

# JANUARY 1988

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## It's A Fact!

You do not necessarily find colder or snowier conditions the farther north you go in Canada. Ottawa has 5 times as much snow as Eureka and Alert, NWT. Some of Canada's coldest temperatures occur in the Yukon and northern Alberta, not at the North Pole. Fort Simpson, NWT, and downtown Montréal have the same extreme high temperature: 36.1°.

## On This Day . . .

January 1, 1973 - it snowed in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The snow caused considerable excitement while it lasted.

January 15, 1932 - 5 cm of snow fell in downtown Los Angeles.

January 19, 1977 - It snowed at Miami Beach.

## A Real Snow Job

Giant snowflakes "larger than milk pans" fell at Fort Keogh, Montana, on January 28, 1887. The aggregated snowflakes measured 38 cm across by 20 cm thick.

## A Tall Weather Tale

"A man got caught in a snowstorm so he tied his horse to a tree and pitched his tent. During the night a Chinook blew up. The next morning when he woke up, the snow had melted and his horse was tied halfway up the tree."

## True or False

The January thaw comes every January.

Almost true. At Toronto only one January in 148 years was without a thaw and at Edmonton only four Januaries in 100 were thawless. So honoured is the January thaw in our weatherlore that any mild "winterlude" is often referred to as the January thaw even when it occurs in December or February.

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

1985 A New Year's Day storm left a coating of ice everywhere from Toronto to Québec. Traffic was a mess, and property damage extensive.

## NEW YEAR'S DAY

1872 The first exchange of telegraphic weather reports took place between Canada and the United States.

1987 A damaging storm hit southern Vancouver Island with 117 km/h winds. Trees were blown onto houses and cars, and many power outages occurred.

1959 Fifty-eight hours of continuous snow finally ended at Gander; total accumulation 55 cm.

1965 Freezing rain/drizzle lasted 38 hours at Gander; telecommunications with the outside were severed for several days.

1956 During an unusually long period of mild weather in Nova Scotia, frequent heavy rains occurred over a two week period. Mount Uniacke and Ingonish Beach were soaked with over 300 mm of rain.

1987 An intense low moved slowly across Newfoundland from the 4th to the 6th producing blizzard conditions. Snowfalls ranged from a record 40 to 60 cm and winds gusted to 90 km/h. Visibilities were restricted below 1 km for as much as 20 hours.

1986 The second winter storm in 3 days struck New Brunswick. Moncton got 91 cm from the 2 storms. Nova Scotia and PEI received much lesser amounts followed by rain or freezing rain. Winds across the region blew at above 100 km/h. The Moncton police force used snowmobiles. At Bathurst, 30 cm of snow clogged the streets, left unpowered by striking snowplow operators.

1968 Old Glory Mountain weather station burned to the ground, ending the 25-year observing program at Canada's highest weather station near Rossland, BC.

1969 Start of an incredible cold wave at Edmonton in which the temperature remained far below 0°F (-17.8°) for 26 consecutive days until February 2; coldest temperature on the 30th: -39.4°.

1975 The eastern Prairies prepared for a winter storm that left 3 1/2 m snowdrifts from Saskatchewan to Lake Superior. The storm lasted 33 hours and created countless emergencies. Winnipeg International Airport was closed for almost 2 days. Visibility was zero for 14 hours.

1889 The Niagara Suspension Bridge, located just above the Falls, collapsed during a storm described as "one of the greatest storms that has ever passed over any part of Canada".

1987 While Easterners were digging out of yet another snowstorm, Californians were mowing their lawns, riding their bikes and sunning themselves in outdoor cafés. The temperature soared to 17°, about 2° higher than at Las Vegas. The mild weather concerned Western farmers worried about the depleting soil moisture and blowing top soil. Skiers — that is snow skiers — were lamenting the July-like weather.

1911 Fort Vermilion, Alberta recorded a record low of -61.1°, the lowest temperature ever recorded in Canada outside of the Yukon.

1987 A winter storm with wind gusts to 148 km/h, heavy snow, rain, ice pellets and freezing rain struck New Brunswick and PEI. Moncton got most of the snow, 50 cm.

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

1987 Five people were killed in highway accidents related to a fierce storm that pummelled Atlantic Canada for more than 24 hours, leaving snowbanks more than one storey high.

1918 Described as the worst of the generation, a fierce winter storm crippled southwestern Ontario around Sarnia and London for over a week. Snow 30 cm deep was whipped by brisk winds into monstrous 4-m drifts. Trains and rescue snowplows were immobilized. Listowel was swept by fire, fanned by strong winds. Food and fuel, cut short by the war, ran out quickly.

1968 A glaze storm from the 13th to 15th struck SW Ontario; 3 cm of icing, a 25-cm snowfall and strong winds downed branches and wires. At London, Hwy 401 was closed and thousands had no electricity or phone service for a week.

1971 A Chinook ("the snow-eater") blew into Lethbridge raising the temperature from -20° to 1° in one hour.

1974 Another Chinook at Lethbridge saw the temperature swing from 2.2° at 05 h to -18.3° at 06 h back to 2.2° at 09 h; winds changed from 24 to 3 to 27 km/h during the same period.

1961 Heavy rains over a 150-hour period ended along the BC coast and the lower mainland; 530 mm at Seymour Falls of which 350 mm fell on the 14th and 15th. The rains flooded the Trans-Canada Hwy east of Vancouver.

1985 PEI received 25 to 35 cm of snow and strong winds. CN ferry service and the Airport were closed for 24 hours.

1974 Canada's greatest 1-day snowfall: 118.1 cm at Lakelse, BC.

1982 Bitter cold over Ontario with -45° in the north and -25° in the south; Ontario Hydro reported the greatest one-day use of electricity.

1982 Wind gusts of 110 km/h combined with -30° temperatures and deep snow paralysed Schefferville, Québec for days; extreme wind chill factor. Cold also gripped PEI, the coldest since 1877. Water froze in pipes when power was cut to several homes.

1987 More than 20 cm of snow fell on Toronto around rush hour stranding thousands of commuters. Some downtown hotels advertised snowstorm specials for those who decided to wait out the storm. Visibility was near zero as snow accumulated at 5 cm per hour. Vehicles littered the highways, and plows and police cruisers were pulled off the roads. It was the second major storm in two days.

1935 A taste of winter occurred for Vancouver when the temperature dipped to -15.6° and the snowfall amount exceeded 40 cm. The storm closed schools and businesses and stopped traffic as strong winds created 2-m drifts out of the snow. A quick thaw followed by 267 mm of rain over the next 4 days caused extensive roof damage across the city including the collapse of the Forum.

1921 A violent wind storm with speeds to 160 km/h and gusts estimated at 250 km/h blew down huge stands of Douglas Fir in southern British Columbia and in northern Oregon.

1978 Three major snowstorms in 1 week crippled southern New Brunswick. Moncton received 109 cm of snow.

1906 The US Steamer Valencia crashed on the rocky coast of Vancouver Island. Rough seas and rain hampered rescue operations — 126 perished.

1974 Seven persons were smothered under 1 to 8 m of snow brought down by a large avalanche near Terrace, BC; the weather was prime for an avalanche — record seasonal snowfall, new dry snow, low temperatures and moderate winds.

1987 The worst storm of the winter struck Québec's North Shore with 130 km/h winds and heavy snow. At Baie-Comeau and Sept-Îles signs and TV antennas were blown down, and roofs were damaged. A hospital was extensively damaged and a transport truck was overturned. The more than 30 cm of snow piled into huge drifts. Several deaths were attributed to the storm.

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

1981 A fierce winter storm buried the Maritimes under up to 60 cm of snow. The storm cut all transportation links to PEI. Moncton was the hardest hit and the emergency was aggravated when the city's snow-clearing crew reported in sick.

1620 An explorer at Churchill, Manitoba reported that all glass bottles containing beverages burst in a sudden frost and a cannon burst on firing because the iron had become brittle.

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

1978 Southern Ontario was struck by a ravaging winter storm that cost \$41 M and contributed to 9 deaths; skyscraper windows popped, and travel slowed in Toronto where the air pressure plunged to an all-time low of 94.15 kPa, the winds were 70 km/h with gusts to 115 km/h and the snowfall was 9.2 cm.

1986 An intense winter storm dumped 30 to 50 cm of snow in eastern Ontario along the St. Lawrence Valley and Québec's North Shore. High winds and blowing snow produced whiteouts and the frigid temperatures made it one of the worst storms of the winter. An Air France 747 slid off a runway at Mirabel.

1986 Heavy rains and snowmelt caused flooding near Corner Brook, Nfld. Flood waters washed away a railway bridge on the west coast of the Island. Up to 30 cm of snow fell over western Newfoundland.

1987 Another snowstorm hit Newfoundland with 50 to 60 cm of snow and 100 km/h winds; drifts measured 5 to 8 m high.

1873 Coldest day ever in Windsor: -32.8°

1877 Charlottetown records its lowest observed temperature: -32.8°

1977 Worst storm in memory continued to howl over the Niagara Peninsula. Huge snowdrifts isolated communities for three days.

1954 Called a weather freak, a tornado struck White Point Beach, Nova Scotia near Liverpool at 23:40 p.m., accompanied by heavy hail and lightning.

1987 From 5 to 15 cm of snow across southern and central Ontario produced excellent skiing conditions. Two weeks of cold temperatures thickened lake ice — welcome news for fishermen and snowmobilers.



# FEBRUARY 1988

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## Watch Them Hogs!

If groundhogs Punxsutawney Phil or Wiarton Willie can see their shadow on February 2, can we expect six more weeks of winter?

Maybe. A study of the weather records in Toronto over a 10-year period revealed the groundhog legend to be correct only 3 years in 10.

1987 The storm that buried the Maritimes the day before brought 30 mm of rain to eastern Newfoundland. The rain was a relief because there was no place to dump any new snow. Flooding still occurred in many streets because of snow-clogged basins.

1

1976 A Groundhog Day storm slammed the Maritimes with strong winds, rain and snow; Grand Manan Island, New Brunswick had a peak wind of 188 km/h; losses were between \$10 M and \$50 M. Foul weather combined with high tides to produce extensive flooding. Saint John was the hardest hit with lengthy power outages and extensive destruction to buildings, bridges and dockyards.

2

GROUNDHOG DAY

1916 Victoria cleaned up after its greatest 1-day snowfall of 55.3 cm. Streets were choked with cars and stalled transit vehicles; the fire department used horsedrawn wagons.

3

1947 Snag. YT had the lowest temperature ever recorded in Canada: -63°. The freezing of one's breath produced hissing, and fog persisted above dog teams.

1970 The oil tanker *Arrow*, carrying a cargo of 108,000 barrels of Bunker C fuel oil, grounded on Cerebrus Rock in Chedabucto Bay, Nova Scotia. Winds blew at Canso above 52 km/h from the south.

4

1911 Members of the RNWMP's "lost patrol" perished near Fort McPherson NWT; the temperature was near -49°, under clear skies with light winds.

5

1923 The temperature of -54.4° at Doucet, 50 km east of Val d'Or, was the lowest ever recorded in Québec.

1978 Regina's four-day blizzard was under way with blowing snow and 100 km/h gusts. By the 9th, snowdrifts reached the roof tops and many livestock perished; the city was snowbound but total storm snowfall was only a trace at the Airport.

6

1978 Tidal flooding along the Atlantic Coast from New Jersey to Nova Scotia damaged roads, fishing wharves, houses and seawalls extensively and residents had to be evacuated. Saint John received 34.9 cm of snow; Halifax 19.2 cm.

7

1987 Mild and dry weather contributed to a huge range fire that killed cattle and destroyed 1,600 hectares of grassland south of Calgary.

1987 Wild winter weather walloped southern regions of Ontario and Québec. Snowfall amounts ranged from 10 to 25 cm and winds gusted to 100 km/h. Whiteouts caused numerous multi-car pile ups and forced flight cancellations. The next day in Metro Toronto the wind chill was -40° and thousands of commuters were delayed when subway trains were disabled by the bitter cold.

8

1861 Following a terrific lightning and rainstorm at Charlottetown on the 8th, known locally as Black Friday, the temperature plummeted to -33.9° and winds blustered at 64 km/h. 1899 Toronto's Don River overflowed when huge ice floes collected. 1913 A great procession of 15 to 100 meteors flashed across the northwestern sky for about 3 minutes around 2100 EST, visible from Saskatchewan to Bermuda.

9

1987 Rick Hansen's Man In Motion tour was travelling at 100 km a day across Saskatchewan under sunny skies, above-zero temperatures and no wind. Snowless fields, grazing cattle and T-shirted spectators were typical scenes across the Prairies in 1987 — not the usual frigid landscape characteristic of winter there.

10

1987 A snow-laden section of a roof collapsed at a St. John's shopping mall following a recent snowfall of 30 cm. Seven shoppers were injured when the second-storey roof crashed through the first floor.

11

1981 Mild temperatures from 13° to 15°, rain and gale-force winds produced extensive flooding across Nova Scotia. The Halifax area had its worst floods in 40 years.

12

1985 Wind gusts reaching 100 km/h inflicted widespread damage on the Pacific Coast near Prince Rupert.

1979 Avalanches in the Roger's Pass killed 7 skiers near Golden, BC.

13

1985 Chinook winds in Central Alberta pushed daytime temperatures to record high values. The minimum one day was -23° and the maximum the next 16°.

1987 This year every storm seems to be the worst storm of the year in eastern Newfoundland. On Valentine's Day, some communities in the Avalon Peninsula had to dig out from under 71 cm of snow. Schools and businesses were closed and snow clearing equipment was taken out of service. With another 2 months of winter remaining, snowfall totals to date are well over 200 cm in places.

14

VALENTINE'S DAY

1982 In the early morning hours, the world's largest oil rig *Ocean Ranger* sank off Newfoundland with the loss of 84 lives and at a cost of \$60 M; a maximum wind was estimated at 145 km/h and the highest waves at 21 m.

15

1987 A sample of Canadian winter weather from coast to coast: residents in St. John's were piling another 13 cm of snow on top of the 200 cm already fallen; wind chill readings from Toronto to Québec were in the -20° to -30° range; in Alberta, warm mild weather with no snow cover and blowing soil was anything but typical; Vancouver experienced rain and a seasonable 8°.

16

1934 Ottawa's lowest February temperature: -38.3°.

17

1973 Newfoundland's lowest temperature on record: -51.1° at Esker.

1979 A severe blizzard that began on the 8th ended today at Iqaluit (Frobisher Bay) NWT: -40° temperatures and 100 km/h wind gusts made outdoor travel extremely hazardous.

1942 The *Truxton* and the *Pollux*, a US destroyer and a cargo ship, ran aground off Newfoundland — 204 lives lost; weather at the time: snow and a temperature of -7.2°.

18

1986 Fog lingered for several days in southern Ontario stranding air passengers at Toronto and resulting in a 19-vehicle pile up on the QEW near Niagara Falls.

1980 The large steamship *Hungarian* wrecked on Sable Island. All passengers and crew, 205 persons, were lost.

19

1956 Almost continuous snow that began on the 13th finally ends after 143 hours; the total snowfall at Gander exceeds 44 cm.

1972 A massive snowstorm across eastern Ontario and southern Québec brought heavy snowfalls and 90 km/h winds in zero visibility; Kingston had 21 cm and Montréal 37 cm.

20

1986 A record cold Arctic air mass covered the Prairies for almost a week, dropping temperatures to the -30°s and -40°s. Ice fog and ice crystals frequently occurred.

1987 Mild weather prevailed for most of February across Vancouver Island and the southern BC mainland. Because of the unseasonably warm temperatures, commercial flower growers resorted to spraying growth retardants on daffodils to delay blooming till Easter. Leaf buds began to open.

21

1936 An automobile survey of Toronto's urban heat island revealed incredible temperature differences in the early morning under clear calm conditions. Temperatures ranged from 8° to -9°. One valley at the north end of Yonge St. had a drop of 15 deg. in a few blocks — an extreme case and one that has given Toronto a reputation for incredible temperature contrasts.

22

1986 Cape Breton Island was still digging out from under monstrous snowdrifts that formed on the previous day. The official snowfall was 75 cm, exceeding the normal February amount of 69 cm and the greatest 2-day snowfall ever. Records date to 1870. Sydney remained isolated for several days. Some locations along the Atlantic coast received rain.

23

1986 Residents in the lower BC mainland mopped up following rains of more than 100 mm. Warm, wet weather triggered snowslides and mudslides and forced the closing of highway passes.

24

1987 A Filipino vessel was abandoned approximately 800 km south of Cape Race, Nfld. A very intense low with 110 km/h winds buffeted the coast — 19 persons were rescued in rough seas.

1961 The Montréal area suffered one of the most damaging ice storms in its history. Wires, heavily laden with 3 to 6 cm of ice, snapped in winds of 90 km/h with gusts to 115 km/h; the storm damage exceeded \$7M.

25

1984 A pleasant Saturday-night snowfall in Ottawa was said to have inspired Canada's Prime Minister, Pierre Elliott Trudeau, to decide to leave Canadian politics. Three days later Mr. Trudeau announced his intention to retire. The weekend snow was light by Ottawa standards, 6.3 cm with a temperature of -4°.

26

1717 The first of a series of four snowstorms in 10 days struck the New England coast. While no measurements are available for Canadian territory, at Boston 91 cm of snow was on the ground. The city was snowbound for two weeks. Much more snow (150 cm) fell north of New England.

27

1959 During a hockey game at the Listowel, Ontario arena, excessive snow followed by rain caused its roof to collapse, killing 8 persons.

28

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

1964 A deep low with storm-force winds of 120 km/h and waves of 9 m was centred about 280 km south of Newfoundland. The tanker *Amphialos* broke in two off Nova Scotia.

29

1974 A storm dumped 19 cm of snow on Regina — the most recorded on 1 day in February.

The Great White North, Eh!  
Canadian households have 50% more air conditioners than snowblowers.

A Tall Weather Tale Bar None  
"The foreman comes out to give orders on the ranch — it was at the old Bar U. It was 75 degrees below zero. It was so cold, d'you see, that the words froze in his mouth — and so he broke them off and handed them around so the men could get their orders for the day."

Believe It or Not!

A team of researchers at the University of Minnesota found that teenagers who receive poor grades in winter may be suffering from a disruption of "circadian" rhythms that causes depression when the weather turns cold and cloudy.

Did You Know . . .

Only twice in the past 150 years (in February 1875 and 1934) Lake Ontario froze across to enable trekking on the surface between Toronto and Rochester. In severe winters, Lake Ontario becomes less than one-quarter ice covered, but even in mild winters, Lake Erie freezes over.

Verrrry Interesting!

Ice is much slicker near its freezing-point than at lower temperatures. Motorists need twice the braking distance to stop on ice at -1° than at -18°.



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## A Tall Weather Tale

"When you lose your hat in a high wind don't chase it; wait a minute and someone else's will come along for you."

## Weather Supreme

The world record for the greatest rainfall in one day is 1,870 mm on March 15, 1952 at La Réunion Island in the Indian Ocean. The Canadian record is 489 mm at Ucluelet Brynnor Mines (Vancouver Island), BC, on October 6, 1967.

1987 March arrived in Metro Toronto "more like a duck than a lion" with 23 mm of rain. In eastern Ontario two thirds of Brockville lacked power and phone service because ice-coated tree limbs shorted out power lines. In southwestern Québec, March began lion-like with a 15-cm mixture of snow and ice pellets.

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

1987 As much as 60 cm of snow fell in the Rockies this week. Because of the mild weather, the avalanche hazard was extreme at Banff and Jasper. A number of mountain highways were closed owing to avalanche control measures.

A date legendary in Canadian weather history for monstrous "blizzards" and "Paul Bunyon" size snowfalls: 1966 A blizzard struck Winnipeg with 35 cm of snow and 120 km/h winds, paralyzing the city for two days. 1971 Montréal received 47 cm of snow and 100 km/h winds; the city was marooned for two days. 1985 A super storm dumped 25 to 35 cm on Toronto on top of freezing rain — resulting in the first snow emergency in 2 years.

1910 An avalanche in Rogers Pass, BC killed 62 railway men. 1987 Thick fog and freezing temperatures produced icy roads on Montréal's bridges spanning the St. Lawrence. Condensation freezing on cold surfaces caused numerous traffic jams and accidents that injured more than a dozen people.

1987 A March heat wave and 100 km/h winds postponed the World Cup downhill race at Mount Allan. Conditions were better suited for water skiing as 10 cm of the 30-cm base melted under 2 days of record-setting 20° weather in Calgary. Large, slushy, water-logged patches down the course made it unsafe. Even the refrigerated bobsled run at the Olympic Park was under some water.

1987 Toronto city's temperature of 17.9° was the highest ever recorded so early in the year since records began in 1840. Records were also set in northwestern Ontario with mid-teen readings. Rapidly melting snow swelled creeks and rivers. An ice jam backed up the Credit River, west of Toronto forcing 7 families to evacuate their homes. Streets were covered in 60 cm of water.

1879 Across southern Manitoba, temperatures dropped rapidly with the result that a thick crust of ice formed over the snow. When the wind started up "great plates of ice 10 to 20 feet square were lifted and broken into smaller pieces which in turn were raised on edge and blown along like icy cart-wheels. The prairie was alive — demons on a rampage".

1987 Winds compacted the ice tightly against the east coast of Newfoundland, resulting in many shipping disruptions, including the ferry service between Fogo and Change Islands. Staples were in short supply in the island communities, necessitating a major airlift of food and supplies.

1961 Wind speeds of 150 km/h with gusts to 200 km/h delayed trains for 17 hours at St. Andrews, Nfld. 1979 The Thames River at Chatham, Ontario flooded when rapidly melting snow was held back by ice floes; hundreds were evacuated, 40,000 hectares of rich farmland flooded, scores of livestock drowned, and 400 buildings were submerged.

1987 This was one of the better years for ice cover on the Great Lakes. The abnormally thin cover was already decaying by early March. An ice jam up to 1 1/2 m thick blocked the St. Clair River. Five American icebreakers had little success in breaking the jam. The Canadian icebreaker the CCGS Griffin was dispatched to assist.

1870 The first of 3 major March snowstorms struck southern Ontario with 23 to 63 cm of snow from Hamilton to Markham. A second storm on the 16th dumped 45 to 63 cm, and a third on the 27th, up to 90 cm.

1980 A major storm with heavy rain and strong winds (100 km/h) struck Nova Scotia, causing widespread flooding. In high winds and 6-m waves, the Desgaines, a 2500-ton freighter, sank 75 km southeast of Halifax.

1986 Heavy fog turned Ontario into a traveller's nightmare leaving 3 people dead, closing the Queen Elizabeth Way and scrambling the schedules of thousands of air passengers. Only 3 planes took off from Pearson International in fog described by Air Traffic Control as the heaviest in 25 years.

1973 Across southern Ontario, the temperatures rose to 21° on the 15th but fell rapidly as a storm brought 38 cm of snow blown by 130 km/h winds. Flood waters inundated shore properties along Lake St. Clair. Several storm-related traffic fatalities occurred.

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

1987 A storm stalled over New Brunswick on the 16th. By the next day up to 50 cm of snow covered the province and parts of PEI and northern Nova Scotia. Winds gusting to 75 km/h whipped the snow into huge drifts disrupting all transportation and making highway travel the worst in recent memory. Eight deaths were attributed to the storm. Schools and businesses were closed for days.

1987 The school March break brought near perfect weather to Ontario. Warm temperatures as high as 19°, abundant sunshine and a good snow cover on the hills pleased skiers and those who were content to stay in the north for the holidays. (Florida had rain). Out west the Prairies received 20 to 30 cm of snow and the Alberta foothills 60 cm — for some areas the heaviest snowfall of the year.

1936 The St. John River at Fredericton rose to 8.9 m above its normal level due to an ice jam downstream and because the river had been swollen from heavy rains and an early rapid snow melt. At the height of the flooding the river rose 0.3 m per hour and ice entered downtown Fredericton. At 9 p.m. a sudden surge of ice tore away the timbers supporting the railway bridge, which settled on the ice.

1985 A record 88.6 mm of rain and snow fell at Gaspé. In the wake of the storm frigid air pushed south creating slippery surfaces.

1913 The "Good Friday Gale" caused damage from Windsor to Cobalt. Tornadoes uprooted trees, razed buildings, and felled utility poles; gusts exceeded 150 km/h at Windsor; 7 perished under fallen debris.

1920 Brilliant aurora almost completely disrupted wire communications.

1987 Seven skiers — six Americans and their Canadian guide, part of a group of helicopter skiers, were killed after an avalanche cascaded down a central BC mountain 180 km north of Kamloops and buried them under 4 m of snow. The victims had no time to react and were dragged almost a kilometre down the mountain by the wall of snow.

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

1904 A fierce blizzard struck southern Manitoba on the 24th and 25th; Winnipeg reported 30 cm of snow, 100 km/h winds and -18° temperatures. Hundreds of immigrants overflowed the Immigration Building; 5 transcontinental trains were snowbound between Winnipeg and Calgary.

1979 The combination of a swollen, ice-filled river and the greatest rainfall in 78 years produced flooding of the Saint John River near Fredericton. The Trans-Canada Highway and the CPR tracks near Hoyt and Stanley were washed away.

1979 A freezing rainstorm struck southern Manitoba on the 19th and 20th. Icing 2 cm thick downed several hydro lines and forced schools and Winnipeg International Airport to close.

1980 An ice jam and heavy rain swelled the Ganaraska River near Port Hope, Ontario, causing \$10 M in flood damage.

1968 Calgary recorded an extremely low relative humidity of 6% at 3 p.m. when the air temperature was 17.8° and the dew point -20.0°.

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL DAY

1975 At Nolalu near Thunder Bay 102 cm of snow fell — the greatest 1-day amount in Ontario ever.

1980 The Sault Locks opened for the season, the earliest date on record.

SPRING: 04:39 EST

1986 A mild, sunny Easter weekend occurred across Eastern Canada. At Fredericton, however, 25 cm of wet snow fell.

1975 An Easter weekend storm lashed BC's Georgia Strait and adjacent land areas with strong winds (125 km/h); the storm took five lives, overturned parked aircraft and swamped many boats.

1848 As a result of a wind-driven ice jam, the Niagara River ran dry. The silence woke hundreds and filled churches with those who feared the end of the world. Many walked out onto the river bed to hunt artifacts. By April 1 the River and the Falls had returned to normal.

1987 The weather was anything but lamb-like across Ontario. After an earlier taste of spring, the province received a final blast of winter and a mixed bag of rain, freezing rain, ice pellets and snow. By day's end 15 cm of snow covered southern Ontario turning the morning rush hour on April 1 into no fool's time.

True or False If March comes in like a lion, it will go out like a lamb — and vice versa. False. For example, records for Halifax show that over 10 years, March came in quietly seven times and went out quietly the same way. Once it roared in and roared out and twice it came in like a lion and went out like a lamb. That makes the old saying true just two out of 10 times — not a very impressive average.

Would You Believe . . . One hailstone which partly buried itself in the ground in Yemen was supposedly so large that men could not see over it (March 1295).

How 'bout . . . A one-armed man in Ireland grew a new limb after being struck directly on the stump of his amputated arm by a lightning bolt.

1987 The unthinkable happened, Easterly winds pushed the pack ice, which normally remains off the coast of Nova Scotia, into Halifax harbour for the first time in 27 years. Marine traffic was disrupted including ferry service between Halifax and Dartmouth. The ice finally moved out of the ice-free port two days later.

1987 Temperatures soared to 19° in Québec's Eastern Townships — excellent for spring skiing but too warm for maple syrup production.

1986 An avalanche roared down on a group of snowmobilers killing four under 10 m of snow near Valemout, BC.



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## Gallup Says . . .

In 1973 when the Celsius scale was first introduced in Canada, 70% told Gallup they were going to have trouble with the new system and 30% said they would have no problem. In December 1986, Gallup asked 1,036 Canadians to give their estimate of the day's high temperature — 76% answered in Celsius while 24% used Fahrenheit.

## Did You Know . . .

The macintosh was invented in 1823 by Scottish chemist, Charles Macintosh. He bound two layers of fabric with a solution of naphtha and rubber. In time the early macintoshes became known as raincoats.

## Camels in the Yukon?

Fossil remains indicate that camels lived in the Yukon 20,000 years ago. They became extinct when a warming climate caused the growth of spruce forests to overtake their grassland habitat.

## It's A Fact!

Air pressure decreases rapidly with increasing altitude, and as air pressure decreases, so does the boiling point of water. At 3,700 m above sea-level, water boils at 87°, but a 3-minute egg takes 7 minutes to cook.

## By Jiminy!

Crickets chirp faster when it's warm than when it's cold. Count the number of cricket chirps in eight seconds, then add four. Nine times out of 10, you'll have the temperature to within one degree Celsius.

1914 Seventy-seven sealers froze to death during a violent storm on the ice off the southeastern coast of Labrador. At the height of the storm, from March 31 to April 2, the temperature was -23° and winds were from the NW at 64 km/h in snow.  
1987 Three spans of the railway bridge over the Ste-Anne River east of Trois-Rivières collapsed under the force of water and ice battering it.  
**GOOD FRIDAY**

1987 Flooding forced evacuation of several towns in Québec and New Brunswick. In the Beauce area of Québec the Chaudière River rose 8 m; 600 buildings flooded and utilities were cut to 2,000 homes. Rampaging waters and chunks of ice took out the railway bridge and 17 loaded railway cars at Perth-Andover, NB. Flooding closed the Trans-Canada Hwy., and threatened the riverside community in Fredericton.

1975 A late winter storm forced 200 employees of Canada's weather service to stay overnight at its Headquarters in Downsview, Ontario. Blowing and drifting snow plus stalled and abandoned vehicles blocked all exits from the parking lot.  
1986 The covered bridge whose picture appears on the \$1000 bank note was swept away by ice on the Saguenay River.  
**EASTER SUNDAY**  
**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME**

1885 Ottawa experienced its greatest 2-day snowfall on record on the 3rd and 4th — 71.1 cm; the 4-day total from the 2nd to the 5th was 108 cm; on the 6th, more than 50 mm of rain fell.  
1982 A volcanic explosion from Mexico's El-Chichon sent a 27-km high cloud into the atmosphere, which obscured the sun around the world.  
**EASTER MONDAY**

1979 A winter storm slammed southern Ontario on the 5th and 6th with 110 km/h winds, rain, freezing rain and blowing snow. A multi-car accident on Hwy 401 near Woodstock killed 6; two smash ups on Hwy 400 involved 60 vehicles.

1886 Heavy snowfall in the Detroit-Windsor area was whipped into 60-cm drifts by strong winds.  
1985 Following a tornado sighting near Windsor, fierce winds raked SW Ontario, ripping roof shingles and toppling trees and power lines. Winds pushed high lake waters inland and drove plates of ice through boat houses and docks on Lake Simcoe.

1977 Only one memorable weather event ever occurred on this date. The Toronto Blue Jays played their first home game at Exhibition Stadium before 44,649 fans. Weather at the start was: light continuous snow, winds SE at 22 km/h and a -10° wind-chill; Blue Jays 9 and White Sox 5.

1979 The third major storm in five days dumped snow (43.9 cm at Hamilton), freezing rain (13 mm at London) and ice pellets over southwestern Ontario. Driving was treacherous; 13 fatalities were blamed on the storm.

1987 Hopefully for the residents of the eastern Prairies and the Maritimes it was winter's last gasp. A general snow of 10 to 15 cm fell on central and northern districts of Saskatchewan and Manitoba. La Ronge, Sask., was buried under 48 cm, a new single day record. On the same day, PEI got 12 cm of snow and Sydney 42 mm of rain.

1986 An early April storm blanketed Ontario with snow and paralyzed Québec and the Maritimes with huge snowfalls. Several snowfall records were set: 44.4 cm at Sept-Îles and 75 cm at Charlo, NB. St. John's received 70 mm of rain, flooding parts of the city and shorting the power to many homes and schools.

1945 Halifax recorded its highest April temperature ever: 28.3°.  
1987 Maple syrup production in Eastern Canada was down drastically, owing to the mild spring and the lack of freezing night-time temperatures.

1865 The St. Lawrence River rose 3 to 4 m inundating areas in and around Sorel, Trois-Rivières and Berthier; 45 persons drowned. Strong winds and river ice inflicted much damage.  
1872 Winnipeg recorded its greatest 1-day April snowfall: 33 cm.

1858 Strong lake winds carved out Toronto Island.  
1984 A severe ice storm covered all of southeastern Newfoundland with 25 mm of glaze during a 2-day storm. St. John's was without electricity for days and the daily newspapers could not be published.

1753 From Hudson's Bay Archives for Churchill, "There are 16 foot drifts: snow depth 8 feet overall."  
1955 A surprising 7 cm of snow covered Victoria's daffodils.  
1969 The Montreal Expos played their first home game against the St. Louis Cardinals at Larry Park under sunny skies, in a temperature of 21° and winds from the west at 25 km/h; Expos 8 and Cards 7.

1912 On the night of the 14th to 15th, the Titanic collided with an iceberg 700 km southeast of Newfoundland; 1,500 persons drowned in the worst accident caused by an iceberg. St. John's had clear skies with light winds.

1984 Coastal BC residents cleaned up following the aftermath of an intense wind storm (124 km/h gusts at Terrace); fishing vessels and sailboats capsized, and forest fires fanned. Damage to boats, power lines and buildings were estimated at several millions.

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

1987 On the Easter weekend East and West experienced weather that was a reversal of mid-January. Calgarians woke up to see 15.4 cm of fresh snow, slushy streets and near-freezing temperatures. Easterners mowed their lawns, swung their golf clubs and looked at orchard blossoms. In NW Ontario and southern Québec temperatures soared to 30°.

1955 Edmonton experienced its greatest 2-day snowfall: 46 cm.  
1973 A dust devil swept across the Brandon Airport. It lifted a Cessna 172 completely off the ground.  
1983 The baseball season opened across Eastern North America amidst freakish snowstorms and frigid cold. Cleveland played at Toronto where the wind chill was -9.2°.

1941 Montréal McGill registered 30° — the highest April temperature ever.  
1984 A winter-long drought over most of the southern Prairies along with above-normal temperatures for several weeks left southern Manitoba very dry and in the grip of its worst spring forest fire season. More than 70 fires were reported, which had already consumed 14,000 hectares of bush and prairie.

1985 The worst April snowstorm in 30 years struck Alberta. The heaviest snow of 40 to 50 cm fell in central Alberta. At least 5 deaths near Calgary were attributed to the storm. The snow was unusually wet, the temperatures were near freezing and the winds were 30 to 50 km/h.

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

1987 Minimal winter snowfall, above normal spring temperatures and scanty rainfalls contributed to twice the number of forest fires this season compared to last year's. Conditions were especially grave from Alberta east to Québec. On the plus side, warm dry weather lessened the threat of flooding in the Great Lakes.

1974 Flooding was extensive over low-lying agricultural areas of central Alberta and southern Saskatchewan from mid-April to mid-May. Heavy autumn rains and heavy winter snows, 180% above normal, that melted rapidly caused severe flooding and delayed seeding 2 to 3 weeks.

1986 Four fishing trawlers sank with the loss of three lives in a coastal storm near BC's Queen Charlotte Islands. Winds exceeded 115 km/h. Many of the 400 boats in the halibut fleet got in trouble when the weather deteriorated faster than expected. Helicopters were used to pluck 22 fishermen from the cold Pacific waters.

1985 A record Ontario heat wave rapidly melted the snowpack in central and northern Ontario, causing rivers and streams to swell. Haliburton was covered by flood waters. The Albany River rose more than one metre, forcing the evacuation of several Indian communities near James Bay.  
1986 A BC coastal gale swamped a 11-m halibut boat in Georgia Strait — 2 crew members drowned.

1984 100 cargo ships were stuck in Lake St. Clair ice for 2 weeks.  
1987 Numerous April maximum temperature records were broken in southern BC valleys. In the Okanagan where apple trees were in full bloom, temperatures soared to 33°. In the north, the fine weather opened the lakes and rapidly depleted the snow cover.

1757 From Hudson's Bay Archives for York Factory, "Severity of weather froze beer in cellar."  
1984 A spring snowstorm blasted southern Manitoba with 40 cm of snow and winds up to 100 km/h. Over 8,000 families were without electricity for days; restoring the hydro service cost \$6 M. Winds and ice loads toppled trees, telephone and hydro lines, and huge steel towers.

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

1984 Wind delayed the start of the ball game between the Texas Rangers and the Blue Jays at Exhibition Stadium for 30 minutes before officials called off the game.  
1986 Vancouver woke up to light snow and freezing temperatures.



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<p>1913 The largest flood in many years occurred along the Assiniboine in Manitoba. Thousands of hectares of wheat-seeded land, seed in granaries and hay in stocks were ruined by rising water. The river was 5 km wide at some points.</p> <p>1979 Over 10,000 people were evacuated before the Red River crested at a level even higher than the record set in 1950.</p> <p><b>1</b></p>	<p>1986 Rain, overcast skies and cool temperatures did not dampen an otherwise splendid first day as Prince Charles and Diana, Princess of Wales, opened Expo '86.</p> <p>1986 Frost damaged early emerging vegetable crops and blossoming fruit trees in southern Ontario.</p> <p><b>2</b></p>	<p>1956 Described as a pocket or pint-sized tornado, a twister broke windows and ripped shingles off roofs in East Vancouver.</p> <p>1979 An ice jam on the Yukon River caused \$5 M flood damage in Dawson, YT; flood waters 2 m high submerged several historic sites and damaged 80% of the town's buildings.</p> <p><b>3</b></p>	<p>1907 Ottawa was surprised by a late season snowfall (19.1 cm) and the coldest temperature ever in May -7.2° on the 5th.</p> <p>1985 A snowstorm on the 4th and 5th disrupted life in Atlantic Canada. Up to 16 cm of heavy, wet snow covered PEI. Northern Newfoundland was buried under 30 to 40 cm. Power outages lasted several days.</p> <p><b>4</b></p>	<p>1952 A "freak tidal wave" struck the shores of Lakes Huron and Erie.</p> <p>1986 A small tornado struck Lampman, Saskatchewan, 50 km NE of Estevan. The twister crushed steel grain bins like beer cans and plucked up trees and smashed windshields. Heavy farm machinery was pushed across the road. Fortunately there were no injuries.</p> <p><b>5</b></p>	<p>1536 Jacques Cartier sailed for home after spending a severe winter near Québec City. He and his men suffered from the intense winter cold and scurvy; 25 died before spring arrived.</p> <p><b>6</b></p>	<p>1986 About 4 p.m. a severe earthquake registering 7.7 on the Richter Scale occurred in the Aleutian Islands. The Tsunami Warning Center in Alaska issued a tidal wave warning for the BC coast valid from 7 to 9 p.m. Residents living in areas under 15 m above sea level were ordered to evacuate. Fortunately the forecast 5-15 m waves did not occur — the largest wave was 1.5 m.</p> <p><b>7</b></p>
<p>1904 Brandon was isolated by the worst flood since 1882; downtown streets were under 1 m of water, several houses were washed away. The floods resulted from heavy late winter snows and a sudden thaw.</p> <p><b>8</b></p>	<p>1886 Halifax recorded its greatest rainfall for one day in May: 127.3 mm.</p> <p><b>9</b></p>	<p>1953 A freighter sank in Lake Superior with the loss of 17 seamen; winds blew at 100 km/h.</p> <p>1963 Dorval Airport registered Montreal's greatest snowfall for a day in May: 21.8 cm.</p> <p><b>10</b></p>	<p>1986 A tornado touched down just south of Morden, Manitoba tearing up farm buildings and ripping off the tops of evergreens as it they were carrot stems. The tornado packed such force that beams from a roof were driven 30 cm into the ground after being carried 100 m through the air. Power to 2,500 customers was cut. Hail and intense rain accompanied the winds.</p> <p><b>11</b></p>	<p>1984 Several funnel clouds and tornadoes were sighted in SE Saskatchewan.</p> <p>1985 Frost in the Okanagan damaged apple and pear trees; minimum temperatures dropped to -3.4° at Penticton and -3.7° at Kelowna. Castlegar had record minimum temperatures for three consecutive days.</p> <p><b>12</b></p>	<p>1984 An unusual snowfall (2 to 7 cm) produced a white Mother's Day in southwestern Ontario.</p> <p><b>13</b></p>	<p>1986 A blizzard with 80 km/h winds and knee-deep snow surprised south-central Alberta. More than 1 million people were affected by the 2-day blizzard, described as the worst spring storm in Alberta's history. Less than a week later under the scorching sun, temperatures climbed into the mid-30's.</p> <p>1987 Fanned by 40 km/h winds, fire destroyed over 100 homes under construction in Markham, Ontario — \$21 million in damages.</p> <p><b>14</b></p>
MOTHER'S DAY ☾						
<p>1986 Prolonged warm, dry and sunny weather contributed to a large forest fire outbreak in Atlantic Canada, where more than 100 fires were burning at the same time, spread out of control by brisk winds. The fires consumed more than 150,000 hectares of forest and several buildings. Thousands were evacuated, the Trans-Canada Highway was closed and many communities were shrouded in smoke.</p> <p><b>15</b></p>	<p>1986 About 100 people were airlifted from the Indian community at Winisk, Ontario as melting snow and heavy precipitation caused the Winisk River to flood. Only 7 of 60 buildings remained intact; some structures had been moved 5 km.</p> <p><b>16</b></p>	<p>1939 King George VI and Queen Elizabeth's trip to Canada was delayed as sea fog and ice floes about 500 km east of Cape Race prevented the <i>Empress of Australia</i> from sailing any closer.</p> <p>1974 Heavy rainfalls of 50 to 100 mm produced extensive flooding along the Grand River at Cambridge and Galt, Ontario; direct damage totalled \$6.7 M.</p> <p><b>17</b></p>	<p>1950 The Red River flooded in and around Winnipeg — 100,000 were evacuated.</p> <p>1980 Mt. St. Helens in Washington erupted sending smoke and ash 24 km into the air. The plume reached the East Coast in 3 days and circled the world in 19 days. A thin ash layer fell in the Okanagan Valley and visibilities were reduced to a few kilometres across the Prairies.</p> <p><b>18</b></p>	<p>1780 This was Black Friday, famous in Northwestern North America as a result of western forest fires; noon was almost night-time, chickens went to roost, and people were fearful of divine wrath.</p> <p>1881 Another dark gloomy May 19th sent weather prophets mad across New England and Canada. The air had a sulphur or sooty smell.</p> <p><b>19</b></p>	<p>1987 Following the worst winter storm in a year that dumped up to 20 cm of wet snow across north-central Alberta on the 19th, services were being restored. The storm caused power outages, clogged roads and smothered newly planted gardens. Wind gusts to 60 km/h and near-zero temperatures added to the misery.</p> <p><b>20</b></p>	<p>1826 The Red River at Winnipeg reached its highest recorded level ever. The flow was estimated to be twice that of the 1950 peak flow.</p> <p>1979 Three tornadoes touched down in Regina.</p> <p>1985 Following 80 mm of rain, a landslide north of Trois-Rivières destroyed a road, isolating 200 residents.</p> <p><b>21</b></p>
<p>1987 Rick Hansen arrived at Vancouver's Oakridge Shopping Centre in perfect weather: sunny skies, excellent visibility, temperature of 17° and winds southeast at 11 km/h. More than 10,000 persons welcomed the Man in Motion to the place where the tour began 26 months and 40,000 km ago.</p> <p><b>22</b></p>	<p>1893 A tornado touched down in Montréal and caused several injuries and several deaths.</p> <p>1973 Rains finally ended after 72 hours across most of Gaspé and northern New Brunswick. Val d'Espoir received 190 mm during the storm.</p> <p><b>23</b></p>	<p>1803 Quote from the Henry Journal, "Set off for Portage la Prairie. We found much water on the plains. Mosquitoes by the millions".</p> <p>1912 The first parachute jump in Canada was made by Charles Saunders in Vancouver. The weather was ideal: 21°, no precipitation, light winds.</p> <p><b>24</b></p>	<p>1968 Forest fires devastated vast areas of Alberta. Early season records were established for the greatest number of outbreaks and the largest acreage ever incinerated.</p> <p>1978 Hail the size of baseballs accompanied a tornado in Winnipeg.</p> <p><b>25</b></p>	<p>1933 A cleanup continued in southern Manitoba following an intense cloudburst that resulted in flash floods. Muddy waters surged down the streets of Morden; "roaring like an express train the churning torrents carried board walks along like chips". Bridges were washed away, crops ruined and livestock killed.</p> <p><b>26</b></p>	<p>1765 From the diary of Alexander Rose, an Army Lieutenant stationed in Québec City: "The mercury rose to 85° (F) . . . at a place down the river called Mount Louis was a heavy storm of snow which continued the whole day". Rose had observed a classic weather front.</p> <p><b>27</b></p>	<p>1986 Dewberry, east of Edmonton, was hit by an isolated severe thunderstorm. More than 75 mm of rain fell in one hour. In addition, strong downdrafts uprooted trees and demolished many structures.</p> <p><b>28</b></p>
	VICTORIA DAY ☾					
<p>1986 Violent thunderstorms crossed southern Québec. Hail from golfball-size up to 8 cm in diameter pounded parts of St. Hubert near Montréal. Heavy downpours flooded roads, tunnels and basements. The storm uprooted trees, downed hydro lines and damaged buildings. An enormous cost estimate of \$70 million was put on the storm. Insurers well remember this tempest.</p> <p><b>29</b></p>	<p>1961 The most intense rainstorm ever in Canada, 250 mm in under one hour, occurred at Buffalo Gap in south-central Saskatchewan. Heavy hail and strong winds were part of the storm. Debris was strewn very far. The torrents of water washed out roads, eroded fields and even stripped bark from several large trees. The land was cleaned clear of soil and vegetation.</p> <p><b>30</b></p>	<p>1985 The worst tornado outbreak in 30 years occurred across Central Ontario in late afternoon. Three confirmed tornadoes struck the communities of Barrie, Grand Valley, Orangeville and Tottenham — 12 deaths, 100+ injured and 1,000 buildings destroyed or damaged. The tornado was the 4th most damaging and had the longest track (200 km) in Canadian history.</p> <p><b>31</b></p>	<p>You'd Never Be Mist "Sometimes on the Bay of Fundy the fog comes in so thick you can sit on the boat's rail and lean your back up against it. So that's pretty thick fog out there; but you gotta be careful 'cause if the fog lifts quick, you'll fall overboard."</p> <p><b>31</b></p>	<p>It's A Fact! About 44,000 thunderstorms occur on average every day throughout the world, producing 100 lightning flashes every second.</p> <p>Lightning kills 10 to 15 Canadians each year, causes about \$3 million damage and starts 20% of the forest fires in Canada.</p>	<p>Weather or Not . . . A slight rainshower in Winnipeg on a warm afternoon in May 1895 produced a shower of huge black ants each about the size of a wasp. Described as being similar to the African ant, the winged insects covered sidewalks, roads, and roofs and entered homes.</p> <p>May 5, 1987 — it rained green rain in Moscow. Scientists reasoned it was pollen from late-blooming trees and bushes that coloured the rain.</p>	<p>How Dry I Am The least amount of precipitation ever recorded in Canada in one year was 12.7 mm at Arctic Bay, NWT, in 1949.</p> <p>Death Valley, California had no precipitation in 1929. Calama, Chile, the driest place in the world, has had no rain for 400 years, then on February 10, 1972, a torrential rain, flood and mudslide swept the town away.</p>



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## Big Sky Country

On average, Saskatoon gets more bright sunshine than any other major Canadian city. On average the city receives 2,450 hours of sunshine a year. St. John's gets just 1,497 hours, and Prince Rupert, BC, the least 985 hours.

## Blonds Have More Fun

Curly hair becomes curlier and straight hair goes limp during humid weather because they absorb moisture from the air. This effect was used to invent the first hygrometer in 1783. Hair was attached to a needle and, as it expanded during moist weather and contracted during dry, it moved the needle across a scale. Hair hygrometers are still used; blond hair works best.

## You Can Do It!

By counting the number of seconds between seeing a lightning flash and hearing its thunder and then dividing by 3 you can calculate how far away the lightning is in kilometres.

1986 Sunny warm weather rapidly melted the mountain snow pack in the Rockies. Slides and flooding occurred at the headwaters of the Fraser and Thompson rivers. A huge mudslide in the Rogers Pass closed the Trans-Canada Hwy. and CPR mainline for 3 days. In southern Alberta workers lined sandbags along swollen rivers to minimize flooding.

1986 Arctic air covered Québec for several days. On the 2nd and 3rd, a killing frost damaged up to half of the corn, tobacco, potato and strawberry seedlings in the St. Lawrence Valley and the Eastern Townships. In the Lake St. Jean area, frost damaged blueberry fields with a loss of \$3 million. Minimum temperatures were 3 to 6 degrees below freezing — new low temperature records for June.

1961 At Regina there began an incredible 10-day heat wave when the afternoon temperatures were above 32°. Across Western Canada June 1961 is remembered as the hottest, driest, sunniest month in history. By the end of June, the grain growing areas were locked into a serious drought that threatened the economy.

1980 Heavy rains across west-central Alberta caused floods, washouts and mudslides near Edson.

1986 Strong winds gusting to 100 km/h at Coral Harbour, NWT produced whiteouts. The wind chill dropped to -35°.

1951 Calgarians faced a final taste of winter with freezing temperatures and a 40 cm blanket of snow that accumulated over 36 hours.

1979 The Montréal region was hit hard by a violent thunderstorm. Losses to vegetable growers exceeded \$2.5 M. Basements were flooded and many roofs were blown off.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

1986 Cooler, more settled weather stabilized the forest fire situation somewhat over Northern Ontario, where 24 fires were still burning. The major blaze near Red Lake, ablaze since early March, destroyed more than 50,000 hectares of prime softwood, and was Ontario's worst forest fire in six years. About 400 workers battled the blaze, employing 16 helicopters and 4 water bombers.

ENVIRONMENT WEEK

1983 A violent thunderstorm near Québec City produced pea-size hail and winds gusting to 100 km/h. The winds damaged light aircraft parked on the ground at Ste-Foy Airport and snapped large trees and power lines at St-Nicolas.

1986 The remnants of tropical storm Andrew brought heavy rain to Newfoundland.

1987 Large hail and tornadoes damaged buildings and property in the Ottawa Valley and in Montréal. Dorval received 44 mm in 1 hour, setting a new June record. Marieville east of Montréal received 110 mm in 1 day.

1985 Officials assessed the damage following a severe windstorm across the eastern Prairies on the 8th. Hurricane-force winds produced heavy-soil erosion and damaged buildings and transmission lines. Newly seeded crops were ruined and everything was coated with a layer of fine dust. The sky was obscured for hours.

1971 The Government Reorganization Bill passed the House of Commons. It created the Department of the Environment and with it the renaming of the Canadian Meteorological Service to the Atmospheric Environment Service.

1979 Tornadoes caused locally heavy damage to parts of London and Brampton, Ontario.

1972 A widespread record-breaking late, killing frost struck agriculture-rich southwestern Ontario. Grass minimum temperatures fell to -7.8°. Farmers suffered huge losses to young tobacco, tomatoes and cash crop vegetables.

1986 Fog and rain persisted for most of the baseball game between the Detroit Tigers and the Toronto Blue Jays. After a pop fly to centre field disappeared in the fog for an inside the park home run, the umpire mercifully called the game, with the Jays ahead 9-0.

1930 A mixture of blowing dust and heavy rain produced a rain of mud at Provost, Alberta.

1984 An intense rainstorm near Hamilton produced rainfall amounts that were expected only once every 500 years. In one hour 46.5 mm fell; in 2 hours 69.8 mm. Storm total exceeded 75 mm.

1919 Alcock and Brown took off from St. John's on the first successful non-stop flight across the Atlantic, and landed at Clifton, Ireland. The weather at takeoff was: clear, 15°, SW winds at 32 km/h and 4/10 of the sky cloud-covered.

1987 Temperature soared to 35° at Toronto, the highest reading since 1983.

1859 The great frost of 1859 caused extensive crop damage across southern Ontario. A farmer from Komoka committed suicide on seeing his wheat field the next morning.

1986 Flash floods near Terrace, BC, washed out 2 bridges, the CN rail line and many local logging roads.

1986 Severe hail and thunderstorms rolled across southern and eastern Ontario. In Haliburton cottage country, a tornado ripped through, causing \$4 million damage to more than 100 cottages and homes, and downing thousands of trees (some 100-year pines), and many hydro poles.

1946 A tornado skirted along the southern edge of Windsor and moved over Lake St. Clair; 16 killed, hundreds injured; damage was estimated at \$1.5 M.

1984 Thunderstorms developed ahead of a cold front moving through southern Ontario. In the London area there was golf-ball size hail and some minor flooding. In Hamilton, heavy rains flooded streets and basements; one person was killed by lightning and a funnel cloud was reported near the city. At the centre of the storm, about 50 mm of rain fell in 1 hour.

1986 Funnel clouds were sighted over many places in the western Prairies on the 18th and 19th. A tornado touched down inside Saskatoon. Much tornadoic wind damage was reported near Edmonton and a tornado was sighted near High Prairie. At Regina Airport a tornado spun planes around on the tarmac.

1874 Lightning storm scared 250 mounted police horses, which stampeded over 120 km in southern Manitoba.

1877 A disastrous fire spread through Saint John and razed a building housing the meteorological observatory. Eighteen lives were lost in the city and property damage was about \$27 M.

1981 A week of severe weather across the eastern Prairies caused extensive damage to buildings and crops. Heavy thunderstorms with large hail were set off during record high temperatures. On the 15th, Saskatoon registered a temperature of 39°. On the 16th, a tornado touched down near Gravelbourg, Saskatchewan. Strong winds damaged trailers, flattened barns and tore a hangar roof off near Rossburn. On the 21st golfball-size hail fell near Selkirk, Manitoba.

1972 Hurricane Agnes left Canada after 7 days of rain and gusty winds. Widespread flooding caused heavy damage in Ontario. Agnes was called the most costly storm in US history.

1985 The baseball game between the Boston Red Sox and the Blue Jays was delayed in the 5th inning by rains for 3 hours and 16 minutes. The game resumed after one of the longest delays in baseball history.

1980 A tornado and hailstorm near Yorkton caused \$1.6 M in property losses including the skating rink at Francis, Sask.

1923 A tornado trekked from Hornby to Cookville Ontario — 4 dead, \$2 M damage.

1985 A tornado touched down near Fort St. John, BC.

1986 Strong winds near Sherbrooke blew a hangar onto four planes. Total storm damage exceeded \$1 M.

1974 A severe local storm tore the roof off the Kamloops Grandstand. Winds uprooted trees and smashed many windows in a 3-minute blast.

1981 On 61 of the 86 days since April 1, rain fell across southern BC. Spoiled crops were valued at \$15 M.

FATHER'S DAY

SUMMER 23:57 EDT

1794 Peter Fidler — fur trader, land surveyor and fort builder — kept careful weather records as he travelled about the Canadian Northwest. He allowed nothing to interfere with his weather reporting. From his entry on June 26: "house plundered by the Indians — 3 men, 1 woman and 2 children murdered. Temperature 62°(F). A smart breeze".

1952 Damage assessed from the preceding day's spectacular hailfall during 15 minutes at Kemptville, 50 km south of Ottawa: 5,000 windows broken, 500 fowl and pets killed, 200 automobiles damaged, 100 metal roofs punctured, and 15 acres of test crops ruined.

1856 Woodstock tornado struck about 3 p.m. with noise resembling that of Niagara Falls. It destroyed much property including the freight house of the Great Western Railway. Four people were killed and 7 injured.

1985 Goose Bay sweltered with 35.4° temperatures; crews battled nearby forest fires.

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

1912 The Regina "Cyclone" killed 30, injured hundreds, and inflicted \$4 M damage.

1921 The temperature soared to 34° around midnight during a thunderstorm near Killarney, Manitoba.

## Believe It or Not!

Tornadoes are legion for their freakish, almost improbable pranks. Stories of defeathered chickens, debarked trees, smashed garages around unmarked cars, and straw driven through boards are well known. In 1942, a tornado dug up a Killarney, Manitoba, farmer's potato crop. In 1952, near Estevan, boards from a building were driven through the walls of a house close to it with sufficient force to wreck the furniture. A cow in Sedley, Sask., was found lying on her back anchored to the ground by her horns. Once dug out, she seemed unperturbed. A Lumsden, Sask., man lost his trousers and later discovered them swinging from a tree a mile away. The 1912 Regina tornado carried a telephone pole vertically down the street.



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## Is It Better to Duck?

There are no records of hailstones killing anybody in Canada. Wildlife and livestock are not so fortunate. Hailstones pounded a 270-kg hog to death. On July 14, 1953 a hailstorm over Alberta killed 36,000 ducks, and thousands of other birds, such as owls and songbirds. Four days later another hailstorm killed 27,000 ducks in the same area.

## Sound and Light Show

The most damaging lightning stroke in US history hit the Naval Ammunition Depot in New Jersey on July 10, 1926. The bolt struck depth charges and TNT bombs that scattered debris over 30 km; 16 killed, \$93 million damage - the most expensive lightning stroke on record.

## On This Day . . .

A July 13, 1977 lightning bolt triggered a massive blackout over New York City; more than one billion dollars was lost in looting.

## Weather or Not . . .

The Old Farmer's Almanac called for rain, snow and hail on July 13, 1816 and that is just what happened in eastern North America. The typesetter inserted it as a joke, fully expecting the editor would correct it. He missed it and the first lot of copies was printed. A later issue of that same edition predicted a dull July 13th. But those who received the earlier copies swore by The Old Farmer's Almanac.

## Weather Supreme

On July 21, 1983 a Soviet weather observer recorded the world's lowest air temperature, -89° at Vostok in the Antarctic.

1854 From Hudson's Bay Archives for Churchill, "Hail the size of a musket ball."

1962 A "midget" tornado ripped through Richmond and South Vancouver. The 5-minute twister struck with hail and torrential rains and damaged several greenhouses and tore countless shingles off roofs. It was the third observation of a tornado at Vancouver Weather Office in 33 years of records.

## CANADA DAY

1987 A torrential downpour left Glen Abbey's golf course near Oakville, Ontario a series of lakes and streams. After 3 1/2 hours, officials suspended play midway through the second round of the Canadian Open, the first time anyone could recall that a round could not be completed in the 78-year history of the Open. Less rain fell north of Toronto at the site of the Weatherman's Golf Tournament.

1944 The temperature at Goose Bay reached 37.8° (100F) - the warmest temperature ever recorded in Labrador.

1986 Lightning strikes ignited fires in the central Yukon. Over 100 fires destroyed in excess of 41,000 hectares of timber. Smoke hampered Yukon flight operations.

1937 Temperatures rose to 45° at Midale and Yellow Grass - the highest ever recorded in Saskatchewan and Canada.

1939 The lowest temperature ever reported in July in Canada was -12.2° at Fort Ross, NWT.

1986 Oppressively hot and humid air set new daily temperature records in Toronto and area. Afternoon readings reached 34.3° and the humidex was 41°. At night, temperatures stayed above an uncomfortable 20°. Under the intense heat, roads buckled causing numerous traffic accidents. This day was the 50th anniversary of the infamous heat wave that left 458 dead across Ontario.

1959 A "plover wind" - with the intensity of a tornado but with no rotation - struck SW Manitoba.

1987 Residents of southern Winnipeg surveyed damaged caused by a tornado that struck the city on the 6th. There were no injuries. Fifteen railway box cars were derailed and part of a roof of a school was blown off.

1927 Over two days, 40 tornadoes were reported across central Alberta. More than 60 farmsteads lost grain bins, large barns or homes; 3 persons perished and several were injured.

1981 An Air Canada 727 with 90 persons aboard was struck by lightning as it took off from St. John's. No injuries were reported.

1986 Severe thunderstorms developed over the Red Deer and Calgary regions. Aircraft crews and volunteer weather watchers sighted 3 tornadoes and 5 funnel clouds. Grape-size hail and heavy rains were widely reported.

1901 An intense hailstorm struck Edmonton and district about 5 p.m. Almost every tin roof was severely dented, thousands of lights were destroyed and gardens were pummeled. Many small farm animals were killed. Hailstones measured up to 8 cm in diameter and some weighed 140 g.

The author of the *Canadian Weather Trivia Calendar* calls this date Canadian Weather Day. More notable weather events occurred on this date than any other in the year. Among those events making headlines were: heat waves and cold waves, violent storms, record downpours, lightning-induced forest fires, wind storms, frosts and floods. (See October 2)

1843 Toronto had its coldest July day ever: 3.9°.

1936 The warmest day ever in Manitoba occurred at Emerson: 44.4°.

1969 A slow-moving weather system took 84 hours to cross the Maritimes. From the 11th to the 14th, Saint John recorded 198 mm of rain.

1976 Three days of steady rain over the lower St. Lawrence River produced as much as 326 mm of rain east of Québec City.

1987 Southern Ontario's sweltering heat wave broke when the temperature failed to rise above 30° for the first time in 6 days.

A ferocious 2-hour thunderstorm lashed Montréal with 102 mm of rain. The flash flood caused scores of accidents and widespread property damage and killed two people. The storm knocked out electricity and halted subway and commuter trains, stranding hundreds downtown overnight.

862 Saint Swithin's Day - if it rains on this day expect rain for 40 days otherwise expect no rain for 40 days.

1928 Near Constance, Sask., hailstones the size of teacups lashed a ranch killing more than 750 animals by crushing their skulls and bodies. Three horses were also killed and a sheep herder was forced to cover his head with the saddle to save his life.

1986 Cool, miserable weather plagued both Alberta and British Columbia, dismaying both residents and Expo visitors during the middle of July. Campers in Yoho National Park woke up to an unpleasant surprise - 15 cm of snow. At Grave Flats, north of Jasper, 25 cm was on the ground. The Icefield Parkway between Banff and Jasper was closed to traffic.

1976 The XXIIst Olympiad opened at Montréal under partly cloudy skies, 21° temperatures, and southwest winds at 20 km/h. During the Games' 16-day run, the temperature averaged 2 degrees below normal and there were 6 days with rain and 5 with trace amounts.

1986 Around the evening rush home, thunderstorms hit quickly and dumped heavy amounts of rain (60 mm) on some areas of Metro Toronto. The severe storm was blamed for several major accidents. It also elevated pollution levels as storm sewers swept wastes from street, sanitary sewers and lawns into Lake Ontario. Swimmers were warned away from City of Toronto beaches.

1986 About 900 Edmonton residents were forced to flee their homes as the surging waters of the rain-swollen North Saskatchewan River, rose 11.6 m (7.6 m above normal), and caused the area's worst flooding since 1915. Two deaths were attributed to the floods. Across northern and central Alberta huge tracts of farmland were flooded. About 80% of the forage crops were submerged.

1962 A 13,000-ton British ore-carrier collided with a 6,000-ton vessel in fog on the St. Lawrence about 90 km downstream from Québec. The ore-carrier with a crew of 49 sank quickly leaving only its foremast and stack above the water.

1981 The effect of winter kill on Québec apple trees was announced. A cold December and alternating warm and cold periods in late winter and spring damaged 35% of the apple orchards - loss over 10 years estimated at \$300 M.

1985 A tornado touchdown at Cochrane, Ontario damaged mobile homes and an airplane.

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

1971 Two days of severe weather inflicted enormous damage over the western Prairies; a 535-km hailswath cause \$20 M damage. Rainfall exceeded 75 mm in 12 hours.

1918 The coldest July period on record occurred through the western Prairies. Temperatures of -5° to -10° resulted in crop and garden losses. The subsequent stench of rotting vegetation was well remembered.

1979 West Guilford, Ontario was deluged with 122.8 mm of rain in 24 hours, the most precipitation received in one day in Muskoka-Haliburton area since records began in 1883.

1578 From the journal of Martin Frobisher: "In this storm, there fell much snow with such bitter cold air that we could scarce see one another . . . The snow was about half a foot deep on the hatches . . . (weather) so discouraged the poor men who had not experienced the like before, every man persuaded himself that the winter must be extreme where there be found so unseasonable a summer."

1986 More than 10 cm of hail covered the ground at Estevan while nearby areas received a pouring of 100 mm of rain. Tornadoes were spotted at St. Malo, south of Winnipeg, while another twister struck Carlyle, Sask.

1986 A thunderstorm and strong winds near Trois-Rivières caused a helicopter to crash.

1980 Toronto recorded its wettest day since Hurricane Hazel when 118.5 mm of rain fell, a new record 1-day July rainfall that equalled the record high July monthly rainfall.

1981 A severe, summer hailstorm lasted only 15 minutes over Calgary and environs but did \$100 M damage.

1916 A forest fire in northern Ontario, ignited by lightning, engulfed the towns of Cochrane and Matheson, killing at least 233 persons.

1946 A hailstorm in the Okanagan Valley near Penticton inflicted \$2 M in damage on the apple and pear crop in 15 minutes; some hailstones measured over 5 cm in diameter.

1918 A tornado killed three children in Vermilion, Alberta before destroying the exhibition grandstand at Wainwright.

1978 A tornado was sighted 80 km northeast of Yellowknife.



# AUGUST 1988

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## A Tall Weather Tale

"This happened out on the Prairies and it's true. One very hot day, this field that was planted in pop-corn, well, it began popping. The ground was so deep in white pop-corn that some cattle in the next field thought it was a blizzard and froze to death."

1955 July and August were the warmest two months on record across Ontario. June, July and August in 1949 was the warmest summer on record.

CIVIC HOLIDAY  
(SIMCOE DAY)

1971 A vicious hailstorm did incredible damage to the town of Whitecourt, Alberta. Baseball-size hail fell for 15 minutes and was driven by 80 km/h winds at a 45° angle. Every roof required repairs and every window needed replacement. Hailstones penetrated aluminum roofs and sidings, 6 planes were write-offs and all neon signs were shattered. The hail lay in 20-cm drifts for 2 days.

1986 A frontal system crossed the BC coast. The strongest winds associated with it were 76 km/h at Solander Island. A 12-m fishing vessel sank nearby and several recreational boats capsized in Georgia Strait. No lives were lost.

1870 A very smoky day across eastern Canada resulted from immense forest fires that could not be put out.

1875 Earliest first frost in the fall at Winnipeg.

1986 Some mighty strange weather was occurring in Ontario. At Timmins, snow fell for the first time on record during a summer month. The weather office called it "a bit of a freak". Hail was reported at Port Hope and St. Catharines and waterspouts were sighted over Georgian Bay.

1979 The cleanup was well underway following the preceding day's tornado at Woodstock, Ontario. Losses were put at: 3 deaths, 150 injured and \$100 million property damage (excluding crops).

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

1986 Severe thunderstorms and heavy rains hit southern Ontario. North of Toronto 80 mm of rain fell in just over 1 hour, causing flash floods and much street flooding. A lightning bolt knocked out the Toronto weather radar. At the CNE a 5-year old girl was killed when strong winds toppled a 6-m steel and wooden archway. A tornado touched down near Hanover, 100 km NW of Toronto.

1711 Thick river fog on the St. Lawrence thwarted Admiral Walker's assault on Québec. Eight of 15 warships were wrecked and 884 men drowned.

1883 A spectacular lightning storm at Toronto during the evening was so brilliant that street lamps were not needed; the storm wrecked telegraph poles and demolished buildings and fences.

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

1982 Across southern Ontario, the temperature dipped below 2°; the lowest in 67 Augusts. At Delhi, the grass minimum was -5.0°, and frost damaged about 40% of the unpicked tobacco (\$30 M loss).

1986 Southern Ontario farmers sought government aid following the preceding day's 25-minute hailstorm in the Niagara Peninsula and Holland Marsh. Hailstones the size of golf balls damaged 20% of the bumper peach crop. Locals called it the worst storm in memory - \$20 M damage. In the Marsh, near-ready vegetables were ruined by hail, drenching rains and gusty winds.

1960 Vancouver Airport recorded its highest temperature ever: 33.3°.

1981 A newspaper report claimed that a lightning victim near London was saved by his religious neck chain. The victim was cast 2 m in the air. His clothes were shredded and his right running shoe was blown off.

1888 A terrible thunderstorm passed from St. Zotique to Valleyfield, Québec, leaving 9 dead, 14 injured and debris from shattered buildings scattered everywhere.

1958 Suspicion is that a twister developed in the midst of a forest fire near Merritt, BC; 2 fire fighters were hurled into the fire.

1985 An acid rain event occurred in southern Ontario with a pH of 3.0 (acidity of weak vinegar). Winds were from the south.

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

1959 Severe hailstorm across southern Ontario caused \$3 M damage to the Delhi tobacco crop and felled countless hydro lines.

1968 An intense rainstorm brought 200 mm of rain to Ecum Secum, Nova Scotia.

1985 More than 380 mm of rain fell near Parkman, Sask., during a "super" thunderstorm. On one farm, two brothers used their motorboat for the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to go water skiing on a lake that had been a dry wheat field the day before.

1973 The most northerly funnel cloud sighting in Canada was made on Upper Garry Lake, NWT — just south of the Arctic Circle.

1984 A severe thunderstorm struck High Prairie, Alberta. In a 30-minute period, 100 mm of rain fell, accompanied by walnut-size hail and strong winds. Several cars were damaged and crops were destroyed.

1984 A hot, dry summer fostered a grasshopper infestation and grassland fires over Southern Saskatchewan and Alberta.

1954 Hurricane Carol moved into Québec City bringing 43 mm of rain and gale-force winds.

1957 The day ends the driest month on record at Montréal, only 0.5 mm of rain.

1970 It was the rainiest month on record in SE Newfoundland, where some places had over 400 mm of rain.

1969 Severe hailstorms with some of the largest hailstones ever observed in Alberta inflicted \$17 M damage on Edmonton and district. Tornadoes were reported south of the city; winds snapped trees measuring a half metre in diameter.

1983 Warmest night in almost 100 years at Winnipeg: above 22°.

1986 Canadian fishermen rescued 152 Tamil refugees following heavy rain, fog and rough seas of 1-2 m off St. John's, Newfoundland.

1939 A storm centred over Resolute, NWT brought 114 mm of rain to Craig Harbour within 66 hours.

1985 Manitoba farming districts received 100 to 140 mm of rain. Hundreds of homes were flooded at Selkirk. Grain crops were under water, halting the harvest. Winnipeg had already received twice its normal August rainfall.

1832 From a letter written by the founder of the Talbot settlement in Ontario, Thomas Talbot, "The weather is now (September) charmingly warm, and will, I hope, ripen my Indian corn . . . but the severe frost (Aug. 25) killed all the corn, potatoes, and buckwheat in the Northern Townships, which must be a dreadful loss to the new beginners, who had nothing else to look to for their winter's provisions".

## True or False

Lightning never strikes twice in the same place.

**False.** Lightning often strikes the same place more than once. Toronto's CN Tower is struck an average of 65 times a year. New York City's Empire State Building was hit 15 times in 15 minutes.

1689 Following a violent hailstorm near Lachine, Québec, Indian warriors attacked a group of frightened settlers in the worst massacre in Canadian history.

1859 A tornado tore up trees and swamped several boats in PEI.

1985 A spell of poor weather ended just as the Canada Summer Games opened at Saint John. Good weather continued for the duration of the competition.

1986 Tropical Storm Charley passed south of Nova Scotia, accompanied by heavy rainfalls and brisk winds. Sable Island received 119 mm of rain and gusts of more than 100 km/h. On the mainland Shelburne got the most rainfall, 55 mm.

1891 Weather forecasts were first published for the Prairies.

1986 Torrential rains (40 to 80 mm) once again fell on southern Ontario. Creeks and rivers overflowed, flooding streets and highways in the Toronto area.

## On This Day . . .

On August 8, 1882 snow showers were observed along the shores of Lake Michigan. The decks of ships on the lake were covered with snow and slush 15 cm deep.

1879 The Buctouche tornado near St. Mary's, New Brunswick, ravaged the village, demolishing everything in its path; 7 were killed and several injured or left homeless; losses amounted to \$100,000.

1976 A sudden storm described as "the storm that meant the end of the world" alarmed residents of southern Ontario. Hailstones 8 cm in diameter pounded property, causing \$3 million damage. Lightning disabled the weather radar at Toronto Airport and struck six Air Canada maintenance workers.

1970 A tornado struck Sudbury at about 8:30 a.m. and in a few minutes inflicted \$5 M damage and left 10 dead, 200 injured and 750 homeless.

1883 Krakatoa, the mightiest volcanic eruption in modern times, caused brilliant coloured sunrises and sunsets and unusually coloured suns and moons around the world for several years.

1973 The largest hailstone ever documented in Canada, 290 g fell at Cedoux, Sask.

## Hail! Hail!

Most hailstones are spherical. Some bizarre even grotesque shapes have been observed, e.g. pyramid, starfish, mushroom, spikes, saucer, paving block. In August 1901 along the St. Lawrence River, hail resembled pieces of round lead pencils, 1 cm long. In July 1902, hail shaped like the fly-wheel of a sewing machine, and 4.5 cm in diameter with a circular rim 3 cm thick, fell among perfectly spherical hailstones.



# SEPTEMBER 1988

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## Worst of the Worst Hurricanes . . .

Most expensive: *Agnès*, June 1972, \$2.1 billion damage  
Most deadly in modern times: Bangladesh, 200,000 confirmed dead in November 1970  
Most deadly in US: Galveston, 6,000 deaths, September 1900  
Most prolonged: *Ginger* 22 days  
Canada's worst: *Hazel*, \$24 million, 80 deaths

## Would you Believe . . .

70 million years ago dinosaurs roamed western Canada among palm trees in a subtropical climate. As recently as 13,000 years ago, arctic walrus lived as far south as Moncton, New Brunswick and Qualicum Beach on Vancouver Island.

## Weather Supreme . . .

Dallol, Ethiopia has the world's highest average annual temperature (all temperatures averaged together): 35°.

Canada's highest annual average is 10.7° at Sumas Canal - 60 km east of Vancouver.

## Did you know . . .

In 1884 trains carried large metal discs on the baggage cars or on the front of the engine to provide forecasts to farmers and others living within the sight of the railway. The shape of the disc indicated the weather forecast thus: full moon - fine weather, crescent moon - showery, star - rainy weather.

1937 Trans-Canada Air Lines (TCA) flew its first passenger and first international flight 196 km from Vancouver's Sea Island Airport to Seattle, Washington. Departure weather for the historic flight was perfect: clear skies, unlimited visibility, moderate winds and a temperature of 22°.

1986 Abnormally low temperatures for most of 1986 created heavy ice conditions throughout the eastern Arctic. The cruise ship *World Discoverer* attempting to sail through the Northwest Passage with the help of an ice-breaker was unable to make any headway in Peel Sound because of the severe ice, so the "cruise" was terminated.

1972 Ennadai Lake recorded a rainfall of 91.2 mm, the greatest ever recorded at any NWT station in one day.

1876 Frederic Stupart issued the first Canadian-prepared storm warning from the headquarters of the new Meteorological Service of Canada, at Toronto.  
1953 Toronto's longest heat wave ended: 10 days with maximum temperature over 31°, including 38° on the 2nd. Water temperatures in Lake Erie became so high that millions of fish died from lack of oxygen.

1881 A yellowish-green fog covered everything and produced some "weird effects" across NE North America as the result of forest fires in Michigan and Ontario. The air was very still and hot and was filled with debris and smoke from the distant fires. Near Lake Huron the fires burned 20 villages, killed 500 people and caused \$3 million in damage.

## LABOUR DAY

1979 Tropical Storm *David* slammed into the Maritimes causing floods and property losses of \$1 M. Winds gusts exceeded 100 km/h on Grindstone Island.  
1985 A funnel cloud was sighted at Vancouver. The Rocky Mountains received 20 cm of snow.

1985 A warm spell at Toronto saw 30°+ temperatures and 40°+ humidex values. Many warm overnight temperature records were set during the heat wave.

1775 The Independence Hurricane struck the Atlantic Region with full force, driving many fishing boats onto the Grand Banks. About 4,000 sailors, mostly from the British Isles, were reported as drowned. The storm tore roofs off, crumbled chimneys and flattened buildings in St. John's.

1986 It last rained in Vancouver on July 17 breaking a 35-year old record for lack of precipitation. Vancouverites usually panic when they receive a week of sunshine, wondering if its ever going to rain again. Their prayers were answered - 0.2 mm of rain fell in Vancouver, the first moisture in 54 days.

1954 All Canada was celebrating the feat of Marilyn Bell who, the day before, became the first person to swim across Lake Ontario. During her swim the max/min temperatures were 19.1°/11.0°, winds ESE at 12 to 16 km/h, and visibility 12 km with no precipitation.

1986 Two days of record-breaking rain fell across southern areas in Ontario and Québec: up to 150 mm in Toronto and over 100 mm in the Ottawa Valley and southern Laurentians. Nearly every city had power outages and flooded basements and roadways. Water submerged the Don Valley Parkway and cut GO service during Toronto's rush hour. In Québec an 11-m dam burst open near Lachute.

1981 Warm, dry weather caused a resurgence of forest fires in northern Alberta. Additional fire-fighting crews arrived from Alaska to battle the 43 fires that consumed over 800,000 hectares of timber.

1979 The remnants of Hurricane *Frederic* brought rain to the St. Lawrence Valley on the 13th and 14th. Kingston had 128.8 mm and Québec 81.2 mm. There was serious flooding in Montréal and landslides in Québec City.  
1985 A heavy rainstorm across southern Alberta produced new 24-hour rainfall records at Calgary (93 mm) and Rocky Mountain House (84 mm).

1882 During a fierce gale the Steamer *Asia* sank in Georgian Bay with the loss of 126 lives.  
1984 Cool and damp weather occurred during Pope John Paul's visit to St. John's, and people braved the strong winds and cool temperatures during mass on the same day at Halifax.

1984 Pope John Paul celebrated mass for 500,000 people at Downsview Airport (Metro Toronto) under cloudy, cool and windy weather conditions. The ground was soaked from a week of rain.

1984 A remnant of Hurricane *Diana* passed south of Nova Scotia towards Newfoundland. Heavy rains (30 to 50 mm) and strong winds (130 km/h) were recorded. Two oil rigs were evacuated and one crew member aboard the Canadian Tall Ship *Belle Blonde* drowned.

1986 A vigorous storm dropped 50 to 60 mm of rain on PEI and Nova Scotia. Several coastal stations reported winds gusting to over 100 km/h. Offshore, Hurricane *Earl* brought squalls and storm-force winds to the Grand Banks, east of Newfoundland.

1975 An intense low over Winnipeg carried enormous rainfalls to Manitoba. Riding Mountain Park received more precipitation in one day than any Manitoba station ever had, 217.2 mm; Dauphin received 294 mm in 60 hours. Flooding was described as the worst in living memory.

1936 Strong winds and heavy rains spread over Nova Scotia as a hurricane passed to the south; Liverpool recorded 184 mm of rain and Halifax 135 mm, all within 30 hours.

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

1942 Halifax received 239 mm of rain - the most ever on a single day in eastern Canada. After 4 days of almost continuous rain, totals exceeded 350 mm at Stellarton, NS and 275 mm at Charlottetown.

1934 Edmonton recorded its greatest early season snowfall in history - 22.1 cm in one day.

1984 Heavy snows occurred on the first day of Fall across Alberta and Saskatchewan. Northeast of Jasper, 35 cm of snow fell weighing down tree branches and power lines. The snowfall boosted much-needed soil moisture.

AUTUMN 15:29 EDT

1986 At Whitehorse nearly 7 cm of snow fell on this day, 16 cm on the next day and 9 cm on the third for a 3-day total of 32 cm - more than the average for any month and about a quarter of the normal winter's total.

1985 An intense windstorm tracked across the Arctic, prompting the issuance of numerous wind and storm warnings. Wind gusts were 106 km/h at Rankin Inlet. In the Yukon, winds toppled hundreds of trees and caused power outages. Huge waves in the Beaufort Sea eroded a man-made island and leveled a drilling rig.

1816 In the "Year Without Summer" water froze to a thickness of at least 1 cm across NE North America as far south as Baltimore.

1939 Montréal received its earliest ever snowfall: 0.8 cm.

1986 More than 20 cm of snow fell at Calgary.

1985 Rain delayed the start of the baseball game between the Red Sox and the Blue Jays for 3 hours and 18 minutes - one of the longest delays in baseball history.

1983 Extreme cold shattered the Yukon's minimum temperature records for September: -28°.

1983 A storm in the Alberta Foothills dropped 17 cm of snow on Banff and 23 cm on Pincher Creek.

1986 Winds of 157 km/h buffeted drilling rigs on the Grand Banks.

1972 While most people do not easily remember the weather on a specific day last week or last month, they do have excellent weather recall on important anniversaries (graduation, weddings, birthdays) and on memorable historical events. On this date, Paul Henderson scored the winning goal in the first Canada-Soviet Union hockey series. Where were you and what were you doing on this day? What was the weather?

1986 A fierce rainstorm with powerful winds snarled traffic, caused power blackouts and flooded streets and basements in Toronto. A twister may have touched down in Mississauga. The storm dumped 66 mm of rain on Metro causing the Don River to rise close to overflowing.

1986 The outflow of water from Lake Ontario reached record levels in September, an average of 844 billion litres per day. This is 26% more than normal and the most water ever measured in 126 years of record-keeping on the Great Lakes. It was also 10% more than the flow of the Mississippi River giving the St. Lawrence River first place among the rivers of North America.

## It Was Said . . .

In 1906, then-chief W.L. Moore told a Senate committee that the US Weather Bureau had sent more men to insane asylums than any other branch of government - a distinction of sorts.



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## Beetle Mania

At Rock Creek, BC, it rained tiny, winged brown beetles intermittently for three hours on October 14, 1934.

## A Tall Weather Tale

"Up there in New Brunswick the weather can change awfully quick. One time I was watching the trout jump on the lake and a cold squall come down from the north. I walked out on the ice and picked up a fine mess a trout."

## It's A Fact!

On October 14, 1755 "blood red rain" and "red snow" fell across northern Italy. Red dust that was carried north from North Africa coloured the precipitation.

Dirt from the Sahara fell in rain over England and Wales in 1968. An estimated 5,000 tons of sand and dust covered everything.

## True or False

Vancouver gets more precipitation than any other major Canadian city.

False. Vancouver averages a generous 1113 mm of precipitation a year but St. John's (1514), Halifax (1491), Saint John (1444), Québec (1174) and Charlottetown (1169) average more.

## Beauty and the Blast

In 1953, the US Weather Service began to use women's names to designate tropical storms but in 1979 adopted men's and women's names alternately. Preference is for short, distinctive names because they are less prone to error. Lists of names are repeated every five years except for those retired because of infamy.

## Weather or Not

Around 8 a.m. on October 23, 1947 fish by the hundreds, ranging from 5 to 20 cm in length, fell on the streets, roofs and yards of Marksville, Louisiana. They were cold, some were frozen and all were native to the area.

Whirlwinds, waterspouts and tornadoes account for most deluges of fish.

1986 October began on a rainy note in southern Ontario. The summer has been the wettest since 1928, July the second wettest since 1938 and August the second wettest since 1840. September was the rainiest since 1843 and the third wettest month ever. At Toronto 623 mm of rain fell from May 1 to Sept. 30, more than 80% above normal. Ontario's once bumper harvest was rotting in the soggy fields.

1536-1987 The author of the Canadian Weather Trivia Calendar has compiled more than 3000 daily weather events. Some days are more eventful than others but October 2 is noteworthy because nothing happened on this day. To his knowledge, this date is devoid of major storms, unseasonal heat or cold waves or untimely frosts and snows. The forecast for this day is for no surprises — enjoy it!

1891 Ottawa's temperature rose to 29.4°, its warmest on record in October.

1980 Vancouver Airport recorded its highest October temperature ever: 23.5°.

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

1869 The "day" of the Saxby Gale (so called because Lieut. Saxby had made a prediction nearly a year earlier that at 7 a.m. on the 5th of October 1869 there would be a severe storm and high tide). A day earlier than forecast a gale struck the Bay of Fundy. Tides were 2 m above any previous record at Moncton. Many boats were badly damaged.

1986 Strong north-westerly winds gusting to 70 km/h whipped up 2-m waves on the Great Lakes, swamping shoreline properties and tearing docks and boats away from their moorings. Many townships applied for emergency aid as damage estimates ran into the hundreds of millions. Parts of the Trent-Severn waterway were closed because of high water levels and dangerous currents.

1986 A line of heavy thunderstorms moved across Nova Scotia, producing strong winds, heavy rain and hail. A possible tornado or waterspout briefly struck Lunenburg County, uprooting trees and blowing in windows. The storm lifted a 5-m boat, weighing a tonne, more than 30 m in the air and dropped it into the harbour.

1984 Many communities along the BC coast recorded at least 100 mm of rainfall in 24 hours. Many creeks and rivers flooded their banks. Thirteen rail cars were derailed when tracks were washed out; flood damage was estimated at \$5 M.

1933 An Atlantic Coast storm brought 75 mm of rain to all of Nova Scotia from the 5th to the 8th. For 84 hours it rained at Halifax (215 mm) and Liverpool (180 mm).

1985 Manitoba and northwestern Ontario were bashed by an early snowstorm. Snowfalls ranged between 10 and 30 cm. Following the storm, temperatures plunged to -15°.

1981 Heavy rains fell from the 7th to the 9th across the Gaspé Peninsula flooding highways and cutting electrical and telephone service. Mont-Louis registered 245 mm in 3 days.

1986 Indian Summer began across Alberta with temperatures exceeding 25° at Brooks and Fort McMurray. By contrast, the first killing frost of the season hit many parts of southern Ontario.

1986 The rare appearance of the sun after a summer of soggy weather and the promise of a pleasant fall long weekend lured thousands north to enjoy the autumn colours. From noon for about 9 hours an enormous 20,000-car traffic jam backed up 32 km along Hwy. 400 north from Metro Toronto. Sun glint was blamed as the initial cause of the traffic tie-up.

1984 On the anniversary date of 1962's typhoon *Freda*, typhoon *Ogden* struck the northwest coast of Vancouver Island, and the Queen Charlottes. At Cape St. James, hurricane-force winds were recorded at 120 km/h with gusts to 165 km/h. Waves were as high as 10 m. Several fishing boats capsized and 5 drowned.

1986 Expo' 86 closed after a highly successful run of 165 days. Although the fair started on a wet note and a near-normal rainfall of 253 mm occurred during the run, the final day's weather was beautiful. Overall, only 35 days had rain and most fell at night. There was a 53-day dry spell in mid-summer and the last 13 days of the exposition were rainless.

1955 A low-pressure area centred south of Lake Erie brought widespread rain to eastern Ontario; it rained for 108 hours at Smithfield (202 mm) and Belleville (178 mm).

1954 Hurricane *Hazel* tracked across the Lake Ontario basin on the 15th and 16th; 214 mm deluged Toronto during 72 hours. Wind and flood damage was extensive and exceeded \$25 M; 80 people lost their lives. More words have been written about *Hazel* than any other single Canadian weather event.

## THANKSGIVING DAY

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

1984 Between the 16th and 18th a snowstorm traversed Alberta and Saskatchewan. At Edmonton over 150 accidents were reported and flight schedules were in disarray. The storm contributed to the city's new October record snowfall of 54.1 cm. Regina's 42.8 cm was also a new October record.

1986 All of southern Canada enjoyed two weeks of fine Indian Summer. The sunny dry weather was an uplifting answer to the prayers of eastern farmers beleaguered by weeks of wet weather. Fields were still soggy but the wet spell was over. In the west, the harvest was coming in on schedule.

1844 Southwest hurricane-force winds drove waters from Lakes Erie and Ontario into the streets of Buffalo and Toronto respectively; reports stated that 200 were drowned.

1974 Unusually early and heavy snowstorm and strong 140 km/hr winds caused severe damage to the southern Maritimes. There were reports of seas up to 13 m and swells up to 15 m. A wet snowfall of 25 to 40 cm and strong winds destroyed orchard and field crops and damaged buildings. Communications were cut and ferry service was disrupted. The storm destroyed the south beach on Sable Island.

1968 Hurricane *Gladys* tracked south of Nova Scotia. Over a period of 42 hours, the Maritimes received in excess of 50 mm of rain; Sackville had the most, 128 mm. Despite one storm-related death in Nova Scotia, the area benefitted from the rains.

1984 Drought in SW Nova Scotia reached a critical stage. Reservoir water levels dropped below intakes and many small trout streams and brooks dried up. Eventually wells had to be drilled. The precipitation total since the summer was only half of normal.

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

1933 An early-season storm surprised Ottawa and Montréal with 21 cm of snow.

1981 Disastrous flooding occurred in the towns of Squamish and Pemberton, north of Vancouver, following a heavy downpour. At Seymour Falls, 206 mm of rain fell on the 30th and 200 mm on the 31st; property damage was placed at \$2.6 M.

1918 The steamship *Sophia* became stranded on Vanderbilt Reef, BC. For 38 hours she sat helpless in weather too stormy and seas too turbulent to allow rescue; visibility was 100 m in snow and 90 km/h winds; 343 people perished.

1985 Cape St. James is a very important weather station and lighthouse on the Pacific coast. There are few flat spots, so that the 3 buildings located are on different levels, interconnected by a miniature railway running up the steep incline. During a storm on this day in 1985 a wind gust peaked at 190 km/h.

1983 Fishermen along the Atlantic coast surveyed the damage following an explosive storm on the 26th. At least 30 fishing boats and thousands of lobster traps were lost and a number of wharves were damaged. The ocean winds reached gusts of 130 km/h and the seas swelled 10 m high.

1983 A small twister damaged 45 buildings near Valleyfield, Québec. At least seven people were injured and property damage was estimated at \$1.5 M.

1985 A snowstorm brought 10 cm of snow to most of Alberta, causing treacherous driving conditions during the rush hour period.

1975 Vancouver recorded its greatest 1-day October rainfall: 60.7 mm.

1984 Previous October cold temperature records were shattered in the YT, NWT, BC and Alberta. Temperatures at Ogilvie YT dipped to -42°, lowest ever recorded in Canada in any October. Other records: -6° at Vancouver, and -36° at High Level and -31° at Red Deer, Alberta.

30 STANDARD TIME

31



# NOVEMBER 1988

SUN

MON

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SAT

## Gallup Asked

Do you believe our weather has been affected by scientific experiments or not? Of the 1035 adults interviewed, 50% said yes, 12% said maybe, 28% said no and 10% were unsure. Of those who answered yes, the majority said that the weather was getting colder, a smaller group said warmer, others said more unpredictable. Others said there was more rain, cloud, sun, wind or pollution.

## Thar S(he) Blows

Wind is defined according to the compass point from which it is blowing. A northwest wind blows from the northwest.

1969 A freezing rainstorm lasting one week did significant damage to hydro lines between Québec City and the new Manicouagan River power generator; 30 towers were downed.

1969 The storm that began affecting Québec on the 6th saturated the Maritimes from the 7th until the 12th. For 144 hours, rain fell on Nova Scotia and PEI; Ingonish Beach was drenched in 364 mm of rain.

1933 First great "dust bowl storm" spread a pall from the Great Plains to the east coast.

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

1986 An early winter storm struck southern Ontario with 20 cm of wet snow. It began to snow during the early morning rush hour and continued all day. The storm snarled traffic in Toronto and extended the afternoon rush hour well into the evening. Thousands of suburban homes were without power.

1983 Seldom has the Grey Cup been staged in decent weather. Icy fields, howling gales, drenching rains and blinding blizzards have plagued the fall classic. Grey Cups are often remembered more for the weather than for the game. Not so this year when ideal weather occurred. At ground level it was 21° with 3 km/h winds, and no chance of precipitation. The game was played inside BC Place (Toronto 18 and BC 17). GREY CUP (OTTAWA)

1985 Moisture from the remnants of Hurricane Juan reached into northern Ontario. Over the next three days many 24-hour precipitation records were broken. Trenton received a deluge of 60 mm of rain in one day.

1986 A monster winter storm reminiscent of the March 1960 blizzard dumped 30 to 50 cm of snow and created 2-m drifts in southern Manitoba and NW Ontario. During the 32-hour storm, Winnipeg buses and ploughs were pulled off the roads and the airport was closed; 2 deaths resulted and \$2.5 M in clean-up costs — a quarter of the city's annual snow removal budget.

1983 A week of heavy rain resulted in Vancouver's water supply turning murky, the highway to Squamish closing due to mud slides and several bridges washing away.

1986 A 15-cm snowfall at Calgary melted quickly when a strong Chinook blew with 20° temperatures.

1983 The British evacuated Fort Oswego on Lake Ontario. Aboard the sloop Ontario, 190 troops vanished into a fog bank — never to be seen again. Down with the ship went a cargo of gold and silver valued at \$600,000.

1986 A 60-cm snowfall buried NB and PEI. Driving was impossible and power was cut over large areas of the region for hours.

1963 A Trans-Canada Airlines (TCA) DC-8F crashed after takeoff from Montréal with the loss of 118 lives. Weather all day at Dorval was rainy and foggy, e°, winds of 24 km/h and 4 km visibility.

1978 A 5-day rainfall with amounts totalling 300 to 400 mm produced serious flooding along the northern BC coast. At Terrace, mudslides broke the only natural gas line serving the area and destroyed valuable spawning grounds; residents were evacuated by boat.

1986 A powerful gale packing snow, ice pellets, and 80 km/h winds lashed the Great Lakes, causing enormous property damage and flooding in areas already under siege due to high lake levels. Cottages, marinas and lakefront resorts were flooded; 3-m waves eroded the shore and washed out roads. Lake Huron reached its highest ever mean daily water level 177.42 m at Goderich.

1984 Labrador received more than 100 cm of snow between the 12th and 17th. In a 2-day period Goose Bay received in excess of its normal November total of 57 cm.

1986 A rainfall near Sutton, Quebec had an acid rain pH level of 3.4 (the acidity of apples). The air path of the rain came from the states of West Virginia and New York.

1975 The Grey Cup was played in a deep freeze at Calgary. At game time the temperature was -11° and winds were over 20 km/h producing a wind chill of -22°. For 3 minutes prior to the game, a female intruder cavorted shoeless and topless to the delight of 33,000 spectators — the coldest streaker in North American history.

1985 It rained again in southern Ontario making it the wettest November on record. This month Simcoe received 235 mm and Toronto 186 mm. At Toronto it was the wettest November since records began in 1840 and the wettest month in 70 years. Also depressing was the scanty sunshine — only 16.8 hours all month at London.

1970 The Minister of Marine and Fisheries approved a scheme to have lighthouse keepers take meteorological observations. It was this action of having federal government employees take weather observations that was the beginning of the founding of the Meteorological Service of Canada.

1913 Across the lower Great Lakes, 140 km/h winds with heavy snow and freezing temperatures broke up 10 large steamers with the loss of 270 seamen.

1975 Wreck of the ore-carrier Edmund Fitzgerald on Lake Superior with the loss of 29.

1983 Storm Prince encountered a tornadic waterspout off Vancouver Island. The boat capsized with the loss of two lives.

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

1984 The season's first snowfall resulted in a 30-car pile-up on the Pierre-Laporte bridge at Québec City.

1970 A 60-cm snowfall in the London area paralyzed traffic along Hwy. 401 where more than 1,000 cars were abandoned over a 25-km stretch east of the city.

1986 Strong winds and rough seas swamped several lobster boats off SW Nova Scotia. One fisherman drowned and several others were rescued.

## On This Day . . .

On November 13, 1933 the Great Duststorm carried dust from Montana and the Prairies of Canada to the Atlantic Coast. Black rain fell in New York State and brown snow fell in Vermont. Duststorms were sometimes called "black blizzards".

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

1986 A temperature of -10° in the Ottawa Valley and at Montréal Dorval Airport was the coldest ever recorded this early in the season. A dusting of snow in Montréal resulted in a rash of traffic accidents.

1940 An Armistice Day storm on the Great Lakes caused the wreck of 3 large ships and several small crafts with the loss of 69 lives. The sustained winds reached 130 km/h. On the same day a fierce blizzard hit the Canadian Great Plains. Several hunters froze to death in duck blinds.

## REMEMBRANCE DAY

1929 Following a major earthquake that struck along the Newfoundland coast, a tidal wave tore up dockyards, took out bridges and destroyed coastal roads. Tons of rock and gravel were ripped off the sea floor. Wave heights ranged from 10 to 30 m. The toll was 36 killed, 500 homes destroyed and 100 fishing boats smashed. The catastrophe was unknown for 4 days because of knocked out telegraph lines.

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

1985 Victoria received 11 cm of snow — the total for the month exceeded 50 cm. It was also the coldest November on record at Victoria, 1.8° as an average for the month.

## Weather Supreme

The highest wind speed averaged over one hour was 201 km/h at Quaqtaq (Cape Hopes Advance), Québec on November 18, 1931; not nearly as windy as it was at the top of Mt. Washington, New Hampshire on April 12, 1934 - 362 km/h.

1975 The Winnipeg temperature of 23.9° was the highest November reading on record.

1833 Great showers of meteors over North America viewed with clear skies was described as "a giant umbrella with flaming spokes".

1986 A blustery cold wave gripped the eastern Arctic. At Iqaluit (Frobisher Bay) equivalent wind chill temperature reached -60°. In the last 18 days Frobisher had only 2 hours of sunshine.

1813 A hurricane crossed Nova Scotia, the earliest known hurricane to enter Canadian waters.

1887 In the midst of a howling storm, the schooner Glendora plunged to the bottom of Lake Ontario near Amherst Island. An unspecified amount of gold and silver pieces was aboard.

1888 A late-season hurricane crossed Nova Scotia causing heavy shipping losses and beach erosion. Yarmouth had NE winds at 65 km/h and 78 mm of rain.

1984 Dense fog and freezing temperatures created treacherous driving conditions during the morning rush hour in southern Ontario; a 100 car pile-up occurred along the QEW.

## Wetter or Not?

The wettest location in terms of total annual precipitation is Ocean Falls, BC, with 4,386 mm. The wettest in one day and the wettest in one year occurred on Vancouver Island. Ucluelet Brynnor Mines had 489 mm of rain in one day and Henderson Lake had more than 8,000 mm in 1931. This latter statistic doesn't compare to the world's record at Cherrapunji, India where in one year there were 26,461 mm or 87 feet of rain.



# DECEMBER 1988

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## Have An Ice Day

On December 7, 1978 ice formed on swimming pools in Los Angeles.

## It's A Fact!

A blizzard comes from the German word blitz meaning lightning. In the United States during the 1800s the word was used to mean a violent blow, a cannon shot or a volley of musketry. In 1876 the term was first used by the US Weather Service. In Canada a blizzard is characterized by temperatures below -12°, winds greater than 40 km/h, visibilities less than 1 km in snow, and all lasting for 6 hours or more.

## Would You Believe . . . Leaping Lizards!

A shower of live lizards fell on the sidewalks and streets of Montréal in December 1857.

## Dreaming of a White Christmas

What cities are most likely to be white for Christmas? Winnipeg and Québec each has a 100% chance of enjoying a white Christmas. At Edmonton the chance is 98%, Ottawa 82% and Montréal 80%. At Vancouver a white Christmas occurs less than one year in ten and at Halifax and Toronto the chances are even.

1962 The famous Grey Cup (Fog Bowl) was played over two days in Toronto because of dense fog and smog. Winds were light and temperatures ranged between 2° and 10°. The air pollution index was estimated to be the highest ever at Toronto, 155.

1964 One of the most violent storms in years struck the Maritimes with gales reaching gusts of 160 km/h. Winds, high seas and flooding caused \$1 M damage; 23 drowned at sea.  
1985 Nasty weather swept Québec on its provincial election day. Rain fell in the St. Lawrence Valley, freezing rain covered the Saguenay and North Shore and 10 cm of snow whitened the area farther north.

1878 Weather forecasts were first made for the Maritime provinces and transmitted to 20 locations there.  
1982 Temperatures soared to 22.5° at Hamilton, the warmest temperature ever recorded in Ontario in December.

1986 Gale-force winds caused more problems for shoreline residents of Lakes Erie and Huron and Georgian Bay, as destructive waves caused additional erosion and property damage. Residents hoped for an early freeze-up on the lakes, which would dampen the wave action.

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

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

1917 A ship collision set off the Halifax explosion which was felt and heard as far away as 100 km; 1,630 people were killed, 9,000 injured and 6,000 left homeless. On the next day a cruel blizzard struck with 40.6 cm of snow and winds of 55 km/h.

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

1984 Off the East Coast an iceberg threatened several drilling platforms near the Grand Banks, necessitating the harnessing and towing of the berg by ocean tugs.

1986 During the day, 11 mm of rain fell on Metro Toronto, but during the evening rush hour a "fast freeze" occurred when temperatures dropped suddenly to -4°. Motorists were caught off guard and ended up playing bumper cars, spin-around and smash-up derby. The foul weather contributed to hundreds of accidents, scores of injuries and two deaths.

1986 Mild Pacific air produced unusually balmy weather across the Yukon, the Mackenzie District and Northern British Columbia. Several daily records were set when temperatures rose to between 10° and 13°. At Fort Nelson, BC, huskies were bothered by the heat during the annual dogsled races and to the north logging was suspended because of the soft snow and weakened ice bridges.

1944 A severe storm swept southern Ontario and paralyzed transportation for days. At Toronto the 1-day snowfall of 48.3 cm was the greatest on record; over the 2 days 57.2 cm fell.

1985 In the worst air crash in Canada, an Arrow Airlines DC-8, after refueling in Gander en route to Kentucky, crashed seconds after take-off, killing 248 members of the US 101st Airborne Division and 8 crew. Just before the crash, freezing drizzle and snow grains were reported. The temperature was -4.2° and winds were light from the west.

1983 The worst ice storm in 22 years struck southern Québec. Hydro lines collapsed under the weight of ice leaving a half million customers without electricity for 36 hours or longer in Montréal. Surfaces were covered with slush, ice and water from a deluge of 67 mm.

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

1964 The "Great Blizzard" struck parts of the Prairie Provinces with heavy snows, sustained winds of 50 to 90 km/h and bitterly cold -34° temperatures. Lost livestock numbered over a thousand and 3 people froze to death.

1985 After a period of fairly tranquil weather, a fierce blizzard swept the Prairies. Blowing snow, whipped by strong winds reduced visibilities to near zero. The wind chill was at a dangerous level and most outdoor activities were suspended.

1977 A storm of freezing rain and snow hit southern Manitoba causing \$1 M damage. Rural areas were without electricity for 3 days until thousands of downed utility poles could be righted.

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

1963 A severe wind-storm in the Atlantic Region caused widespread property damage and crippled several fishing vessels with some loss of life. Sustained winds of 130 km/h blew across the Maritimes and even stronger winds over southwestern Newfoundland.

1985 Strong winds peaked at 157 km/h at Port-aux-Basques, Nfld. All transportation was halted.

1961 Lethbridge Alberta experienced a sudden temperature drop of 22.7°, from 3.3° at 5 a.m. (SW winds at 56 km/h) to -19.4° at 6 a.m. (N winds at 23 km/h).

1963 Canada's weather service receives the first automatic picture transmission from satellite ever received in Canada. Cloud pictures were from TIROS-8.

WINTER 10:28 EST

1979 A steady rainstorm dumped 79 mm of rain on Toronto over 4 days, flooding basements and disrupting telephone service; the rain and mild temperatures (6.9°) removed any hope of a White Christmas.

1983 About 125 holiday-bound passengers on the east-bound VIA Continental train arrived in Toronto by plane after frigid -40° weather on the Prairies snapped rails and froze steam lines; when it reached Winnipeg from Vancouver the train was 23 hours late.

1986 A severe ice storm struck the Ottawa Valley and southwestern Québec on Christmas Eve. Fallen trees snapped hydro wires and damaged property. One home in four was without power on Christmas Day and many residents had to make alternative plans for Christmas dinner. Nearly 14 hours of freezing rain deposited about 30 mm of precipitation — making for a mystical yet distressful scene.

1972 A sopping record rainstorm of 100 mm flooded parts of Vancouver.

1980 Severe cold gripped Ontario and Québec; temperatures from -25° to -40° and strong winds.

1982 Warm spell occurred across southern and central Ontario; Toronto's 17.2° was the warmest in 142 years of records.

CHRISTMAS DAY

1968 On this date began the snowiest and coldest spell at Victoria in 20 years. Almost 28 cm of snow fell on the last days of December and over a 5-week period 120 cm fell (normal of 20 cm). The temperature bottomed at -15.6° on the 29th, an all-time minimum and the maximum temperature stayed below freezing for 11 consecutive days. At Vancouver the winter was colder and snowier than in Toronto.

BOXING DAY

1959 The most damaging glaze storm on record occurred northwest of Toronto — 30 mm over 32 hours

1984 An Arctic outbreak brought record low temperatures to the Atlantic Region. In Nova Scotia, a new single-day usage of electric power was established.

1887 A Montréal snowfall of 41 cm in 1 day was the greatest single-day December total ever.

1969 Montréal experienced a record snowfall from the 26th to the 28th. Within 60 hours, 70 cm of snow fell, snarling traffic for days; storm-related deaths numbered 15.

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

1985 Fog blanketed the western half of BC for two weeks, disrupting all modes of transportation and forcing thousands to cancel holidays to warmer climates.

1942 A Montréal glaze storm coated surfaces with 39 mm of freezing rain on the 29th and 30th.

1984 Cold temperatures, strong winds and snow prevailed during the last days of December in the Lower Fraser Valley of B.C. A 20-car pile up near Abbotsford resulted in dozens of injuries and two fatalities.

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

1986 The threat of the highest tide in 10 years fortunately did not coincide with any coastal storm — no serious flooding was reported in Canada.