1899: Following 3 weeks of fierce winter storms, immense amounts of snow collected on the cliffs overlooking Levis and Hadlow near Quebec City, QC. When a strong gale blew up, the snow—an acre in length and 30 m high—gave way with a roar. A passing train was swallowed by the avalanche. It was dug out but was buried again by another mountain of snow that suddenly gave way.

19

2010: Atlantic Canada experienced its 2nd-warmest spring in 63 years of records at 2.6°C above normal. At the same time it was the 5th-driest spring on record, with nearly 20% less precipitation than normal. Residents wondered if winter even happened. In Nova Scotia there were days in March when you could ski in the morning and golf in the afternoon.

20

2011: As of this day, 6800 truckloads or 220,000 t of fuel and equipment had been hauled along the 568-km-long winter road to the diamond mines north of Yellowknife, NT. The haulage nearly doubled the previous year's totals. With colder weather early in the winter, the road was opened 10 days earlier, allowing crews to get trucks on the road a lot quicker than expected.

21

1895: A tug with barge in tow left Victoria, BC, for Haddington Island, BC, to procure stone for the new Parliament buildings in Victoria. About 3 km from Trial Islands, BC, the steamer encountered a storm and sank. Four crew members were washed away and drowned. Another swam to shore half-frozen but survived. Another stayed by the wreck. His body was recovered hanging drowned in the water.

22

1968: The UN's World Meteorological Organization in Geneva, Switzerland, has designated this date each year to promote the science and service of meteorology. On this date, the Canada Post Office issued a 5-cent stamp to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Canada's first long-term, fixed-point weather observations at Fort Prince of Wales, now Churchill, MB.

23

2010: Sea ice along Newfoundland and Labrador's Northern Peninsula coastline broke up and blew out to sea, leaving many dead seal pups in its wake. The lack of sea ice in the northern Gulf of St. Lawrence had driven thousands of seals onto the shore—fast ice and beach to give birth. The young shore-bound seals had become a sightseeing attraction and an easy meal for bald eagles, coyotes, and toxes.

24

Spring Equinox 01:14 EDT

New Moon ●

World Meteorology Day

1909: Wind and freezing rain struck Sutton, QC. Several large buildings lost shingles or bits of tin roof and several shade trees lost large limbs. The chimney of the new parish hall was blown down, ripping a hole through the slate-covered roof. Damage was also inflicted on the town house and Catholic Church. Outside the village, the storm unroofed 15 barns.

25

1913: Forty hours of freezing rain left a heavy coating of ice across Montreal, QC, demoralizing telegraph, telephone, and power services, as well as the tramways system. The damage was so extensive that the reserve supply of materials, especially poles, was not sufficient to meet demand. The ice also irreparably damaged thousands of shade trees and ornamental shrubs in the city parks and streets.

26

1922: In Newfoundland and Labrador, the first and hopefully last major storm after St. Patrick's Day is called Sheila's Brush. Right on schedule, she shut down the capital for a day. Some 30 cm of snow and gale-force winds shut schools, businesses, and offices, and even snowplows could barely get around. The hardest part was that the rest of Canada's weather was very mild from coast to "almost" coast.

27

2011: An entire month of rain was held in the deep snowpack around Edmonton, AB, and to the northwest, buoying the hopes of farmers too familiar with years of drought. Soil moisture reserves were low in the Peace River, AB, region, which had missed out on the moisture bonanza that hit much of the rest of Alberta in 2010.

28

1946: The temperature in Ottawa, ON, rose to 26.7°C, the highest ever for the month. A prolonged dry spell and 50-km/h winds contributed to a \$2 million fire that destroyed 22,000 cords of pulpwood at the E.B. Eddy plant in Gatineau, QC, and severely damaged the Royal Alexandria Bridge between Quebec and Ontario.

29

2009: A powerful spring storm dumped more than 25 cm of heavy wet snow across Prince Edward Island, forcing widespread school closures, disrupting government services and businesses, and knocking out power to 2000 hydro customers. Ploughs were finding it difficult to battle the snow. The snowstorm caught almost everyone by surprise because rain was expected.

30

2010: Downtown Toronto, ON, did not get a trace of snow during March, something never seen before since record-keeping began in 1845. Ottawa, ON, may be the snowiest national capital in the world but the city also had no snow that March. Calgary, AB, recorded its second-lowest snowfall amount ever. That year winter was cancelled in Canada—the weather phenomenon El Niño was to bless or curse it.

31

First Quarter ●

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11 12 13 14 15 16 17
18 19 20 21 22 23 24
25 26 27 28 29 30 31

1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 10 11 12
13 14 15 16 17 18 19
20 21 22 23 24 25 26
27 28 29 30 31

APRIL 2012

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|--|--|---|---|
| <p>1922: Strong northwest winds near Charlottetown, PE, fanned flames from a burning wooden warehouse containing over a million gallons of petroleum products: kerosene, gasoline, grease, and heavy lubricating oil. Adding to citizens' alarm, the spectacular fire generated enormous clouds of dense black smoke that the winds threatened to blow into the city.</p> <p>1</p> <p>Palm Sunday</p> | <p>2010: A rabid wind storm struck the BC Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island on the first day of the Easter long weekend. Wind gusts up to 90 km/h on land and 144 km/h over water led to ferry cancellations, road closures, and power outages. The police closed Stanley Park and the Lions Gate Bridge. Victoria rescuers responded to 37 calls: boats sinking, vessels smashed against rocks, sailors adrift.</p> <p>2</p> <p>Easter Monday</p> | <p>1898: A 10-m wall of snow roared down the Chilkoot Pass in Alaska, bouncing huge boulders and burying 100 Klondike stamperers under 9 m of snow. At least 70 prospectors perished. An ox buried in the snow was dug out alive and used to haul bodies to the cemetery. A dog named Jack lived 8 days under a snow pile. Two weeks later, he was back in the harness, hauling supplies to the gold fields.</p> <p>3</p> | <p>2010: Halifax's maximum temperature registered 24.7°C—18° above normal. Chocolate Easter eggs melted in their foil wrapping, spoiling many an Easter egg hunt. The record April warmth triggered fruit trees to bud 3 weeks faster than usual, worrying orchardists about the risk of frost. Once trees start growing, they lose their hardiness to endure cold, killing temperatures.</p> <p>4</p> | <p>1999: An intense winter storm pounded Newfoundland and Labrador. St. John's was hardest hit with a record snowfall of 68.4 cm. Winds peaked at 90 km/h, causing blizzard conditions for most of the day. Some drifts were almost to the rim of a basketball hoop. Heavy snows flattened the rubberized bubble at the Greenbelt Tennis Club. Just days ago children played baseball in warm sunshine.</p> <p>5</p> | <p>1952: Huge boulders piled atop cakes of ice swept away the new Saskatchewan Landing bridge in a flood near Swift Current, SK. Three steel spans and one concrete span weighing hundreds of tonnes were hurled 12 m, disappearing in 15 seconds in the South Saskatchewan River. The flood threw house-sized ice chunks onto riverbanks. RCMP evacuated 25 families and herded livestock to higher ground.</p> <p>6</p> <p>Good Friday Full Moon ☉</p> | <p>1909: A powerful gale packing gusts of 130 km/h ripped across southern Ontario. In London, Aberdeen School's chimney crashed through the roof, pinning 6 children under tonnes of debris. In St. Thomas, the roof of a moving freight car blew off, along with the brakeman, who was on top of the car. The winds blew a cyclist into a mangle of telegraph wires, but he managed to extricate himself.</p> <p>7</p> <p>Passover</p> |
| <p>1907: More snow fell in southern Quebec today than on any other day this winter. The snow was so dense in Montreal it had to be disposed of with pick and shovel. The heavy snow blocked street car services, prompting people to bring sleighs and wagons out of storage. Railway cuts filled with heavy snow, in some places to depths of 2–3 m, blocking trains for days.</p> <p>8</p> <p>Easter Sunday</p> | <p>2010: A winter storm, with northwesterly wind gusts of 107 km/h, wreaked havoc across Saskatchewan. In Regina, fierce winds blew a sign off a tall bank tower as the building swayed back and forth. On a hog farm near Yorkton, winds tipped over a shed, crushing a woman to death. And in Saskatoon, winds unroofed a 3-storey building.</p> <p>9</p> <p>Easter Monday</p> | <p>1896: In eastern Newfoundland some hunters left home in search of seals. Strong winds, however, drifted their ice floes out to sea. Two of the sealers could have saved themselves, but they refused to leave a weaker companion, who later died of exposure. While making a run up the coast, the mail steamer <i>Virginia Lake</i> rescued these 2 men. Two others in the party were never found.</p> <p>10</p> | <p>2004: Environment Canada asked the UN World Meteorological Organization to retire the storm name "Juan." Hurricane Juan took many lives and caused great damage when it swept through the Maritimes in September 2003. The WMO replaced "Juan" with "Joaquin." This was the first time Canada asked the WMO to retire a storm name. An Atlantic hurricane cannot be named Juan for at least 10 years.</p> <p>11</p> | <p>2010: Rio Tinto Alcan, the third-largest mining company in the world, had to buy electricity from Hydro-Quebec this spring. Very dry and unseasonably warm weather conditions left Alcan's 3 reservoirs near Lac-Saint-Jean only one third full. Depressed water levels on the Great Lakes meant some lake freighters on the St. Lawrence Seaway had to ride high with lighter loads.</p> <p>12</p> | <p>2010: Tens of thousands of people were without power as winter walloped southern Alberta with heavy wet snow and whipping winds. Many people abandoned their vehicles bogged down in drifts over 0.5 m deep. In Lethbridge, schools and colleges were closed and the hospital was put on emergency power. The storm knocked down more than 400 poles and 200 hydro lines.</p> <p>13</p> <p>Last Quarter ☾</p> | <p>1934: The swiftest and most devastating spring flood in a decade occurred along the Saint John River in Upper Mungerville, NB. Backwaters swept away hen-houses, fox ranches, and many cords of wood. A 10-year-old boy plunged into the water to save his sister who stepped too close to the water and the earth gave way under her. He told his mother he got the idea from reading Boy Scout books.</p> <p>14</p> |
| <p>2005: Strong winds picked up winter litter and drove it into urban areas in Saskatchewan. Sand and paper swirled in parking lots, and ground grit peited pedestrians. SaskPower lost 100 transmission poles. In Regina, high winds gusting to 100 km/h felled power lines, blew down trees, and damaged roofs. Bus shelters blew over, and some glass panels were sucked out of the city greenhouse.</p> <p>15</p> | <p>2010: Pop princess Shifoh and punk band Billy Talent were among the artists who scrambled to get to St. John's, NL, to attend the 39th annual Juno Awards. Impenetrable fog all but shut down flights into the city. Airlines sent jets to Halifax, NS, or Gander, NL, when ground fog proved too thick to approach safely. A week earlier, 12°C temperatures and sunshine prevailed.</p> <p>16</p> | <p>1922: High waters upstream and recent heavy precipitation caused one of the worst floods of the Ottawa River in 15 years with water levels raising 40 cm in 24 hours. Cottages at low-lying Gatineau Point, QC, were entirely surrounded by water. Families moved upstairs or vacated their houses entirely. Some small children drowned in their backyards.</p> <p>17</p> | <p>1862: Spring ice breakup on the Bécancour River in Trois-Rivières, QC, inflicted property damage, especially to bridges. At night the icy flood waters carried away 3 houses inhabited by 20 people, of whom 10 lost their lives—including 2 mothers and 8 children. The rest took shelter in canoes, where they were exposed to a pitiless storm.</p> <p>18</p> | <p>2010: Iceland's Eyjafjallajökull volcanic eruption sent ash particulates across Europe, clouding the skies and grounding air flights. Eventually, winds dragged the ash clouds southwest toward Newfoundland and the Maritimes. Since the volcanic ash was highly diluted and moving slowly, it had no effect on the region's weather and climate.</p> <p>19</p> | <p>1948: The strongest winds in the 150-year history of Bobcaygeon, ON, struck the town like a bomb. At the lakefront 7-m high waves added to the damage. The owner of a boathouse saw his structure splintered by waves as if it had been struck by a giant hammer. "Tornadoic" blasts snapped big butternuts and pines into kindling. A large apartment building shook for about 10 minutes.</p> <p>20</p> | <p>1958: The reluctance of 3 children to take their baths may have saved their lives after lightning struck their farm home at Woodford, ON. Their father was standing beside the kitchen sink when the lightning hit. He was burned slightly across the eyes. A septic tank was blown out of the ground and a Guernsey cow, which was standing among 25 other cattle, was killed.</p> <p>21</p> |

1843: Deep snow in the Maritimes prevented farmers from turning cattle out to pasture. Hundreds of cattle starved. The others were kept alive on boughs of trees and such vegetables as farmers could spare. The Bank of St. Stephen, NB, advanced \$50 for fodder to be given to those in neighbouring parishes. No measures were taken by authorities to help black settlers at Loch Lomond, NB.

22

Earth Day

1875: A group trekking from Fort Whoop-Up near Lethbridge, AB, and Fort Shaw, Montana, encountered bitter cold and deep snow. They finally dug a snow cave for shelter, staying put for 2 nights while the blizzard raged. When they emerged, they found an RCMP constable frozen, leaning against his horse. Guided by pure instinct, the snow-blinded and frostbitten group eventually reached Fort Shaw.

23

1922: Hoping there were survivors aboard downed lighthouse supply steamer *Lambton*, tugs left Sault Ste. Marie, ON, for Caribou Island on Lake Superior. Besides keeping a watch along shore for signs of life, rescuers searched the shifting ice for wreckage. To make matters worse, winds reached gale-force, turning into one of the worst storms the seamen had ever seen.

24

2010: British explorers on Ellef Ringnes Island, NU, reported a 3-minute rain shower. The rain tell on the team's ice base about 3900 km north of Ottawa. April showers in the Canadian High Arctic are freak events. The weather station at Alert, NU, whose observations date back to 1950, has never recorded April rain—the earliest rain on record there tell May 21, 1988.

25

1900: Fire swept through Ottawa-Hull, ON, driving 15,000 people from their homes. Four died in the wild fires. The fire spread quickly in a strong gale. Northeast winds blew flames out of control in the direction of lumber piles and mills on both shores of the Ottawa River. People feared that the centre of Ottawa might catch fire if winds changed. Hundreds of homeless slept in the open air.

26

2010: After 2 months without snow, Ottawa, ON, received some snow but not enough to affect gardens. The warmest spring on record was underway, and the snow didn't stand a chance of sticking around. However, Montreal, QC, was blanketed with nearly 30 cm of snow, astonishing residents. The shock was short-lived; 30 hours later the snow was gone.

27

1967: A 3-day snowfall in southern Alberta brought Lethbridge's total for April snowfall to 162 cm and plugged roads with 3-m drifts thrown up by 90-km/h winds. The snow isolated farms, closed schools, and starved thousands of cattle, many within sight of barns. Helicopters were used to airlift hay to stranded herds and milk to babies. Snowmobile clubs helped ferry food, hospital patients, and doctors.

28

GREAT CANADIAN WEATHER QUIZ

29

What season is considered the best to fall in love, begin dating someone, meet someone new, or get married?

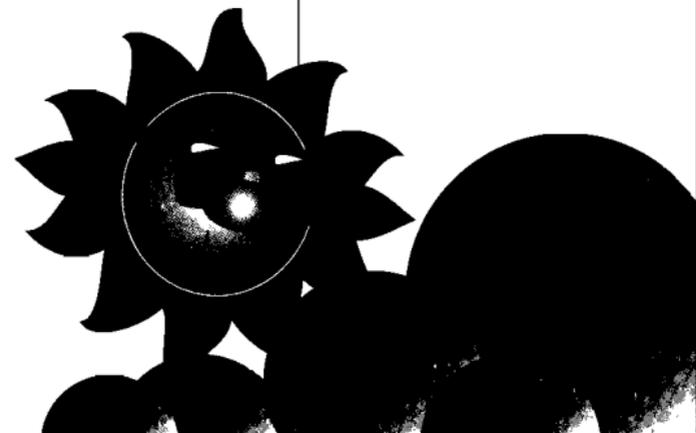
- 1) winter
- 2) spring
- 3) summer
- 4) fall
- 5) no difference

(Answer on inside back cover)

First Quarter 

1955: A blizzard plastered 27 cm of snow over the Avalon Peninsula, choking the streets of St. John's, NL, with snow, blocking highways, and driving sea ice against the coastline. The season's snowfall totalled 568 cm, the worst since the winter of 1893-94. Conception Bay, NL, was nearly emptied of ice one day only to fill again the next, thus halting ferry services.

30



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MAY 2012

Sunday

Monday

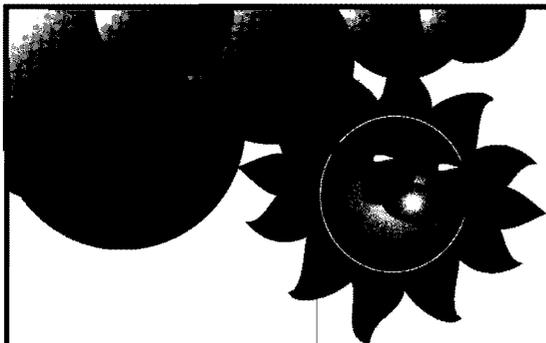
Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



1895: The forecast called for a thunderous downpour of rain over Winnipeg, MB, but the result was only a slight shower. Instead of the deluge, a shower of another kind resulted. Onto sidewalks and roads, as well as into homes, millions of large black ants crawled out—most were wingless. Scientists described them as large, black-bodied specimens, similar to the African ant, with strong nippers. **1**

1921: One of the most violent all-day windstorms in years raked Saskatchewan. The gale ended all seeding in the province and some land had to be reseeded. In Regina, SK, the wind blew down fences, chimneys, and signs. In Saskatoon, SK, winds carried away the weather recording instruments at the University of Saskatchewan. The winds blew away many shacks and frame stables in all parts of the city. **2**

1955: During the worst storm on record, rain, snow, and wind made a shambles of communications in Saskatchewan, causing flooding and killing hundreds of cattle. Saskatoon, SK, became isolated when rain and 15 cm of snow snapped power lines and cables and halted all methods of transportation. Amateur radio operators helped get electrical services restored and relayed messages outside the province. **3**

1971: Heavy rains led to an earth cave-in at St-Jean-Vianney, north of Quebec City, QC. The soil turned soft and mushy and became sludge. A bus, several cars, and 44 homes were swallowed up into a yawning gash 600 m wide and 30 m deep, killing 31 people. A pilot describing the scene said a whole chunk of earth simply dropped out of site into the hole. **4**

1952: During a severe thunderstorm, a bolt of lightning touched off a blaze that destroyed the town hall in Blind River, ON. It also destroyed the town's police station. The police chief asked 7 prisoners, being held for vagrancy and inebriation charges, to stick around. And they did! Earlier, a caretaker braved the fire in the jail's basement to break the cell locks with an axe, freeing the prisoners. **5**

Full Moon ☉

2010: The combination of heavy snows and high winds led to the death of 40 horses during a violent stampede near Fort Macleod, AB. The foul weather caused the herd to huddle and panic, trampling smaller horses and pushing others against barbed wire fences. Ranchers lost up to 15% of their calves, either trampled in fields or drowned in dugouts trying to flee blizzards. **6**

2001: Heavy pack ice kept more than 3000 fishers from catching crab and lobster along the Newfoundland coast. Because of the ice, sealers stayed onshore, and because of this, officials decided to extend the seal hunt off the north coast for an extra 2 weeks. Ice conditions around Newfoundland and the northern Gulf of St. Lawrence were said to be the worst in years. **7**

1900: News that the Yukon River was practically open and running was received with shouts of joy and an incessant firing of guns and pistols. Hundreds lined the shore in Dawson, YT, to watch the early morning sight as the ice floe moved down the river in a compact body, breaking up into immense cakes. Another thing that pleased everybody was the removal of unsightly garbage heaps on the ice. **8**

2010: After three seasons devoid of precipitation, water levels in many Ontario and Quebec rivers and lakes were their lowest in decades. With water down by more than 1 m, docks were useless and beaches were mostly mud, slumps, and rocks. Rivière des Mille Îles, QC, recorded its lowest water level ever, prompting the mayor of Rosemère, QC, to say that "you could walk on it." **9**

1922: A cyclone hit a house near Lac du Bonnet, MB, and for a moment it stood firm. Then it began to twist around and lift up, and the occupants twisted with it, suffering bruises to severe internal injuries. It was as if the family had been shipwrecked and cast away on a desert island. Even the little money they had saved had blown away. The only thing that remained was a bucket, found 3 km away. **10**

1945: Two airforce heroes from World War II were killed when their plane, the famous *F for Freddie*, struck a weather observation tower at the Calgary Municipal Airport in Alberta and crashed into a heap of twisted flaming wreckage. The plane's right wing travelled about 30 m, but the plane itself continued through the air, hurtling across several huts and finally crashing in a pasture 0.5 km away. **11**

1861: The *Royal Bride* struck an iceberg on a voyage from Swansea, Wales, to Montreal, QC. Hitting it at 14 km/h, its starboard bow caved in. The crew had barely enough time to launch their boats before the vessel sank. All got away safely and 6 hours later were picked up by the *Prairie Flower* and taken to St. John's, NL. **12**

Last Quarter ☾

1927: The ice went out at Dawson, YT, at 11:23 PM—10 days later than the previous year. This year's prize pool amounted to \$300 each at both Whitehorse, YT, and Dawson. The big win, however, was at Fairbanks, AK, where a young man won over \$30,000. Guessing ice breakup times on water bodies is a big part of northern life. **13**

2009: Winds gusting up to 100 km/h wreaked havoc across Quebec. At least 6, 18-wheel tractor-trailers were pushed over on their side. In Ste-Julie, QC, winds uprooted hundreds of trees and left a gazebo and trampoline dangling from power lines. In Alma, QC, fallen trees crossed power lines, igniting a brush fire. In La Tuque, QC, winds blew shingles off a hotel roof and dropped a street light on a home. **14**

1853: A fire driven by a fierce northwest wind raged through the country north of Bytown, ON, along the Ottawa River near the township of Westmeath. It consumed fences, bridges, houses, mills, livestock, and human lives. In the township of Ross, ON, an entire settlement known as the Garden of Eden, was destroyed. Eventually, a heavy rainfall stopped the progress of the fire. **15**

2001: Stormy weather in the Shuswap around Kamloops, BC, caused the drinking water to cloud up, prompting a boil advisory. Storms in the Shuswap caused the runoff of the South Thompson River to be silty, increasing the presence of more water-borne parasites. Officials admitted that the best way to predict if there is a problem in a community's water system is to monitor sales of anti-diarrheal drugs. **16**

1864: Port Pemberton, BC, at the head of Lillooet Lake narrowly escaped a landslide. At about 4 AM inhabitants were startled by a rumbling noise. Rushing outside, they saw a portion of the hill behind the town sliding toward them, bearing rocks, logs, and trees, causing the ground to tremble as in an earthquake. Fortunately, the slide was diverted, filling some 15 m of the upper end of the lake. **17**

1955: Several residents and visitors were held up for an entire week by an ice blockade at Hare Bay in Bonavista Bay, NL, waiting for a routine run to Wesleyville, NL. As soon as the boats left port, the ice moved in again, trapping the passengers. They had nothing in the food lien aboard except the few sandwiches they usually packed for such a journey. **18**

1787: Settlers in present-day southern Ontario faced extreme drought in 1787. Crops failed, livestock died, and there was no food or seed for the coming winter. Wells dried up and forest fires devastated the land. A Quaker wrote in his journal: "The children ate strawberry leaves, birch leaves, and dried flax seed. They leaped for joy at 1 robin being caught and used to make a pot of soup." **19**

2005: Following a heavy downpour, the British press took a swipe at Saskatchewan organizers for that province's leg of Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip's visit. The royal couple travelled in an open-air carriage as the rain fell in sheets. The *London Times* took a real shot saying, "the provincial capital of Regina did its level best to drown her."

20

New Moon ●

1941: As a thunderstorm raged overhead, the House of Commons was plunged into darkness soon after the sitting opened in the afternoon. The official *Hansard* recorder used a flashlight to take notes. After a few minutes of operating in semi-darkness, the Conservative House Leader suggested the House recess until the power was restored. Prime Minister Mackenzie King agreed—there was a 10-minute recess.

21

Victoria Day

1921: Halifax, NS, sweltered in warm muggy weather. At about 10:30 PM, with unprecedented suddenness, a tempest swept over the city. The storm began just as theatres were letting out. Scores of motorcars jammed along curbs, tramcars were held waiting for the theatre crowds, and hundreds sought shelter from the pelting rain in tea rooms and hotel lobbies and under awnings and doorways.

22

1962: A St. Catharines, ON, boy who had walked across the road to talk to a friend was killed when a bolt of lightning streaked down a tree and struck him as he stood at its base. The charge tore his socks and the backs of his shoes off, with one heel still embedded in the ground. Near Brantford, ON, lightning set fire to farm buildings and destroyed livestock, including 400 chicks and 10 piglets.

23

2005: Several wet days delayed seeding across the Maritimes. The ground was cold and damp and the worry was that seed might rot in the ground if it stayed damp. In Prince Edward Island only 25% of spring planting was completed because the fields were still too cold and wet. The emergence of tree leaves and blossoms was 2 weeks behind schedule. Partly cloudy was looking pretty good for most people.

24

1919: The *Cassandra* carrying 400 passengers between Montreal, QC, and Glasgow, Scotland, struck an iceberg 300 km off Cape Race, NL, and had to turn back. Several plates below the waterline on the starboard side were crumpled by the low-lying berg. Passengers were escorted to the deck safely with only slight confusion. On approaching St. John's, NL, the boat was further stopped by heavy all-night fog.

25

2010: In Ottawa, ON, the temperature peaked at 35.8°C, breaking the daily record by about 5°C. Even more spectacular, it was the warmest day ever before the first day of summer. Schools cancelled outdoor activities to protect their students. Ottawa's Medical Officer of Health issued a 2-day heat alert. Paramedics responded to several calls from dehydrated people and patients with asthma and bronchitis.

26

2010: With temperatures hitting 26°C two weeks previous, residents of Calgary, AB, shivered as temperatures fell to their lowest ever at 3°C at the dinner hour and, for the first time in recorded history, it snowed. The foul weather led to the cancellation of a baseball series between the Calgary Vipers and the visiting team from Maui. Ironically, promoters had tagged opening day as "Hawaiian Day."

27

First Quarter ●

1998: A tornado struck Priddis, AB, demolishing a new barn and Quonset and scattering debris over fields 400 m away. The tornado drove splinters of lumber nearly 1 m into the ground. At one farm the twister flipped over a shed but barely shuffled stacks of lumber stored inside, yet it bent steel and snapped other beams like toothpicks. Cows retreated to the bush for safety.

28

GREAT CANADIAN WEATHER QUIZ
If Canadians talked about the weather as much as the British, how many hours a year would we be talking about it?

29

- 1) 3
2) 6
3) 12
4) 20
5) 48

(Answer on inside back cover)

1853: A rush of wind whirled the dust high into the air over Quebec City, QC, and covered the surface of the St. Lawrence with spray and foam. The Norwegian *Norder* foundered at her moorings and sank—6 people drowned. The ferry steamer *St. Pierre*, just a few minutes after landing with 300 passengers, burst her boiler, killing 8 crew members.

30

2010: In northern and central Quebec, an early snowmelt, increased warmth, and lightning activity increased the forest fire risk. Smoke from forest fires blanketed Montreal, QC—the air quality index in one neighbourhood was more than double the record-breaking smog day in 2008. Smoke from the fires drifted 800 km south, prompting complaints about the smell of smoke from several US states.

31

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JUNE 2012

Sunday

Monday

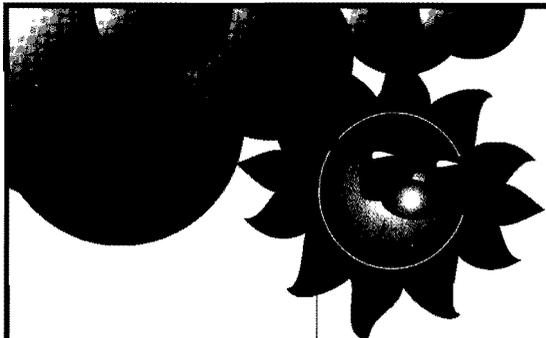
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| | | | | | <p>1920: A thunderstorm raged over Ottawa, DN, dumping a record 39 mm of rain in 20 minutes. Lightning struck a babysitter sitting in front of a stove in a living room, holding an infant on her knee. Both the sitter and child were killed instantly. In another home, a bolt of electricity burned a telephone and the electrical wiring, hail smashed numerous windows, and winds ripped away awnings and trees.</p> | <p>1937: Another drought-related dust storm crossed southern Saskatchewan. People drove their cars in low gear. Some drivers stuck their heads out of their windows to see the side of the road. Drivers passed cars and never saw them. Ditches and roads were the same elevation. It was said that upon arriving home, most passengers and drivers could only be recognized by the gold in their teeth.</p> |
| <p>1923: A vicious summer storm raged across southern Saskatchewan. The winds blew down several cottages and tents at Regina Beach, SK, and covered a huge swath of farm fields with hail and torrential rains. At Belle Plains, lightning killed a railway hand while he sat in the kitchen of the section house. Four fellow workers were untouched.</p> | <p>1908: Rain over 3 days caused the Pincher Creek in Alberta to rise higher than it had in 5 years. The water threatened to wash away the approach to a major bridge. The efforts of 100 citizens saved the town from being cut off from the railroad. They used trees and logs as a breakwater and filled 300,000 bags with sand to hold back waters. One farmer tore down his stables to save several buildings.</p> | <p>1914: Around Chaleur Bay, NB, the worst storm in 50 years beached or swamped 75 schooners. Most wrecked boats were shoved ashore on Miscou Island and Île Lamèque. Surviving craft limped into port, broken and battered by its tremendous waves and each with its tale of miraculous escape from death and disaster. A greater toll of human life occurred from the fleets sailing along the Gaspé Coast.</p> | <p>2010: A thunderstorm tracked through Essex County, ON. The storm featured 4 tornadoes and localized downburst winds. One F1 tornado touched down in Leamington, ON, producing a 7-km-long damage path. Roofs flew off, 2-century-old trees uprooted, and trucks fell on nearby greenhouses. Yet no one was killed or seriously hurt. Damage was over \$100 million in insured losses in Windsor, ON, and the county.</p> | <p>2010: There was something about seeing a snow blower being pushed at 11 PM in June that just did not seem right. So when a Halifax, NS, police officer spotted a man pushing a large snow machine down a street in Dartmouth, NS, he decided to take a closer look. The suspect took off but was caught a short distance away. He was charged with break and entry of a shed and resisting arrest.</p> | <p>1914: During a sermon at the Halifax Church of Assembly in Nova Scotia, a thunderstorm became so loud that the preacher ceased speaking. Hailstones pelling down on an iron portion of the roof made a loud panging noise, drowning out voices. The organist tried to lead the singers in a hymn for sailors, but the organ would not work. Despite the disorder, the congregation kept in splendid humour and voice.</p> | <p>1824: Lightning struck and killed several people, including a military officer standing near the window in the officer's barracks in Quebec City, QC. The electric charge entered through the wall above, descended along the iron portion of the window, entered his body at the back of his ear, and went through the floor. In the Jesuits' barracks, a lightning charge gave every resident a violent shock.</p> |
| <p>1939: A tornado-waterspout swept from Lake Erie across Essex County, ON. A windmill toppled over and 2 brooder houses flipped upside down. Eighty of the 200 chickens inside were burned to death when 1 caught fire. On another farm, a brooder house containing 300 baby chicks travelled 0.5 km, killing only 6 fowl. Most of the chicks landed in a field.</p> | <p>1996: A severe thunderstorm spawned a tornado and violent downburst winds at the old Queensway drive-in theatre near Ottawa, ON. Described as white in colour and cone-shaped, the mini-twister picked up debris, flipped and dragged a storage trailer, and bounced a few cars. Garbage flew everywhere. The twisting winds picked up a trailer holding small engine parts and flipped and dragged it about 5 m.</p> | <p>2007: Southwest of Gimli, MB, heavy winds ripped out the entire west wall of a paint and plating business and yanked trees out by the roots. A supporting wall of the shop was moved 15 cm and the door of the loading dock pushed in. The wind reached a potentially deadly speed of 140 km/h. It also damaged a distillery where it tore the roofs off 5 warehouses, curling their lids back like tin cans.</p> | <p>1895: At about 11 AM, lightning struck the Mackenzie Tower over the West Block of Parliament Hill in Ottawa, ON. Three clerks on the 4th floor were injured slightly. One was thrown below the table from the shock. The other two were covered in plaster from the roof. The current travelled to the basement of the building, where it numbed the chief clerk and left him unconscious for a day.</p> | <p>2010: Excessive rains caused the Testalinden Creek above Oliver, BC, to breach its banks and overflow a dam, unleashing a torrent of mud, rocks, and trees. The debris flow snapped trees and wrecked 5 homes. It also took out orchards and vineyards, and covered roads and highways with a 3-m-deep ooze. The debris flow measured 200,000 m³, making it one of the largest landslides in Canadian history.</p> | <p>1852: Centuries ago, a major cause of death in Canada was not cold or snow but intense heat. One of the highest temperatures ever recorded in Montreal, QC, above 100°F stifled the city. The intense heat overcame a labourer, excavating the ground at the end of St. Antoine Street. He had only arrived from Ireland a few days earlier. Another newly arrived Irish immigrant also succumbed in the torrid heat.</p> | <p>2008: British Columbia residents shivered in record-breaking cold and wet weather. Emerging plants struggled in the inclement weather. Also, crops such as tomatoes, squash, and peppers were at least 10 to 14 days behind. Marijuana growers were also concerned about crop delays. The joke became "What follows May?" "January."</p> |

Full Moon ○

World Environment Day

1923: A farmer west of Wetaskiwin, AB, noticed shingles lifting from the roof of his shack and being tossed randomly about. As he opened the door, the roof lifted away, tumbled quickly by 4 tiers of 8-m-long logs. The mother and 4 children were dragged clear of the huge spinning timbers while almost all of the contents of the house vanished upwards and outwards, to be discovered 1 km away.

17

Father's Day

2010: A slow-moving weather system dumped more than 100 mm of rain over Saskatchewan and Alberta around Maple Creek and Cypress Hills Park. Torrents of water rushed down the streets of Maple Creek, SK, washing into homes piles of muck as high as kitchen counters. The rains washed out 3 lanes of the Trans-Canada Highway. More than 5 months later, the highway opened to 4 lanes after a \$10-million repair.

18

1931: A whirlwind southwest of Coronation, AB, triggered a freak waterspout. It travelled down Sounding Creek for 3 km with its broad mouth touching the ground and its narrow bottom reaching several hundred metres into the air, opposite to the usual formation of waterspouts. It tore through town, leaving the air thick with dust and debris till it reached the creek where it lifted water into the air.

19

New Moon 

2010: Flood waters forced 600 families from their homes in Medicine Hat, AB, following 150 mm of rain in a few days. The South Saskatchewan River swelled—streets were waterlogged. Residents packed up and headed out. A family that stayed behind noticed a train heading in the direction of the washout. Using his red T-shirt, the father waved down the train, stopping it with only 100 m to spare.

20

Summer Solstice 19:09 EDT

1919: According to the RCMP, in the 100-plus years that Mounties have patrolled the Prairies on horseback only 1 Mountie was killed by lightning. The charge hit his revolver, passing through him into the saddle, coming out the horse's body into his spur. His face and hair were blackened and singed but his eyes remained open. A small hole in his left foot showed the charge's entry point.

21

1908: Newlyweds in Toronto, ON, boarded a yacht and set sail for Hamilton, ON, underneath a blue sky. On Lake Ontario, clouds seemed to centre directly over the boat, opening up and drenching the wedding party with torrents of rain. The bride was soaked through her wedding gown to her skin—the dress was ruined. But the party did not turn back, arriving at Hamilton, soaking wet but still very happy.

22

2010: An earthquake measuring 5.0 on the Richter scale shook southern Ontario, and strong but unrelated tornadoes and microbursts blew across the province. Around 6:15 PM, a F2, 300-m-wide tornado ripped through the south end of Midland, ON, tracking for about 25 km. It destroyed 70 vacation trailers, but only 9 residents were injured. Damage from the tornado was valued at \$10–15 million.

23

1937: Following the hottest day of the year, a storm raged over southern Manitoba, injuring 5 people, demolishing 5 buildings, disrupting electric and telephone services, and uprooting trees. Hail 20 cm in diameter damaged the area around Dauphin, MB—crops were flattened and chickens crushed. At Camp Shilo, MB, 4 soldiers eating in the mess hall were injured by flying objects during a sandstorm.

24

St. Jean-Baptiste Day

1899: Rain fell in Yarmouth, NS, in torrents. The lightning was vivid and incessant, and the thunder was one continuous roar. Lightning struck the cornice of one roof and ran down the frame of a window. Two children asleep in a bedroom were stunned, but both escaped injury. A neighbour, so frightened and startled by the blast, died as a result.

25

1952: A storm struck Kempville, ON, pelting the community with hailstones weighing as much as 0.5 lb. each. Not one building in town was spared—almost every pane of glass on windward sides was shattered. Hail broke 1700 panes of glass at the Agricultural College. Every vehicle parked outside suffered a dented fender and/or cracked windshield. In older-model cars, hail went right through the roof.

26

First Quarter 

GREAT CANADIAN WEATHER QUIZ

Aircraft remain at least 32 km from thunderstorms to protect themselves from:

27

- 1) lightning
- 2) hail
- 3) radiation
- 4) heavy rain
- 5) turbulence

(Answer on inside back cover)

2010: Chilly wind and driving rain greeted Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip when the Canadian Forces Airbus touched down in Halifax, NS. But, as if by royal proclamation, the rain ended the moment the royal couple entered the welcoming grounds. Grim-faced spectators, dignitaries, and guardsmen had stood shivering in the wet and cold, waiting for more than an hour on the field below Citadel Hill.

28

2002: After 2 days battling waves and winds, the crew of the *Atlantic Spirit* got a break in the weather in their bid to set a new record for crossing the Atlantic in a rowboat. The British adventurers had left Newfoundland 18 days earlier to break the 55-day, 106-year-long record. Storms had forced them to abandon rowing 3 times. Said one sailor: "[Sometimes] you feel more like praying than eating."

29

1922: A short but fierce lightning and thunderstorm passed over Chipman, AB. A single and close-by thunderclap was probably responsible for the breaking of numerous windows at a farmhouse. Further evidence of lightning was a smoky odour in every room. The sole occupant of the house said the concussion of air also crashed in the kitchen door and created large gaping cracks in the walls of several rooms.

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JULY 2012

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

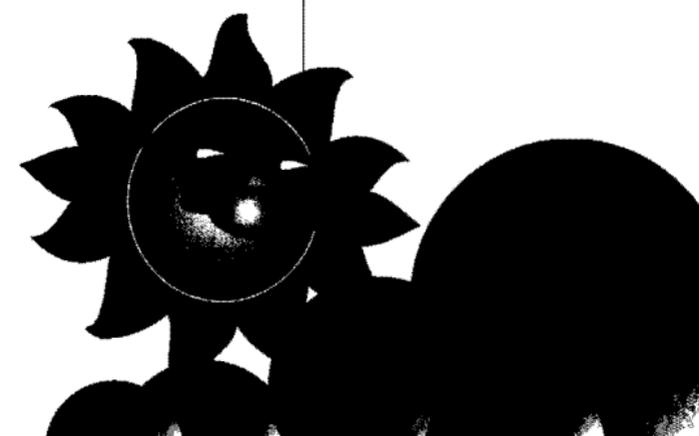
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| <p>2010: Yorkton, SK, residents celebrated Canada Day by holding back floodwaters caused by a deluge of 125 mm. Water was running through homes and apartments in 5 blocks in the low-lying city core. Water filled basements to the rafters and started flowing upstairs. About 20% of the dwellings suffered some water damage (\$14 million insured damage) in what was one of the worst floods in the city's history.</p> <p>Canada Day</p> | <p>2010: A tornado hit the Kawacatoose First Nation reserve near Raymore, SK. There were golf-ball-sized hail, heavy rains, and winds over 250 km/h. The F3 tornado lifted one home off its foundation and dropped it on the road like a pile of sticks (less than 5% of tornadoes are F3 or higher). No one was seriously hurt, but 3 months later families were still living in temporary trailers waiting relocation.</p> <p>Nunavut Day</p> | <p>1908: A farmer living south of Daysland, AB, escaped instant death from lightning. One bolt seemed to pass down his spine and another down his chest and legs to his ankles. The horse he was on was killed instantly. A woman was so dazed she knew nothing for a few minutes, but kept from falling by holding onto the steel horn of her saddle. She suffered considerable burns to her body closest to the saddle.</p> <p>Full Moon ☉</p> | <p>1897: The whaler <i>Diana</i>, on an expedition to survey and explore Hudson Strait and Hudson Bay, got caught in heavy pack ice. It ripped the ship's sides and broke her rudder, yet the ship continued on for 4 days. The crew, fearing she would sink, placed provisions in lifeboats on the ice, planning to make their way toward land. When the ice opened up, the ship escaped a heavy squeeze and was not leaking.</p> | <p>2010: For the first time in 3 years, Toronto, ON, saw a string of 4 scorching hot days above 32°C, with humidex readings above 40. At 5 PM the overworked downtown electrical grid was hit by a power outage. The outage plunged the Royal York Hotel, where the Queen and Prince Philip were to attend a dinner, into darkness. Full power was restored to the hotel just before a receiving line began at 7 PM.</p> <p>00:00 EDT Aphelion</p> | <p>2010: A violent wind, likely a dust devil, touched down north of Kamloops, BC. Apparently, it came from the calmest of blue skies. Unlike twisters, which extend down from a stormy sky, dust devils start from the ground and emerge during warm, dry, sunny weather into a twister-like vortex of wind. The force tore away a sheet of aluminum up and over a house, slamming it down on the front lawn.</p> | <p>1928: A howling wind of near-tornado velocity blew into Sault St. Marie, ON. It picked up a bonfire burning in a vacant lot and whisked it into the air as if it was a wisp of straw. Alarmed citizens stood aghast at seeing floating fires and contented themselves with dousing the roots of threatened buildings until rain came. It became so dark that motorists had to light their automobile lamps.</p> |
| <p>2010: During the 5th day of a heat wave, Ottawa, ON, paramedics dealt with 15% more calls than usual, particularly chronic respiratory or cardiac problems. Sentries from the Ceremonial Guard at Rideau Hall and the National War Memorial were called off duty because of the heat. The ultraviolet (UV) index reached a scorching level of 11. Rarely has it been this high since the index was created in 1992.</p> | <p>2005: Demonstrations at the Canadian Olympic trampoline competitions were called off because of a downpour in Kingston, ON. Over 15 mm of rain over the weekend made it too dangerous to perform double flips and twists. Morning rain showers deterred many residents from checking out the event, which also raises money for youth programs. Total attendance was less than half that of the year before.</p> <p>Nunavut Day</p> | <p>1934: A wind and hailstorm wiped out crops in a large section of central and northern Saskatchewan. Buildings were bowled over and flocks of poultry were killed. At Unity, an F2 or F3 tornado ripped off the school roof and blew away a granary. At Senlac, golf-ball-sized hail stoned fowl to death and caused several runaways. The gale levelled the skating rink, barns, and outhouses.</p> <p>Last Quarter ☾</p> | <p>1997: Mudslides and flood waters damaged homes and vacation resorts in BC's northern Okanagan Valley. About 30 tourists were helicoptered out after a road washout left them stranded. Campgrounds were left a shambles with all sorts of logjams and mounds of silt and gravel from clogged streams and overwhelmed culverts. One camper honked his car horn to warn campers of the coming wall of water and logs.</p> | <p>2010: A fierce, mid-afternoon, 30-minute storm pelted Calgary, AB, with large hail balls—some baseball-sized—along with heavy rain and winds. The noisy storm shattered glass, mangled outdoor furniture and storage sheds, and stripped trees. Pedestrians ran for cover as hail bounced 1 m off the ground. Canadian insurers said it was the costliest hailier in Canadian history at \$400 million.</p> | <p>1870: A brief but terrific thunderstorm swept across Montreal, QC. The wind blew a "perfect" hurricane, and rain and hail came in huge sheets that roared and loamed. Branches on large poplar trees snapped like twigs. At least 50 homes had their windows blown in or roofs carried away. At Lachine, QC, a train was set in motion by the wind, and a man walking along the track was run over and killed.</p> | <p>GREAT CANADIAN WEATHER QUIZ</p> <p>What is the best sunblock to protect skin from ultraviolet rays?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) moisturizing cream 2) whipping cream 3) diaper cream 4) cold cream 5) sour cream <p>(Answer on inside back cover)</p> |
| <p>1905: A cyclone said to be Winnipeg, MB's worst swept through the city at around midnight. The high brick wall of a manufacturing company crashed down on 2 adjoining houses, killing 4 and seriously wounding 6 others. The crash could be heard for blocks around, and the adjoining frame cottage was crushed like matchwood. The storm lapped everything in its path and flung pedestrians to the ground.</p> | <p>1985: Campers and tourists in the Rocky Mountains faced 10–20 cm of snow from a freak storm. A 70-km stretch of the Icefields Parkway, AB, was closed to traffic until it was cleared. Due to the storm, the Queen Mother had to make a stopover at the armed forces base at Cold Lake en route to Edmonton, AB. She had tea and sandwiches in the officers' mess but had to cancel her Edmonton reception.</p> | <p>2010: Lightning struck a Montreal, QC, couple while they took shelter under a tree during a downpour. They had been waiting to watch a fireworks festival. The woman suffered severe internal burns, the man cardiac arrest. Meanwhile, residents of Saint-Lazare, QC, were hit by a weak tornado, whose winds barely made it to 120 km/h. The rains and winds also toppled trees in St. Eustache and Sherbrooke, QC.</p> | <p>1924: While discussing an accident that had just occurred at Sheet Harbour, NS, where 3 men had been slightly injured by a bolt of lightning, a 50-year-old man from Truro, NS, was struck by lightning and killed instantly.</p> | <p>1874: A thunderstorm broke suddenly over Ottawa, ON, and for over 1 h there was scarcely a moment's intermission between the crashes of thunder and flashes of lightning. In a home in Hull, ON, the fierce winds pulled the doors off and smashed clocks and furniture. Several people became "insensible" through fright, shrieking and running about the streets, but no serious casualties occurred.</p> | <p>1968: A tornado emerged east of Pilot Mound, MB, causing extensive damage, particularly at the La Riviere resort. However, only 3 people were injured when winds lifted a car from the road and flipped it into a ditch. At a nearby camping area, a number of converted railway cars being used as cottages were damaged. Two of them, weighing about 28 t each, landed 20 m away in splinters.</p> | <p>2006: About 60 mm of rain from Tropical Storm Beryl soaked southern New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. The storm was not wet enough to stop an international sailing competition on St. Margaret's Bay—the racers actually enjoyed the winds. It also blew 3100 cruise-ship passengers into Saint John. One passenger said she picked a northern cruise to avoid tropical storms but the storm came north to chase her.</p> |

| | | | New Moon ● | | First Day of Ramadan | |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| <p>2010: Twillingate, NL, dubs itself the iceberg capital of the world. 22 However, this year only one berg sailed by. The iceberg drought was attributed to storms farther north that pushed icebergs toward land. There, they ran aground until they melted enough to float free. Now smaller and moving south later in the year, these bergs were more likely to fall prey to warmer water.</p> | <p>1907: The worst tornado and hailstorm in years passed between Cowansville and Dunham, QC. The winds tore up full-grown maple trees, leaving rooted pieces standing like pipe stems. Hailstones broke windows and ripped corn, potatoes, and grains into shreds. Under barn eaves, hailstone piles lay 8 cm deep. In another incident, lightning shattered a saw hanging in a building and splintered a neck yoke. 23</p> | <p>2007: It was too hot to trot at Winnipeg, MB's Assiniboia Downs. 24 Temperatures soared to a near-record 34°C. Combined with humidity (humidex of 43), it was deemed in the best interests of the horses, as well as the humans who worked with them, to cancel the race card. In the past, races had been cancelled because of strong winds and severe wind chills but it had never been too hot before.</p> | <p>2010: A large funnel cloud was spotted outside Yellowknife, NT, toward Long Lake. 25 People were amazed, although funnel clouds are not rare around Yellowknife, occurring on average once every 3 years. The funnel spooked some competitors at the NT territorial championship beach volleyball tournament. Rain made the ball heavier and sandier, making for a very interesting game.</p> | <p>1945: A freak burst of weather struck Rouyn-Noranda, QC. The fierce thunderstorm killed 5 people and inflicted huge property losses. Stores were almost bereft of plate glass and nearly every utility pole was knocked over. Entire communication systems went down. Damage to the Noranda copper and gold mines was so extensive, including the demolishing of a crusher, that the mines closed. 26</p> | <p>1953: A freakish high wind that dropped out of the sky for one quick pass wrecked farm buildings near Tuxford, SK. 27 The storm scattered tonnes of hay over the countryside and picked up the top of a windmill. North of Estevan, SK, winds switched directions. At the entrance to a local grandstand, winds overturned a ticket booth and shifted the concession building several metres.</p> | <p>1928: A hail and wind storm cut a swath 3 km wide and 80 km long through the farming country south of Ottawa, ON. 28 Hail covered the ground to a depth of 20 cm, and some of the stones were as large as hen's eggs. Rows of stately sugar maple trees toppled over before the blast like ninepins. A truck loaded with hay was caught by the first rush of wind and blown a distance of 30 m and upset.</p> |
| <p>1892: A cloudburst over Ottawa, ON, developed into a cyclone when it reached Templeton Township, QC. 29 Elm trees 60 cm, and pine trees 1 m, in diameter were snapped in two. A farm wife, whose husband was killed when their farmhouse collapsed on him in a storm a month earlier, suffered again. Friends had just completed the erection of new buildings. The latest storm wrecked them completely.</p> | <p>1906: Without warning, a blinding flash of lightning and simultaneous crash of thunder struck Calgary, AB. 30 So unexpected was the blast that people were appalled by the force of it. Nervous residents believed that something very alarming had or was about to happen. There were many who had startled visions of a San Francisco-like earthquake. Several people dressed hurriedly and rushed into the streets.</p> | <p>1954: The summer's worst thunderstorm gave unexpected support to the Shakespearean festival offering of <i>Oedipus Rex</i> in Stratford, ON. 31 At the height of the drama, lightning struck near the large outdoor tent to emphasize the tragedy being enacted inside. Of the 2000 spectators, those with umbrellas opened them as water seeped through the tent and trickled down the aisles.</p> | | <p>First Quarter ●</p> | |  |

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AUGUST 2012

Sunday

Monday

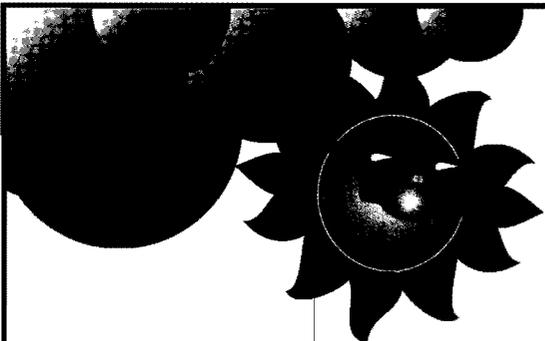
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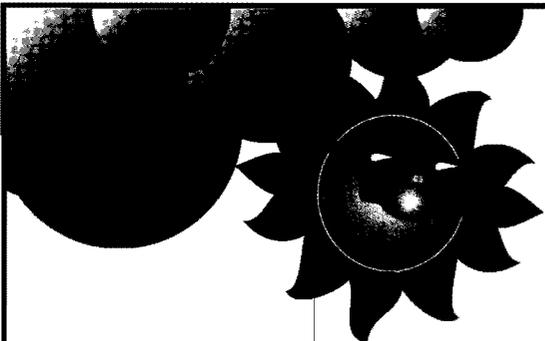
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Saturday



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|---|--|--|---|---|---|---|
|  | | | <p>1924: A severe tornado ripped through Skiff, AB. When it was over, crops were gone and grass lifted up. The twister flipped a row of coupled railcars into the air, then dropped and smashed them to pieces. All of their bedding and washing ended up in nearby sloughs. South of Hudson, AB, residents picked up fish that had been carried there after being sucked out of Chin Lake, AB, 20 km away.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1</p> | <p>1937: One of the worst storms in 50 years, featuring strong winds, dazzling lightning, thunder, and a heavy downpour, hit central sections of Manitoba, halting harvesting. At Margaret and Brandon, cyclonic winds flattened grain fields, destroyed sheds and barns, and toppled windmills. At Boissevain, heavy rains ended the oppressive heat. At Souris, 70 mm of rain fell in 35 minutes.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">2</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Full Moon ☉</p> | <p>1916: A tornado levelled crops and destroyed several large barns near Wynyard, SK. One farmer was caught under the barn when a huge beam fell on his chest. Neighbours rescued him, but the local doctor pronounced him dead. His obituary appeared in the next issue of the local newspaper. However, 13 hours later, he regained consciousness and eventually lived to be almost 80 years old.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">3</p> | <p>1895: A brief but intense storm hit near Bridgeport, NS. The winds snapped large elms and other trees, leaving stumps looking like pipe stems. It blew over chimneys, broke windows, levelled fences, and wrecked stone walls. Winds tore apart barns and stables containing large quantities of hay. Under tonnes of hay were buried several cows. Winds also drove a 2-m-long piece of lumber 1 m into the ground.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">4</p> |
| <p>1975: A freak twister struck a gondola-lift cable car, sending it crashing 30 m to the ground on Alberta's Sulphur Mountain. Fortunately, the car was unoccupied. The spectacular crash broke 2 of the car's 5 windows and dented its body. The accident suspended lift operations for an hour and a half, but it did not upset the 6 passengers travelling on other cars when the crash occurred.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">5</p> | <p>2010: Warm weather triggered a late melting of snow and ice on the Capricorn Glacier on Mount Meager above Pemberton, BC. A massive landslide barrelled down the mountainside near a campground north of the city, trapping campers and prompting an evacuation by helicopter. About 40 million cubic metres of rock, mud, snow, and debris blocked access to the main road in one of Canada's largest slides.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">6</p> <p>Civic Holiday</p> | <p>1907: At Brookbury, QC, a bolt of lightning passed down a house chimney. One current travelled down the stairs and out the front door, burning a groove in the floor. A woman stood with her hand on a doorknob when the lightning hit. It tore her shoes and stockings to shreds, leaving only the rubber soles of her shoes on her badly burned feet.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">7</p> | <p>1955: During an intense thunderstorm, the greatest mock war games in Canadian history got underway for 7 days at a military camp about 50 km from Saint John, NB. Lightning lit up the sky like a shell flash. Rain hit steel helmets and the long barrels of Centurion tanks. Infantry toiled through the storm, digging trenches and weapon pits in the saturated soil, cursing as footsloggers always do.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">8</p> | <p>1950: Incredulous vacationers rubbed their eyes when they saw patches of "snow" and puddles along Highway 11 near Orillia, ON. Just moments earlier, they had sweated in 27°C heat and oppressive humidity. "Impossible," said weather experts. Eyewitnesses countered that it looked like snow and felt like snow. Technically, it was a deposit of tiny hail particles.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">9</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Last Quarter ☾</p> | <p>2004: A F1 tornado touched down in Burnstown, ON, 70 km west of Ottawa. In woodlands, the strong winds uprooted or snapped trees in half. One parent was trying to get her children over their fear of storms when winds with speeds of 180 km/h ripped out towering maple trees as if they were carrots and tossed them across the yard. The kids were absolutely terrified and hysterical.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">10</p> | <p>1856: An intense hailstorm occurred at New Ireland and Somerset in Quebec. The hailstones were as large as hen's eggs and completely covered the ground. The next day a witness reported a mass of frozen hail 30 cm in diameter. Shattered glass was everywhere. Grain and garden stuffs were completely flattened. Hailstones hit with such a force that they pierced large pumpkins right through 2 sides.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">11</p> |
| <p>1923: The worst thunderstorm of the season passed over Halifax, NS. With one blinding flash of lightning, the entire city was plunged into darkness. While the storm was not continuous, the electrical display was exceedingly vivid. At times the entire city appeared to be illuminated by a single flash only to plunge into inky blackness.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">12</p> | <p>GREAT CANADIAN WEATHER QUIZ</p> <p>13</p> <p>When travelling on an airplane, when is the most dangerous time for lightning to occur?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) take-off 2) landing 3) flying through a cloud 4) deplaning 5) flying above the clouds <p><i>(Answer on inside back cover)</i></p> | <p>2002: A heat wave gripped the Maritimes, producing record high temperatures some 8-10 degrees warmer than normal. Searing sun and stifling smog made life unbearable for most residents. It was nearly impossible to find an air conditioner or fan for sale. Nine soldiers on an infantry course near Petersville, NB, fell ill to heat-related illness—3 had to be airlifted to hospital in Fredericton, NB.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">14</p> | <p>1897: Stormy weather over Toronto, ON, halted Sunday services momentarily at Blue Street Baptist Church. Lightning-induced electricity came down the wires and performed a brilliant gallop over the keys of the organ. The organist was startled and a lady in the choir screamed. A quick-thinking gentleman in the front row told the organist to turn off the power in the electric motor.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">15</p> | <p>2004: Yorkton, SK, was hit by a major windstorm that snapped mature trees, knocked out power, and sent shingles and patio umbrellas flying about. Air sucked out of houses actually galloped out windows. Following the storm, about 50 trees lay damaged. One tree fell across a vehicle. The storm collapsed a dugout in the Yorkton ballpark and moved another one off its base.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">16</p> | <p>2001: In Alberta, freak winds of 100 km/h, aided by a massive forest fire in Kootenay National Park, BC, swept through Calgary, AB, like a tornado, but it was more likely a microburst (straight-line winds of 110 km/h but without the twist). Winds lifted a large metal-framed tent over a set of train tracks. The winds also blew through a bedding factory, tossing mattresses into the air.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">17</p> | <p>2004: Fierce weather occurred during Exercise Narwhal, a Canadian military operation in the Arctic. Visibility dropped under 50 m in thick fog, and winds topped 100 km/h. Two soldiers sent out to install communications equipment walked blindly about for 3 hours without any survival gear. They sought shelter in a cave used by polar bears and interlaced their legs to stay warm while awaiting rescue.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">18</p> |

2010: Clouds of smoke from British Columbia forest fires stained the air from Vancouver, BC, to northern Ontario, reducing visibility and sparking province-wide air quality advisories. It was the first time on record that Saskatchewan issued a health advisory because of forest fires in British Columbia. In Calgary, AB, air pollution soared to concentrations not seen in 7 years.

19

1911: Six tornadoes struck near the Manitoba–North Dakota boundary. At least 2 twisters were border-crossing events, one of which killed 5 people near Antler, ND. When dark clouds appeared in Pierson, MB, hens, thinking it was night, rushed into the barn and when the barn went, they went with it. Survivors were defeathered and came back looking for the barn.

20

Discovery Day (YT)

1962: During a fierce storm, 3 men were thrown into Lake Simcoe, ON, after their sailboat capsized. A 10-year-old boy launched the family's small outboard motorboat. He butted his way 300 m out on the lake against 40 km/h winds to reach the men. He took 2 into his boat, then made his way back to shore while the third man swam near the boat. All were blue with cold. Their boat later floated to shore.

21

2010: A raging torrent of water rushed through several remote communities on Cape Breton Island, NS, cutting road links to the outside. At Ingonish Beach, NS, 112.6 mm of rain fell over a 2-day period. In Meat Cove, NS, flood waters damaged homes, 4 bridges, a large culvert, and long stretches of road. Damage estimates from the flash flood exceeded \$7 million.

22

2000: Guelph, ON, police apologized to a woman after a 911 dispatcher dismissed her call to report seeing a funnel cloud, a "near-tornado," forming over the downtown area. The dispatcher should have reported the incident and a police officer should have been sent to track the cloud. Dispatchers were given new directions on how to handle such calls and a severe weather handbook from Environment Canada.

23

2010: A summer storm over northeast Manitoba brought record rainfall to Churchill—110 mm in 24 hours, making it the wettest day in the town's history. The weather grounded Prime Minister Stephen Harper's jet in Churchill. He said: "We live in a magnificent country with a challenging climate. It might hold us back at the airport, but it doesn't hold us back in building this great country."

24

First Quarter 

2010: A large section of the Petermann Glacier continued moving slowly out of its fjord in the northwestern corner of Greenland. The calved portion measured approximately 280 km². A month later, it broke into 2 large pieces as it headed south. By early October, the 2 ice islands entered Baffin Bay and continued to break into small pieces posing a hazard to navigation—especially in shallow waters.

25

2010: Residents of Charlottetown, PE, were drying out after a major dump of rain from a slow-moving storm. Nearly 95 mm fell on the island capital, closing 9 streets and leaving many yards and basements flooded. Flooding occurred in areas never known to have flooded before. Work crews spent nearly 10 hours clearing debris from storm sewers.

26

1991: The worst ice conditions in years prevented resupply ships from travelling to northern Labrador coastal communities. Residents faced a sea of pack ice. Fishermen could not venture out and fish plants sat idle. Construction halted because building materials could not get through. Fuel was also in short supply. The Newfoundland government started flying in basic necessities such as milk and fruit.

27

1916: A wind-rain-hail mix struck around Melville, SK. A farmer from Zeneta, SK, had his barn walls collapse around him. When he came to, he was lying 300 m from the barn. He got to a fence and dragged himself home. In town, the wind took out hundreds of windows and overturned buildings. It carried along with it clouds of dust that obliterated the bright afternoon sun—everything became inky black.

28

1921: Ottawa, ON, was at the centre of a storm with one of the heaviest downpours ever to hit the city. Water filled cellars and blocked sewers. It filled the basement and main floor of the Ottawa Tobacco Manufacturing Company, soaking \$3000 worth of tobacco. People in Britannia and Aylmer, ON, and other outlying places were astonished when told of the storm because no rain fell outside the downtown.

29

1980: Lightning struck a Scarborough, ON, man while he stood in front of his basement apartment kitchen sink. The electricity travelled through his feet and hands. A bright flash in the sink hurled him 1 m into the air, but the only thing damaged was his watch, stopping at 11:50 AM. The victim received a nasty shock, felt dizzy, but was unhurt.

30

2010: August is historically the driest month in Vancouver, BC, with an average precipitation of 39.1 mm. This day was the wettest summer day in the city's history. More than 55 mm of rain was recorded at the airport, eclipsing the old mark of 39.4 mm. The downpour was due to a frontal system more typical of fall or winter. It was good news for firefighters battling forest fires around the province.

31

Full Moon 

1 2 3 4
5 6 7 8 9 10 11
12 13 14 15 16 17 18
19 20 21 22 23 24 25
26 27 28 29 30 31

SEPTEMBER 2012

1 2 3 4 5 6
7 8 9 10 11 12 13
14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25 26 27
28 29 30 31

Sunday

Monday

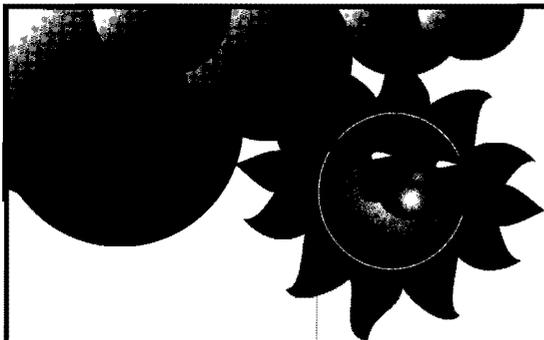
Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



1953: In Toronto, ON, it reached 100°F (37°C) for the first time ever in September. The weather office closed an hour early because it was “too hot to work.” A housewife remembered she had bought a dozen eggs 2 days earlier and had left them in the back of her car—when she found them, they were hard-boiled. At a dog show, contestants were given sponge baths and ice packs.

2

1921: A torrential downpour broke over Toronto, ON. At the Canadian National Exhibition, 60,000 unprepared people rushed for shelter in buildings and under tents, awnings, and porches. Cement roads became rivers and grassy spaces small lakes. The big electric tower near the grandstand looked like a lighthouse. Generally, the soaked crowd laughed and shared several good-natured remarks.

3

Labour Day

1962: After encountering fierce winds, bitter cold, a freak rainstorm, and dense fog, the 50-man scientific party mapping Canada’s polar continental shelf successfully, safely, and on schedule concluded the project’s first full season in the far North. At one point in early March, the temperature dropped to -45°C. Polar bears also plagued the scientists. One beast charged a group far out on the sea ice.

9

1830: Heavy rains raised the water level in the Annapolis River in Nova Scotia to a height higher than it had been for nearly 40 years. Waters inundated and waterlogged intervals lands planted with corn and potatoes to a depth of 3 m. Damage extended for 70 km along the river. Flood waters swept away tonnes of hay and grain, and washed away fertile soils, fences, and bridges.

10

2010: Early in the day, Hurricane Earl made landfall west of Halifax, NS, as a low Category 1 hurricane with sustained winds of 119 km/h. Wind gusts reached 120 km/h and rainfall approached 50 mm. Earl also generated peak waves of 25 m west of the Scotian Slope, NS. The storm pulled boats from their moorings, and dashed smaller boats against the rocks. One man died and 220,000 were without power.

4

1895: Gale-force winds rose up on the eastern end of Lake Ontario, ON, lifting the water as high as the steamer *America*. Water rushed through her windows as she rolled and rocked. Passengers panicked as anything movable was swept into the lake. In Kingston, ON, people worried about the steamer. As she came around the foot of Wolfe Island in sight of the wharf, a joyful cheer went up from the crowd.

11

1907: During a violent afternoon storm at Ste. Anne de Bellevue, QC, lightning struck the immense barns at Macdonald Agricultural College. The ensuing fire destroyed several buildings and practically the entire fodder crop. The fire spread quickly to the adjoining stables and piggery, but none of the 40 head of valuable cattle, 14 horses, and 20 pigs were harmed.

5

1920: Dismal weather conditions heralded the opening of the Central Canada Exhibition in Ottawa, ON. The fair opened with fog and a severe thunderstorm with vivid lightning. Wind-driven rain came down—25 mm over 2 days. Outside Hull, QC, and Ottawa in low-lying places, roads became impassible quagmires. Inside the city, streets became shallow streams and streetcar service and electric power were lost.

12

1872: London, ON, residents woke in a trembling sweat as rains fell in torrents, winds roared, and thunder claps followed vivid flashes of lightning. One lightning bolt struck the peak of the roof of the Roman Catholic Church, tearing a gaping hole and tossing shingles in every direction. The current tore the joists apart and entered the iron gas fixtures, passing through the pipes into the basement.

6

1903: A storm, described as the worst ever in September, brought heavy rain to Winnipeg, MB. But it suddenly turned to ice pellets and snow, developing into one of the liveliest September blizzards on record. Telegraph and telephone poles came down in every direction, 300 around Carberry, MB, alone. Snow-flattened wheat was a total loss. Everybody felt depressed over what it meant for the season ahead.

13

1985: Around the supper hour near Perth in eastern Ontario, a tornado destroyed several boats moored on Big Rideau Lake. On one houseboat, 6 people were plying the waters when the tornado hit and rolled the craft over several times. All occupants but one survived and were pulled out by local cottagers.

7

1977: Tobacco and grain fields in Prince Edward Island suffered extensive damage during a wind and rainstorm. All too common were scenes of tobacco leaves and downed fences covering the ground. Bruised leaves could not be cured in kilns and were eventually thrown out. Wind gusts exceeded 100 km/h. September rains amounted to 155 mm or 63% above normal, following a very wet growing season.

14

1944: A couple from Saskatoon, SK, was sitting in the living room when ball lightning entered it. It followed the molding along the ceiling and went down one wall between 2 pictures. It ran along the back of the chesterfield, setting it on fire, before entering the kitchen, burning a path in the floor. It exited the back door and exploded. Dazed, the couple carried out the burning chesterfield.

1

GREAT CANADIAN WEATHER QUIZ

Up until 1938, what word was publicly banned from being mentioned in weather forecasts?

8

- 1) wind chill
- 2) guarantee
- 3) dew point
- 4) tornado
- 5) Alberta Clipper

(Answer on inside back cover)

Last Quarter ☾

1749: Summer weather created much to eat across Prince Edward Island. Consequently, it was overcome by millions of field mice. After destroying crops and as the weather cooled, they died in the thousands, on land and sea. The smell of their decay permeated everywhere. Codfish caught off the coast had mice carcasses in their stomachs. (Adapted from Dan Soucoup, the *Moncton Times and Transcript*, 2004.)

15

1922: A severe lightning bolt struck the roof and upper storey of a home near Annapolis Royal, NS. The explosion broke all but one window and tore away the plaster. The charge burned out the stove and sent the threshold of the kitchen door into the ceiling above it with such force it became embedded there. A dog lying in front of the stove was killed, but a boy sitting 1 m away was unhurt.

16

Rosh Hashanah

2005: A good portion of Nova Scotia's mainland was soaked with 100 mm of rain and 90 km/h winds from Tropical Storm Ophelia as she weakened in the colder waters of the North Atlantic. In Prince Edward Island, rain drenched the exhibition grounds, prompting officials to cancel the ATV pulls. Residents, remembering Tropical Storm Juan, stocked up on bottled water, propane canisters, and flashlights.

17

1998: One of the most intense hail-wind-rain mixes in years crossed Hastings, ON, at 3 PM. Hailstones varied in size from a cherry to a hen's egg. Nearly every window on the north side of town was broken. Lightning struck and instantly killed a valuable mare owned by a veterinarian at the Rideau Stock Farm. The tree to which she was attached smashed into splinters.

18

2005: Parents at 5 rural schools outside London, ON, were furious their kids missed classes after heavy morning fog forced the schools to close. Under the policy, the schools do not open to pupils when bus runs are cancelled. Some working parents said that made no sense, especially when teachers were there. Further, they argued fog does not last all day, unlike extreme weather such as snow.

19

1910: Two weeks of rain made the ground near the Porcupine region of Ontario so soft that travelling was arduous—prospectors reported the trail was “knee deep.” Said one grubstaker: “The weather is not to be complimented with any pleasant phrases, and I am afraid that from the character of talk I heard from prospectors that some of them on the day of judgment will need to wear asbestos suits.”

20

2010: Hurricane Igor ripped across eastern Newfoundland and forced 22 flooded and wind-battered towns to declare states of emergency. Over 150 communities became isolated when rivers washed away roads and bridges. The Canadian military moved in to help with 1000 soldiers and military engineers, plus Sea King helicopters. Igor was a destroyer—the worst in a province famous for its storms.

21

1934: A 100 km/h gale, one of the worst Squamish storms in the history of Horseshoe Bay, BC, struck. Nine lives were lost. Leaving Point Atkinson for a short row, 2 girls were blown up Howe Sound. Facing exhaustion, they made a landing on Gambier Island, where they were marooned for 3 days. A deserted shack gave the girls shelter, and some carrots in the garden provided them with food.

22

Autumnal Equinox 10:49 EDT

First Quarter 

1956: A bolt of lightning blasted an electric food mixer 8 m from the kitchen to the living room in a Scarborough, ON, house before starting a small fire in the kitchen. Nobody was injured.

23

30 **1920:** A storm with 70 km/h gusts struck Quebec City, QC, and area. The fire threatened to destroy a nearby convent, populated by 134 children and 100 nuns. The children left the burning building without any panic.

2001: Nova Scotia pumpkin growers were anticipating record-breaking specimens. However, summer's lack of rain made it the 3rd driest in 63 recorded years. This stressed the pumpkins. One 450-kg pumpkin looked like a real winner for the Windsor-West Hants Pumpkin Festival. Sadly, it cracked and split a few days earlier under its own weight. Had the weather not been so dry and hot, it might have held on.

24

2010: On Vancouver Island, BC, downpours led to flooding. Port Hardy, BC, received 282 mm in September, breaking its previous record of 260.4 mm in 1968. About one-third of the rain fell over a 12-hour span on the September 24. At Port Alice, BC, the deluge generated a massive wall of mud and debris that roared down a mountain, blocking access to part of the village and the local pulp mill.

25

1898: A tornado spun through St. Catharines and Merriton, ON. Trees were tossed everywhere. Roadways were rendered impassable. Plank sidewalks were lifted up on one end. Trolley lines and fixtures were twisted out of shape and wire fences were levelled. The tornado hurled houses over 100 m, and in one case there was not a stick of timber left to tell where the house once stood.

26

Yom Kippur 

1921: A northeast gale swept the eastern side of Newfoundland, inflicting extensive damage to roads and public property. One person overland died from electrocution, but there was a great loss of life at sea. At Conception Bay, NL, 12 men were marooned for 3 days without food on Kelly's Island when the sea rose suddenly.

27

1941: During a rainstorm over Blackie, AB, black beetles, some 7 cm long, descended from the sky and began crawling everywhere. A local scientist identified the creatures as giant water beetles, capable of devouring frogs. He explained that a sudden change of temperature can create a vortex like a whirlwind that, if over water, sucks up the water and its contents (creatures too) into the air.

28

1908: One of the worst storms in months raged for days along the northern British Columbia coast. There were heavy rains (263 mm over 5 days), hail, and winds. In Prince Rupert harbour, 3 Canadian government steamships had a hard time holding their anchorage against the gale. Contractors could not keep rail gangs on the job. Over 300 mm of rain fell in September, idling workers for half the time.

29

Full Moon 

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30

OCTOBER 2012

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18 19 20 21 22 23 24
25 26 27 28 29 30

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

1981: Old Man Winter hammered parts of northern and central Ontario, dumping up to 30 cm of snow. Records for low daily high temperature were barely above freezing at Timmins, Sudbury, North Bay, and Ottawa, ON. The storm tied up traffic, cut telephone services for a day or two, and downed trees. Blizzard conditions made roads west of Thunder Bay, ON, barely passable.

1

1925: One of the worst thunderstorms ever struck southern Ontario with heavy rains overloading sewers and flooding cellars. It had a terrifying effect as darkness prevailed, similar to a solar eclipse. Gas and oil lamps and candles were used during power interruptions. Without lights, it was impossible for people in the same room to see one another. Chickens went to roost at noon hour.

2

2004: Winds in Winnipeg, MB, reached sustained speeds of 50 km/h while the strongest gusts exceeded 70. A resident in the St. James neighbourhood was standing just metres from his home when a gust of wind uprooted a 60-year-old tree in his backyard and pushed it on his roof. He had been thinking about pruning the tree and stepped outside to investigate when he noticed a fallen branch.

3

1990: A freak storm raced across the lower Great Lakes at 100 km/h. Its winds ripped holes in roofs and caused power outages across parts of Metro Toronto, ON, and elsewhere in southern Ontario. Trees with limbs the size of one's body fell on tops of cars and lay across live wires, starting fires in transformers. Winds in Peterborough, ON, reached 130 km/h, plunging parts of the city into darkness.

4

1978: A mini-tornado appeared to have struck the Niagara, ON, peninsula, bringing damaging high winds and rain. A Welland, ON, city parks official said it was not raining, but you could see water and leaves inside a funnel cloud, twisting above the middle of the highway. He wondered if he should drive through it. He did and it buffeted his van. On one street, winds tossed limbs from trees onto vehicles and homes.

5

1920: The worst tempest in many years struck western Nova Scotia. For over 4 hours the air was blue, the skies were continually ablaze with the fiercest lightning, and the peals of thunder were frightening. Several barns at Arcadia and Deertield, NS, were struck and set on fire, leading to their total destruction, as well as the loss of several head of cattle.

6

1919: Heralded by terrific winds from the northwest, winter swept across central and southern Alberta. Temperatures plunged from summer to winter readings in just a few hours, from 23° to 6° to -4°C. Snow drifts were huge along fences and in the depressions of hills. Most trains entering Lethbridge, AB, were 30 minutes late, owing to the strong cold winds.

7

1895: The report that an earthquake had occurred in Newfoundland proved untrue. Instead, a heavy hailstorm had triggered an earth-shaking landslide, blocking railroads and destroying a few bridges.

8

2010: Ninety-six of the world's best surfers got the day off when stormy weather forced the cancellation of the first leg of competition at the O'Neill Cold Water Classic in Tofino, BC. When the event got underway the next day, surfers paddled into waves upwards of 2 m tall, while they were at times pelted by as much as 30 mm of rain and buffeted by strong offshore winds.

9

2009: An Arctic air mass engulfed the Prairies—it was the coldest Thanksgiving weekend in 50 years. Banff, AB, set a new record at -21.6°C on Thanksgiving Day. Calgary, AB, did too, with -16.3°C. Snowfall across the Prairies totalled 10–40 cm, making it dangerous to drive. Crashes are usually 10 times the usual number during first winter storms—even Canadians forget how to drive in such conditions.

10

2006: The day that Ontario schools staged their second annual "world's largest school fire drill," nature soaked Timmins, ON, with 20 mm of rain. Despite this, a local public school won the big prize in the province-wide event. Queen Elizabeth Public School competed against 1338 schools. Its principal said the school always does its fire safety drills despite the weather conditions.

11

1915: In the midst of a blizzard, ships floundered in Hudson Strait in northern Quebec. Winds and the sea were such a force that the anchor chain on a boat snapped. Oil splashed from the tank and the engine room caught fire. The boat swung around stern-on to the waves, taking on enough water to snuff it out. The wind having changed, the crew made it to Charles Island and smoother waters.

12

1922: After 40 hours in a dory on the open sea, between Sable Island and Port Felix, NS, 5 members of the fishing schooner *Marshal Foch* came safely ashore. Fog was thick, yet the winds were strong, and a heavy sea was running. The food supply consisted of 2 loaves of bread but no water. Two men rowed and 2 bailed. With clear weather and a fair wind, they made it.

13

Thanksgiving Day
Last Quarter ☾

2009: A powerful nor'easter plowed into Newfoundland's Avalon Peninsula, strengthening as it crossed the province. Rain eventually changed to snow, with as much as 15 cm over the high terrain. Onshore winds peaked at 133 km/h at Bonavista, NL. Police urged drivers to stay home amid reports of flying tree branches and assorted debris. Offshore, at the Sea Rose oil platform, the wind blew at 157 km/h.

14

1886: A gale blew across Ontario resulting in property damage to stoops, chimneys, fences, and outhouses. Buildings that did not blow away trembled. On the water, yachts and luggers ran aground. In Toronto, a new brick foundry lost its iron roof and part of the walls fell in, breaking machinery. At Port Maitland, the walk and stonework leading to the lighthouse vanished into the sea.

15

2010: Three days of rains totalling 60 mm ended an attempt by a group of Halifax soccer players to set a world record for the longest game ever played. After 17 hours of play, cramping became a problem for many of the 36 players after 3 hours of wet and cold. The Guinness World Record of 42 hours, 5 minutes, and 1 second was established in Qatar earlier in the year but in an indoor facility.

16

1922: A blizzard of wind-driven snow swept over northeastern Ontario, centred on Englehart. Much of the snow melted as it fell, causing puddles and rivulets of water, covered by at least 10 cm of snow. Roads became unpassable by cars and horses were unable to haul more than empty vehicles. The storm buried livestock and forced families into flimsy tents and shelters made of galvanized roofing.

17

1981: A meagre 9 mm of rain delayed the start of the ball game between the Los Angeles Dodgers and the Montreal Expos at Olympic Stadium for 3 hours and 31 minutes—one of the longest delays in baseball history. The game was eventually called off.

18

1976: Hurricane-force winds up to 160 km/h sent the roof of a St. John's, NL, townhouse crashing down on the street, just missing a vehicle. Winds uprooted trees, broke car windshields, and damaged buildings. A family was driving to take pictures of the damage when they heard on the radio that the roof of their house blew away. The man turned to his wife and said, "Oh jumpin', there goes our house."

19

2000: Hurricane Michael slammed into southern Newfoundland and Labrador, rattling windows and ripping siding. You could hear sand and dirt pinging against the windows. With winds gusting up to 172 km/h at St. Lawrence, NL—a new record for Newfoundland—ferries could not dock. The strength of the storm surprised forecasters who thought it would simply die out over cooler North Atlantic waters.

20

New Moon ●

1991: Winnipeg, MB's first snowfall of the winter triggered several multiple-car pile-ups, some involving as many as a dozen cars. Even a slight sprinkling of snow turned city bridges into skating rinks. Autobody owners said no amount of snow was unwelcome because there had been a bit of a lull in business for a few months. Apparently, there is always a boost in business with the first snow.

21

First Quarter ◐

2002: A Regina, SK, cab driver accused of leaving a passenger to die in freezing weather was found not guilty. With a temperature of -12.1°C and a wind chill of -17, he dropped a woman off at the wrong address. When the inebriated woman could not pay the fare, he kept one of her 2 coats as collateral. He asked the dispatcher to call police, but they were not called. The woman died of hypothermia.

22

GREAT CANADIAN WEATHER QUIZ 23

In the Far North, tourists' frostbitten ears are called:

- 1) pink ears
- 2) Dumbo ears
- 3) mouseketter ears
- 4) cauliflower ears
- 5) aurora ears

(Answer on inside back cover)

2009: Another storm pushed across New Brunswick, dropping rains and ensuring one of the wettest Octobers on record. Moncton, NB, residents faced another sewer backup after high winds caused fallen leaves to block catch basins. Saint John, NB, received 1119 mm of rain from April to October, which was almost 50% more than it would normally receive and was the second wettest such period on record.

24

1928: Four drug addicts escaped from prison near Burwash, ON, but were recaptured the next day by some quick-thinking guards. They correctly guessed the quartet would follow the railroad tracks in their endeavour to make good time, since a week of rain up to 80 mm had flooded the countryside. About 15 km from the jail, the guards overtook the escapees. The surrounding land afforded no shrubs in which to hide.

25

2010: A storm crossed North America that fascinated meteorologists because it was like a Category 3 hurricane. Weather advisories were issued for 31 states and 6 provinces for tornadoes, blizzards, gales, wind-driven rains, and thunderstorms. Called a "weather bomb" because of a central pressure drop of 28 mb in 24 hours, it meant Winnipeg, MB, set a record for its lowest-ever barometric pressure.

26

1950: Gale-force winds buffeted the British Columbia coast after leaving a path of destruction in Washington and Oregon states. The high winds snapped trees, felled power and telephone lines, ripped roofs, and smashed windows. At Victoria, BC, the 17,000-tonne Canadian-Australian liner *Aorangi* snapped her lines at the outer wharf and crashed into the dock, crunching through 4 m of solid timber.

27

1949: Near death from shock and cold, a woman was rescued after 4 nights on uninhabited Burnt Island, ON, after watching her husband drown in the icy waters of Footprint Lake in Manitoba. She was rescued after hearing the scraping of a boat onshore and calling out to police officers. Her loose parka had kept her afloat in the water for 2.5 hours in air temperatures of -8°C after her canoe tipped over.

28

1870: A nor'easter struck Cape Breton Island, NS, after midnight. Accompanied by drenching rain, strong winds, and high seas, the storm inflicted extensive damage to property and shipping, including wharves and bridges, vessels, trees, roofs, and fences. It even shifted buildings off their foundations. Those people who lost both home and barn became destitute that winter.

29

2010: Parts of Labrador around Black Tickle, NL, were hit hard by an ice and snowstorm accompanied with high winds. Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro said it would be 5 days before power was restored to all areas along the south coast of Labrador. At Pinsents Point, NL, several poles encased in ice broke off. Part of the damage assessment was done by helicopter.

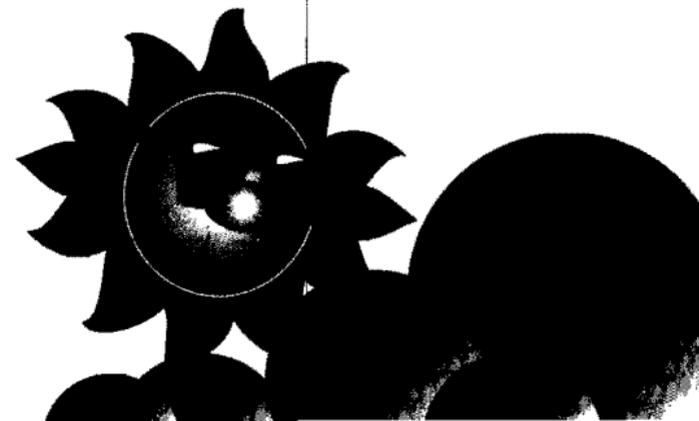
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1943: Snowy weather proved too disorienting for 19 German prisoners of war who escaped from a fuel wood camp in Riding Mountain National Park, MB. After spending a night in the bush, the men voluntarily returned to camp, clad only in army uniforms. Scores of RCMP constables, along with police dog, Major, as well as guards and farmers participated in the search, patrolling the park areas and highways.

31

Hallowe'en

Full Moon ○



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NOVEMBER 2012

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Sunday

Monday

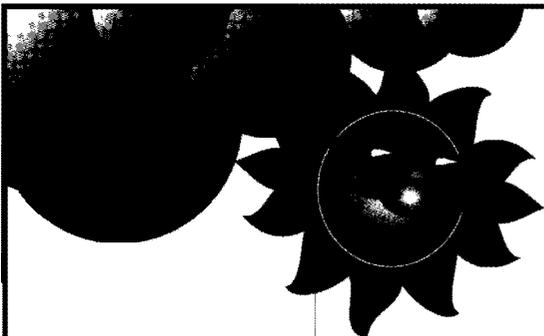
Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

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Saturday



| | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|--|---|---|
| | | | | <p>1901: Cold weather such as this day's -25.6°C, plus hot stoves and wooden buildings, invited fires in Dawson, YT. Every time a fire burned down a gambling hall, enterprising miners would run the remains through a rocker to pick up gold dust inadvertently dropped by excited gamblers playing at the gaming tables. In the middle of winter, gold-salvaging was complicated by snow and cold temperatures.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1</p> | <p>1906: A storm drove the Russian barque <i>Sorinda</i> onto the shoals near Prince Edward Island, 30 km from the coast. The ship broke in half after she struck. Her men clung on for hours, while those on shore dared not launch a boat in the terrible wind. One of the crew made it ashore on a life buoy. Another boat launched from the ship but capsized—the three onboard it drowned.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">2</p> | <p>2010: In the Bella Coola Valley on the coastal British Columbia mainland, rains measuring 200–320 mm led to washouts, damaging roads and the airport runway. Flood waters severed the only highway into town and wiped out businesses and farms, prompting authorities to issue a state of emergency. Residents also faced roaming grizzly bears when electric fences used to keep out wildlife were washed away.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">3</p> |
| <p>GREAT CANADIAN WEATHER QUIZ</p> <p>4</p> <p>What percentage of Canadians dying from cold weather are males?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) 50% 2) 66% 3) 72% 4) 77% 5) 85% <p><i>(Answer on inside back cover)</i></p> <p>Daylight Saving Time Ends 02:00 EST</p> | <p>1847: A surveyor left camp near the Tobique River in New Brunswick to take observations. Fog overlooked him. Without food or drink, he became exhausted. Lost for days, he hung his handkerchief in a tree. Several days later, his field party saw the handkerchief on the other side of a stream. It appeared to be a good one, so they canoed across and found the man insensible at the foot of the tree.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">5</p> | <p>1768: From the weather logs at Prince of Wales Fort, MB, on the northwest coast of Hudson Bay, the weather was described as clear and calm. Also noted in the ledger: a half-pint tumbler of British brandy was that morning frozen solid. Further, the river was frozen over, so people could walk across it.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">6</p> | <p>2010: In early November, a slow-moving weather system drew loads of moisture northward from Hurricane Tomas into the Maritimes. Six-day rainfall amounts caused the worst flooding in a century, with dozens of road washouts and bridge collapses, like the 20-m Tusket River Bridge in Nova Scotia. The peak rainfall was a phenomenal 339 mm at Mechanic Settlement, NB, near Fundy National Park.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">7</p> | <p>2006: High humidity and winds led to a foggy morning commute in southern Ontario. An overnight temperature of 9°C plus 100% relative humidity created zero visibility. Local school boards cancelled bus service. For the second time in a week, thieves look advantage of the foggy weather to steal high-end cars from a Kitchener, ON, car dealership—a Porsche convertible worth \$70,000 and a 9-year-old Jaguar.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">8</p> | <p>2009: A truck carrying 900 beehives crashed near Grindrod, BC, closing the highway as police, helped by local beekeepers, worked to clear the road and salvage the hives. Because the weather was cool (3.5°C), the bees were not too agitated and did not stray far from the accident. Due to dwindling bee populations across Canada, about 1 in every 10 hives hits the road for national pollination tours.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">9</p> | <p>1923: Three men, including a convicted murderer, one serving time for manslaughter, and a man sentenced for highway robbery, escaped from the New Westminster Penitentiary in British Columbia. The convicts took advantage of the heavy fog to evade the guards and scale the prison walls, reaching freedom for one night before authorities captured them the next morning hiding on the prison roof.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">10</p> |
| <p>1991: Two days of heavy widespread rain caused extensive flooding along roads and in homes in southwest Nova Scotia. At Liverpool, NS, a record 113.1 mm of rain fell in 24 hours. It left roads, major intersections, and parking lots flooded up to 1 m deep. Flooding ruined furnaces, freezers, water heaters, and rec rooms. In Souris, NS, rains forced Remembrance Day services indoors for the first time.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">11</p> | <p>1972: St. John's, NL, residents spent Remembrance Day mending roots and bailing basements following a 3-day wind and rainstorm with 122 mm of rain. In the Tapper's Cove area of Torbay, NL, locals blamed university students for the damage. In the summer, the students had blocked off the main culvert that carries water to the sea, leaving behind debris that prevented the water from flowing through.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">12</p> | <p>1925: Winds up to 110 km/h hit Quebec City, QC. Ship navigation in the harbour and along the St. Lawrence River came to a standstill because of the waves. Winds ripped off the roof of Notre-Dame convent in Saint-Malo, QC. Panic broke out among the 700 children, but the nuns managed to calm them. Another victim of the storm was the roof of the police station. Winds overturned many horse-drawn vehicles.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">13</p> | <p>1942: Forty centimetres of snow fell in Edmonton, AB—the city's greatest snowstorm in history. The Ottawa, ON, press censor held up news reports of the storm for several days, so the Nazis' daily task of charting weather changes would be made more difficult. Most citizens never made it to work or school. The most serious problem was the lack of coal, so it was rationed to prevent pipes from freezing.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">14</p> | <p>1987: A storm with snow, rain, and winds to 100 km/h developed off the coast of Newfoundland and Labrador. On November 17, the trawler <i>Hosanna I</i>, with 34 aboard, disappeared without a trace about 400 km southeast of Cape Race, NL. Search operations were hampered by high winds and seas.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">15</p> | <p>2010: Winds above 50 km/h caused construction scaffolding at Queen's Park in Toronto, ON, to collapse on top of Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty's hybrid car (he was in his office at the time). There were no injuries. Later, McGuinty tweeted: "True, a wall fell on my car, which confirms the opposition will stop at nothing to keep me from my people."</p> <p style="text-align: right;">16</p> | <p>1909: At least 4 ships went down following a gale on Lake Superior. Vessels struck rocks and cargoes shifted. Crews suffered from exposure in -9°C. The Canadian steamer <i>Ottawa</i> crossed the lake in the blizzard in zero visibility, battling terrific seas. A fleet of 150 vessels was tied up at the Soo Locks in Ontario, waiting out the storm and a last chance to get through before freeze-up.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">17</p> |

Last Quarter ☾

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| <p>Remembrance Day</p> <p>2010: A blocking weather pattern over Greenland brought unseasonable record-warmth at 20 degrees above normal and clear skies to parts of the eastern Arctic. It demolished records at several stations by 3 or 4 degrees. Owing to this, ice formation was about 4 weeks later than usual in Foxe Basin, NU, and ice coverage was at its lowest since records first began in 1971.</p> | <p>1998: A 10-cm snowfall in Thunder Bay, ON, led to 9 accidents when people used their fingers to clear the heavy wet snow from snowblower blades. Injuries ranged from the loss of fingertips to the loss of 3 fingers. Because the damage was from a snowblower, the cuts were not clean.</p> | <p>2010: In Calgary, AB, it dipped to -21°C, literally "ball-busting" cold. The University of Calgary Dinos football team burst 18 footballs practicing for the Canadian Collegiate football semi-finals leading up to the Mitchell Bowl. The team exploded the rubber bladders of most footballs they kicked for 3 days. Hairdryers were used to thaw the players, especially their fingertips and toes.</p> | <p>1950: A motorist noticed something moving in the snow 30 m from the Banff, AB, highway. What he thought was a bear was really a crawling man. A week before, the man had hiked down the bush road to his logging camp, but snow and darkness obliterated the trail. Temperatures below -30°C and a blinding snowstorm lashed his exhausted body. The Samaritan rushed him to a nearby town for help.</p> | <p>1922: A blizzard struck Cape Breton Island, NS, wrecking property, utility poles, and other communications—86 telegraph poles fell like match wood. Within a couple of hours, North Sydney, NS, was cut off from the rest of the province. Veteran linemen said the blizzard was the worst of all time. All tramway services were halted. Live wires spluttered and burned along the streets.</p> | <p>1951: Thick fog with rain clouded western Quebec and the Eastern Townships, triggering several accidents. In vehicular accidents on the Laurentian Highway, the toll was 12 dead and 21 critically injured. Most victims died when a half-ton truck packed with carpenters and labourers skidded on ice in a shroud of fog, hurling its 17 occupants into a bed of rocks in a 10-m drop.</p> | <p>1846: A schooner laden with oysters was storm-driven on shore at Tignish, PE. The storm destroyed a fishing stage, together with dry codfish and haddock and barrels of herring and mackerel ready for shipping. The winds took out a cook and salt house and the roof of a new store. Such a storm was not in the recollection of the oldest inhabitants—many recognized that the beach could never be repaired.</p> |
| New Moon  | | | | | | |
| <p>2010: A new November snowfall record was set in Regina, SK. The four Environment Canada stations that measure snowfall in and around Regina showed a range of readings from 16 to 46 cm, much more than the monthly average of 14 cm. Windrows began growing in height. Twice during November, provincial highways were shut down and semi-trailers were towed out of ditches.</p> | <p>1926: The first cold wave of the winter began settling over northern Ontario when temperatures dipped below -22°C. The record cold spell at Sudbury, ON, followed closely upon a heavy rainstorm that dumped 30 mm of rain over 2 days, leaving everything coated with a weighty blanket of ice. At White River, ON, temperatures dipped to -36.7°C with high winds and a heavy snowfall of 50 cm over 4 days.</p> | <p>1999: During the annual Santa Claus Parade in Moncton, NB, the temperature rose to a record 16.5°C. The previous daily record had been set in 1926 when the temperature reached 16.1°C. Moncton was busy with shirtsleeved shoppers talking about the mild weather. Elsewhere, Miramichi, NB, eclipsed its 102-year-old record with a temperature of 16.7°C, and Bathurst, NB's 16.0°C beat its 111-year-old record.</p> | <p>1842: Between Cumberland and Colchester counties in Nova Scotia, the snow was so deep that it was impossible to find the road. Stagecoach passengers and drivers wrapped themselves in buffalo robes and made frequent exertions to keep from freezing. Outside Dartmouth, NS, there was no snow and it was mild. It did not last! Within a day or two, the streets were clogged with 0.5 m of snow and cold rain.</p> | <p>1898: The worst storm in years raged near the Nova Scotia coast. It began with snow but changed to rain. With an easterly wind blowing, the harbour was a waste of whitecaps. Damage to small craft and shore property was considerable. Electric wires were tangled all over Halifax, NS. At Saint John, NB, the storm brought down wires and blew over a brick chimney at St. Luke's Episcopal Church.</p> | <p>2002: Month-long warmth and dryness extended to Vancouver Island, BC, residents and tourists extra time for outdoor activities. When normal weather arrived with high waves and foggy, icy conditions, many were caught off guard. A Victoria, BC, man was swept out to sea by a wave near Port Renfrew, BC. A wave also swept away 2 men from Botanical Beach—one of the victims disappeared in a bed of kelp.</p> | |
| First Quarter  | | | | | | |
| Full Moon  | | | | | | |

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DECEMBER 2012

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Sunday

Monday

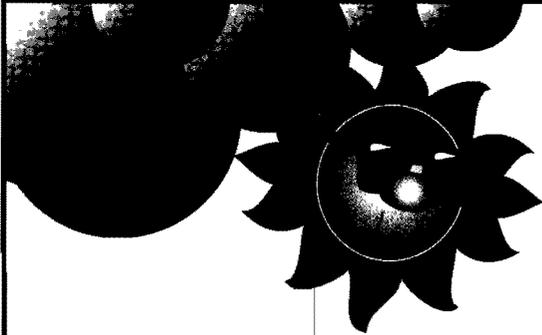
Tuesday

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Saturday



2007: Atlantic Canada was blanketed with snow and blasted by strong winds when a fall storm whipped through the region. In Newfoundland and Labrador, winds gusted up to 124 km/h creating blizzard conditions. Newfoundland Power said the storm was one of the most damaging in 10 years. Some 10,000 customers on the Bonavista Peninsula were without power for a week. **2**

1854: A snowstorm blew 3 days straight across the lower Great Lakes-St. Lawrence. In Montreal, QC, a boat containing 5 people was driven on a shoal off the Island of St. Helens. The storm victims quickly became destitute and in danger of perishing when rescuers called in by the mayor arrived. At Quebec City, QC, the tide rose to a height unknown in several years, damaging buildings in Lower Town. **3**

1911: During a blizzard in southern Saskatchewan, 6 people perished from exposure. Among the dead was a man from 10 km south of Meyronne, SK, found about 4 m from the house he was constructing, and a farm wife, who lived with her husband east of Wood Mountain, SK. She was alone when her house caught on fire. She made her escape but froze to death when she lost her way to a neighbour's house. **4**

2010: Snow fell in London, ON, and to the lee side of Lake Huron. It stopped 100 hours later after an astonishing 75 cm fell. Greater amounts fell southwest of the city and more than double the total fell to the north in Lucan, ON, the epicentre of the snow assault. For 3 days in London, schools, mail delivery, public transit, and city services were shut down. It was the costliest storm in its history. **5**

2010: An intense weather system south of Nova Scotia exploded into a classic weather bomb with winds approaching hurricane status. It took an unusual track north and northwest across the Maritimes, over the Bay of Chaleur, and into eastern Quebec. The storm resulted in power outages, school closings, ferry service suspension, and a rare shutdown of the Confederation Bridge to all traffic. **6**

1917: Following the Halifax Explosion, on December 6, 1917, Halifax, NS, was swept by blizzards. So biting were the storms that tireless bands of rescuers were forced to suspend life-saving operations. Sleighs bearing hospital supplies and food to numerous relief stations were storm-bound. When operations turned to recovery, workers continued to find new victims buried under tonnes of snow and debris. **7**

2003: Two paramedics parachuted to a beacon thinking it was a downed plane 740 km northwest of Edmonton, AB. The blaze turned out to be a natural gas flare burning for at least 2 decades. The men could not slow down and landed in a tree about 30 m up. The two were not injured, but it was cold (-27°C). Using the flare for warmth, they camped out before being picked up the next day by a helicopter. **8**

1906: It was the most severe start to winter in southern Alberta in years. Temperatures dipped to -32.2°C at Lethbridge, AB. The sheep were so hungry they started eating the wool off each other's backs. Some were bare and bleeding by morning. Those who had been "snacked" upon were put in little pens for shelter and ranchers made them coats from sacks to help them survive. About 25 sheep died a day. **9**

GREAT CANADIAN WEATHER QUIZ **10**
What city in Canada can brag about having the greatest number of cold days below freezing in an average year?
1) Yellowknife, NT
2) Thompson, MB
3) Prince Albert, SK
4) Timmins, ON
5) Fort McMurray, AB
(Answer on inside back cover)

1943: Between Thunder Bay and Sault Ste. Marie, ON, the 4000-t freighter *Sarnian* went aground during a snowstorm. There was no panic and crew members were able to save personal belongings and safely launch a lifeboat. It was -24°C, but none seemed afraid. The crew believed that a 6-day delay in loading the ship with grain in Thunder Bay made the ship late and likely doomed it to the bad weather. **11**

1924: Brutal cold gripped the west. Red Deer, AB, seemed to feel the deepest cold in Canada at -50°C. A week of snow dumped 80 cm with 35.6 cm in one day. Pedestrians had to trudge through snow to their waists. Schools were closed and businesses might as well have been closed. Trains from Calgary and Edmonton, AB, were stalled for hours. Old-timers agreed that the storm was the worst ever in Red Deer. **12**

2010: A continent-wide storm drenched eastern Canada with humongous rainfalls and hurricane-like winds. Temperatures in New Brunswick soared to record highs around 15°C and the winds were powerful, gusting to 80-120 km/h. Rain in excess of 175 mm in less than 24 hours fell near St. Stephens, NB. In Innesville, 185 mm of rain fell, making it the wettest day in New Brunswick weather history. **13**

2010: Gaspé, QC, was declared a flood zone after 2 days of rain exceeding 200 mm—the wettest 2 winter days in its history and one of the greatest rainfalls in the province's history. It had already been one of the wettest falls on record, with 505 mm of rain—178% more than normal. In the Gaspésie, QC, rising waters washed out roads and forced hundreds of people to flee their homes. **14**

1997: Record-high temperatures in the west had Saskatonians playing golf and picking up Christmas trees on their way home. Meanwhile, freak snowstorms and bitter cold struck northern Mexico, leaving at least 2 dead and paralyzing highways and ports. It snowed in Guadalajara, Mexico, as much as 40 cm, for the first time since 1881. Temperatures were -15°C in Mexico's Chihuahua State. **15**

Last Quarter ☾

1

8

15

2009: Chunks of melting ice fell from downtown high-rises in Calgary, AB. One man was injured and hospitalized when a block of ice hit him in the back. Firefighters removed melting ice and snow and a 20-m stretch of icicles along a roofline of a building. Although the thaw was welcomed by most, following nearly a week of mind-numbing cold, quick melting led to flooding downtown.

16

2002: A blizzard dumped 20–50 cm of snow over 2 days on Newfoundland's Avalon Peninsula. Flights were cancelled and city transit buses were pulled off the road. With less than a week to go before Christmas, airlines scrambled to reschedule cancelled flights. When a flight to Wabush, NL, was cancelled, passengers were told they would have to wait until Christmas Eve before they could board another plane.

17

1951: For the fifth consecutive day, Montreal, QC, experienced nightmarish traffic conditions following another paralyzing snowstorm. Weary road officials had to enlist workers regularly assigned to sewerage and parks maintenance to replace exhausted snow removers. Commuters would remember it for the innumerable delays, the twisted fenders, the crawling streetcars, and the heavy going in the streets.

18

1923: For the first half of December, Halifax, NS, enjoyed sunshine and daytime temperatures of 10–13°C. Finally, winter weather came this day with -6.7°C and 10 cm of snow. Retailers blessed the cold snap, as Christmas shoppers finally got into the swing of the buying season. One merchant said when the thermometer goes down, Christmas sales go up, especially coats, which flew off the racks.

19

1964: Across central Alberta, the temperature dropped to -34°C with winds clicking at 70 km/h. Radio stations reported that roads were blocked with snow. Farm animals perished everywhere, forcing ranchers to sell their cattle for as little as \$1/lb. for dog food. Bulls froze so badly they became sterile. Deer ate from grain stacks despite the fact a dog was often standing on top of the stack.

20

First Quarter 

2010: A stalled nor'easter hit the Maritimes with rains, near-hurricane-force winds, and a storm surge between 2 and 3 m during a full-moon phase and a run of high tides. The Confederation Bridge closed and ferries were docked, stranding travellers and halting cargo delivery. Pre-Christmas baking supplies were in short supply, especially coconut, nuts, powders, and fresh vegetables.

21

Winter Solstice 06:12 EST

1932: Old-time Victorians declared it the worst gale in 40 years. The boathouse at the Royal Victoria Yacht Club in British Columbia was reduced to matchwood and many valuable sailing dinghies were smashed to pieces. Winds blew down power lines and poles, uprooted trees, knocked down signboards, and set chimneys ablaze. Unexpected lightning lit up the inky black sky early in the morning.

22

1910: A storm, complete with hurricane-force winds, struck near Bay of Islands Blow-Me-Down, NL, washing herring fishers and their boats on the rocks.

23

2010: The temperature rose above freezing in Mud Lake, NL, making the lake too full of ice to cross by boat but not frozen enough for a snowmobile. The town was cut off from the rest of Labrador for 11 days. Christmas Eve

24

30 **1954:** A freak lightning flash entered a barn south of Picton, ON. It burned all the straw from under the cows, destroyed the milking machine, and torched the barn's wooden framework.

31 **2010:** The newspaper headline read: "Forget Winterpeg; This year, it's Wetterpeg." With 723.0 mm of rain and water-equivalent snow, Winnipeg almost set a new record for annual precipitation.

New Year's Eve

2010: The Vancouver Island, BC, ski resort at Mount Washington was hit with 3 m of snow in 3 days, burying the lodge, cars, and ski lifts. A mid-mountain snow base of more than 500 cm made it the deepest among ski resorts worldwide. By comparison, Aspen in Colorado had a 168-cm base. More than 6000 people flocked to the ski hill, forcing officials to turn away would-be skiers for two straight days.

25

Christmas Day

1902: Near Sarnia, ON, a passenger train plowed into a freight train at about 10 PM—28 people died, making it one of the worst train wrecks in Canadian history. There was also a raging storm underway. Some of the passengers beneath the wreck were held down for 3 hours. Many victims succumbed from the effects of the biting cold and wind. It is said that whisky helped to keep some of the survivors alive.

26

Boxing Day

2010: Atlantic Canadians coped with another storm—the fourth in as many weeks. About 18,000 homes and businesses in New Brunswick were without power and more than 20,000 were in the dark in Nova Scotia, mainly in the Annapolis Valley. The snow quickly melted in some areas, turning Charlottetown, PE, streets into a sopping mess. People said they were tired and depressed over the monotony of storms.

27

1940: In Kitchener-Waterloo, ON, mild weather and negligible frost in the ground brought snakes and other reptiles to the surface from their winter hibernation. One snake was found on the railway tracks and taken to the police station. The unseasonably mild weather also caused widespread fog, forcing 3 pilots in separate incidents to choose emergency landings in farm fields.

28

Full Moon 

1982: Residents of Whitehorse, YT, were basking in balmy 7°C air while central Canadians were shovelling themselves out of another snowstorm. For the previous few days, a blocking wave pattern stopped the west-to-east upper air circulation, bringing warm Pacific air almost due north from Hawaii to Alaska, resulting in the near-record or record warm temperatures.

29

WEATHER QUIZ ANSWERS

- January 1) 1441
- February 4) "I've Got You, Babe"
- March 4) May
- April 2) spring
- May 5) 48
- June 2) hail
- July 3) diaper cream
- August 4) deplaning
- September 4) tornado
- October 2) Dumbo ears
- November 3) 72%
- December 2) Thompson, MB