

# JANUARY

## SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

1

NEW YEAR'S DAY

1885 Regina recorded its lowest temperature ever: -50°. On this date in 1974 it also recorded its highest-ever sea level air pressure: 106.40 kPa. Canada's highest-ever sea level air pressure was set on the same day: 106.76 kPa at Mayo YT.

2

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.

3

1912 Hockey became weatherproof. In the first game ever played on artificial ice in Canada, the New Westminster Royals defeated the Victoria Aristocrats 8-3 at Victoria. The afternoon temperature at Victoria was 1.2°.

4

1986 The first of 2 winter storms in 3 days struck New Brunswick. Moncton got 67 cm in 24 hours, a near record. On the 5th it was hit with another 25 cm. At the height of the storm, city police switched to snowmobiles. At Bathurst, snowplow operators were on strike and a 30-cm fall remained piled up in the streets.

5

1956 An unusually long mild spell in Nova Scotia brought frequent rains over a 2-week period. Mount Uniacke and Ingonish Beach were soaked with over 300 mm of rain.

6

1966 A spectacular temperature change occurred at Pincher Creek Alta. Thermometer readings were -24.4° at 7 AM, 0.6° at 8 AM, and -21.7° at 9 AM. The temperature remained steady until 3 PM and then rose to 2.2° for the rest of the day.

7

1969 An incredible cold wave began at Edmonton. The temperature remained far below 0°F (-17.8°C) for 26 consecutive days until Feb 2. The coldest temperature was reached on the 30th: -39.4°C.

8

1986 Snow squalls continued to dump heavy snows to the lee of the Great Lakes. Authorities warned cottage owners in the Muskoka-Haliburton area of Ontario to clear their roofs of snow piled from 4 weeks of almost continuous snowfall.

9

1965 A small earthquake, measuring 3.0 on the Richter scale, was recorded near Hope, B.C. The quake triggered 2 slides from Johnson's Peak, the second of which trapped and killed 4 persons.

10

1978 Severe wind and rain storms and high tides inflicted considerable damage in the Maritimes. Casualties included the world's second-longest wooden bridge at Rocklyn NB. Saint John recorded a record gust of 143 km/h and a 1-minute mean windspeed of 111 km/h.

11

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

12

1984 A local snow squall created a massive 200 car pile-up on the Queen Elizabeth Way near Burlington Ont; 89 people were injured and vehicles suffered \$1 M damage.

13

1983 An intense rainstorm dropped a record 141 mm of rain in 1 day at St. Alban's Nfld. A dam on the Exploits River burst, causing an estimated \$60 M damage to Grand Falls and Bishop's Falls.

14

1988 A cold Arctic air mass covered most of eastern Canada. Both Halifax and Toronto recorded a low of -22°, and similar temperatures prevailed in most of eastern Quebec. Nova Scotia set a new 24-hour power consumption record, as did Toronto city, breaking a record set in the July 1987 heat wave.

15

1871 Quebec City received its first snowfall the previous day in what was probably its shortest winter ever. By mid-March, spring was settling in. Food spoilage, resulting from the lack of cold weather, caused considerable hardship.

16

1985 A severe storm dumped 71 cm of snow on Goose Bay, its greatest 24-hour snowfall ever. The previous day the storm brought 25 to 35 cm of snow to PEI and winds gusting to 115 km/h, causing the closing of the Trans-Canada Highway and the suspension of the CN ferry service.

17

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

18

1982 Wind gusts of 110 km/h, combined with -30° temperatures and deep snow, paralyzed Schefferville Que for days. In PEI it was the coldest weather since 1877. Water froze in pipes when power was cut to several homes.

19

1988 A storm dumped nearly 50 cm of snow on the Gaspé Peninsula. For the 3rd week in a row, schools in eastern Quebec were closed because of heavy blowing and drifting. In the Eastern Townships, however, several ski slopes were forced to close because of lack of snow.

20

1979 St. John's was isolated for a 2-week period as a result of a winter storm on the 19th, followed by snow, fog, drizzle, low ceilings, and limited visibility from the 23rd to Feb 1. Air Canada lost \$0.5 M.

21

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

22

1974 Seven persons were smothered under 1 to 8 m of snow brought down by a large avalanche near Terrace BC. Prime avalanche conditions existed—record seasonal snowfall, new dry snow, low temperatures, and moderate winds.

23

1966 Toronto received its greatest 1-day snowfall: 39.9 cm. On this date in 1942, Winnipeg recorded its highest maximum temperature for January: 7.8°.

24

1958 An unusual Arctic mild spell occurred with temperatures of 0.0° at Alert, -1.1° at Eureka, -3.9° at Isachsen, and -5.0° at Resolute. These were higher than any temperatures ever reported previously during the 6 months from November to April inclusive.

25

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

26

1935 Between the 22nd and the 26th, 11 different avalanches crossed the railway line through Rogers Pass. The line was closed for 5 days.

27

1978 Southern Ontario cleaned up after a ravaging winter storm that cost \$41 M and contributed to 9 deaths. Skyscraper windows popped and travel was halted in Toronto where the air pressure plunged to an all-time low of 94.15 kPa. Winds were 70 km/h with gusts to 115 km/h and the snowfall was 9 cm.

28

1870 The ship *City of Boston* sailed from Halifax and disappeared during a storm with 191 passengers aboard.

29



1977 Southern Ontario was in the grip of a 3-day storm (28th to 31st) described as the "worst winter storm in memory". The 10-cm snowfalls, whipped by 100 km/h winds, piled into huge drifts, isolating communities in the Niagara Peninsula for days.

30

1954 A freak tornado struck White Point Beach NS near Liverpool at 11:40 PM, accompanied by heavy hail and lightning and causing localized damage.

31

1988 Two weeks after a severe cold snap, Ontario and Quebec were basking in mild, springlike weather. Daily maximum temperature records were set in downtown Toronto (12.0°) and at Montreal Dorval (10.8°).

January 23-24, 1916 The temperature at Browning Montana dropped 100°F, from 44°F (6.7°C) to -56°F (-48.9°C), the greatest 24-hour temperature fall ever recorded in the United States. On January 22, 1943, at Spearfish South Dakota, the temperature rose 49°F in 2 minutes, from -4°F (-20°C) at 7:30 AM to 45°F (7.2°C) at 7:32 AM.

Unseasonably warm weather and a lack of snow completely upset World Cup skiing schedules in Europe in January 1988. A year earlier, Europe was in the grip of a cold spell which disrupted transportation and caused fatalities from Turkey to the USSR. Even the chime of Big Ben was frozen.

January 5, 1974 The temperature at Vanda Station in the Antarctic climbed to 15°C, the warmest ever recorded in Antarctica.

Played in the Sun Belt of the United States, the Super Bowl has never experienced the meteorological horrors visited upon our Grey Cup. The coldest Super Bowl ever played took place under sunny skies in New Orleans on January 6, 1972, when the Dallas Cowboys defeated the Miami Dolphins 24-3 in 4°C temperatures.

# SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

February 11, 1935 The mercury at Ifrane, Morocco, dropped to -24°, the lowest temperature ever recorded in Africa.

How much rain can you get in half a day? Belouue, on La Reunion Island in the Indian Ocean, recorded 1350 mm of rain on 28-29 February 1964.

The 1932 Winter Olympics at Lake Placid came close to disaster when unusually mild January weather melted most of the snow cover. Fortunately, the weather changed at the last minute and a cold front brought enough snow for the games to continue, although they finished 2 days late.

1979 For 17 consecutive days, temperatures at Eureka NWT got no higher than -45°. The mean temperature for February was -47.9°, the lowest mean temperature ever recorded in North America for any month.

1916 Victoria's greatest one-day snowfall amounted to 53.3 cm. Snowdrifts exceeded 175 cm along the coast to Nanaimo. Streets were clogged with cars and stalled transit vehicles. The fire department used horse-drawn wagons. February snowfall amounted to 117 cm.

1947 It was -63° at Snag YT, the lowest temperature ever officially recorded in North America.

1916 The centre block of the Parliament Buildings was an ice-encrusted ruin after being destroyed by a fire during the night. Firemen's coats were frozen stiff and soldiers' uniforms were white with frozen spray as they fought the blaze in -16° temperatures and brisk winds.

1663 A massive earthquake struck Quebec, the Maritimes, and New England. Buildings swayed, dense clouds of dust darkened the sky, and ice on the rivers was broken and thrown into the air. Aftershocks continued for nearly 6 months.

1875 Dr. Richard Neuitt recorded this description of a chinook at Lethbridge: "Still cold and the snow on the ground is about 6 inches deep; around 4:30 a strong wind from the west sprang up and in 9 minutes the thermometer had risen 32° from plus 8° to 40°F."

1947 Southern Saskatchewan was reeling from a series of blizzards which began on Jan 30th and continued to Feb 8th. For 10 days all highways into Regina were blocked. Railway officials declared conditions the worst in Canadian rail history. One train was buried in a snowdrift 1 km long and 8 m deep.

1988 Volunteers from the Winnipeg Big Brothers completed the world's tallest snowman (15.6 m) for the city's Festival du Voyageur, but their record was topped a week later by a snowman from Milwaukee. An attempt by community college students in Chatham NB to repatriate the record was washed out by rain in early March.

1987 A blizzard which hit St. John's on the 8th with 40 cm of snow and 120 km/h gusts was so intense that snowplows were pulled off the roads. Snow banks 2 to 3 m high lined the streets. On the 9th a shopping mall roof collapsed under the heavy snow load, injuring 7 shoppers.

1776 A severe storm struck during the American siege of Quebec: "A heavy wind at NE with thick snow—before the morning the storm increased to a perfect hurricane, it was impossible to face the weather but for a minute."

1948 Saint John NB recorded its all-time lowest temperature: -36.7°.

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

1988 The Winter Olympics opened at Calgary under partially cloudy skies, with a temperature of -4.9° and winds gusting to 74 km/h. Above-normal winds and temperatures were the main weather story of the games.

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

1986 A major winter storm brought huge snowfalls to southern BC and the Alberta foothills. Victoria and Vancouver had 23 and 17 cm of snow respectively. Hope had 72 cm over 2 days, and drifts in the mountain passes were 2 m high. Many highways were closed because of avalanches and avalanche control measures.

1988 A blizzard brought 20 cm of snow to Iqaluit (Frobisher Bay) on the 14th and 15th. Winds gusting to over 100 km/h had caused enormous drifting by the 16th. "I knew I was in trouble," one resident said, "when I saw my neighbour walk past my second-storey window."

1982 A storm hit the Gulf of St. Lawrence, paralyzing the area for a week. In the Magdalen Islands, 80 km/h winds whipped the 60-cm snowfall into 7-m drifts. Air and sea links with the mainland were cut off, telephone lines were broken, and power interruptions left many people without heat.

1965 An avalanche killed 26 workmen and injured 20 near Stewart BC. Prior to the avalanche, a great storm raged for several days, dropping an estimated 4.3 m of snow.

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.

1988 Mild weather covered most of the Prairies. At Calgary the mercury climbed to 17° as the Winter Olympics continued in very unwintry temperatures. Exactly 2 years before, the Prairies had been in the grip of a record cold Arctic air mass, with temperatures in the -30s and -40s.

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 until Easter.

1986 A major winter storm buried Cape Breton Island under monstrous snowdrifts. Sydney received 75 cm of snow, more than it usually gets in all of February and its greatest 2-day snowfall since records began in 1880. Roads were blocked by 4-m drifts, and the city remained isolated for several days.

1909 J.A.D. McCurdy made the first airplane flight in Canada, piloting the Silver Dart above the ice of Cape Breton's Bras d'Or Lakes. Flight-time weather included blue skies, no precipitation, north winds at 12 km/h, and a temperature of -4°.

1987 A very intense low with 110 km/h winds buffeted the Newfoundland coast. Nineteen persons were rescued in rough seas after abandoning their ship 800 km south of Cape Race.

1961 The Montreal 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 \$7 M.

1979 A snow and freezing rain storm struck Nova Scotia, leaving 10,000 people without electricity, blocking roads and highways, and forcing schools to close. Property losses and clean-up costs exceeded \$1 M.

1972 Winds up to 130 km/h caused peril to shipping in Georgia Strait BC. One freighter was forced aground and a tug sank off Point Roberts.

1984 One of the mildest Februaries on record in southern Ontario and Quebec ended when a severe winter storm lashed the area with 90 km/h wind gusts, a 50-cm snowfall, and whiteouts. The storm claimed 6 lives, disrupted air and rail service, and made highways impassable.

February 10, 1972 A torrential downpour at Calama, Chile, caused catastrophic floods and landslides which isolated the town and cut off electricity supplies. Until that day, the town had been the driest place on earth, having had virtually no rain for 400 years.

February 14, 1940 A St. Valentine's Day blizzard with gale-force winds and 25 to 40 cm of snow struck southern New England. In Boston, many were stranded downtown after attending the Sonja Henie ice show.

February 19, 1884 A massive outbreak of 60 tornadoes killed an estimated 800 people in the southeastern U.S. Georgia and the Carolinas were the hardest hit.

The coldest temperature ever recorded in the northern hemisphere, -68°, was reached on February 5th and 7th, 1892 at Verkhoyansk in the USSR and again on February 6th, 1933 at Oimekon in the USSR.

# M A R C H 1 9 8 9

**SUNDAY**

**MONDAY**

**TUESDAY**

**WEDNESDAY**

**THURSDAY**

**FRIDAY**

**SATURDAY**

March 12, 1888 The famous blizzard of '88 dropped 76 cm of snow at Albany, New York and 71 cm at New Haven, Connecticut in 24 hours. "Snow was everywhere... great piles of it rose up like Arctic graves."

The worst snowstorm in Great Britain occurred during the winter of 1946-47. Snow fell every day between January 22nd and March 17th. The unusually harsh winter caused considerable hardship. The country was still recovering from the war and food and fuel were in short supply.

March 18, 1925 The deadliest single tornado in U.S. history struck Missouri, Illinois, and Indiana, leaving 692 dead and 2000 injured. Seven other tornadoes on the same day caused a further 100 deaths.

1777 After a mild winter, a 4-day blizzard struck Fort Prince of Wales near Churchill. Samuel Hearne wrote to a friend: "The snow was higher than the house consequently all the windows of the upper storey as well as lower storey were entirely blocked up....The depth of drift in the yard is about 22 feet."

1965 Lucien Rivard, convicted drug smuggler, escaped from a Montreal jail after obtaining a garden hose, supposedly to flood the penitentiary skating rink. The weather was cloudy, with light winds from the SW, and temperatures 5° above freezing. It seems Rivard used the hose to scale the wall.

A day for record March lows in many cities: Toronto: -26.7° in 1868; Winnipeg: -38.9° in 1873; Edmonton: -40.0° in 1888; and Halifax: -23.3° in 1920.

A legendary date for blizzards and huge snowfalls. 1966 - Winnipeg was paralyzed for 2 days by 35 cm of snow and 120 km/h winds. 1971 - Montreal was marooned for 2 days by 47 cm of snow and 100 km/h winds. 1985 - Freezing rain followed by 25-35 cm of snow resulted in Toronto's first snow emergency in 2 years.

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1882 A fierce blizzard struck Manitoba on the 4th and 5th. At Meadow Lea, near Winnipeg, a settler's home caught fire. The 4 occupants were forced out into the storm and, although shelter was nearby, lost their way and were frozen to death.

1987 For the 2nd day in a row, training runs for the women's World Cup downhill event were called off at Mt. Allan. A chinook bringing 12° temperatures and high winds melted much of the snow base, leaving slush and water in the finish area. Though conditions improved for the race on the 8th, journalists dubbed the course "Mt. Mushmore".

1970 A total eclipse of the sun was seen for about 2.2 minutes beginning at 2:55 PM near Nova Scotia and SE Newfoundland. Viewing weather was excellent.

1986 The Yukon Quest dog sled race between Fairbanks and Whitehorse was hampered by too much snow. Since the beginning of March, Whitehorse had received 47 cm of snow, establishing a new March snowfall record.

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. Andrew's Nfld.

1984 Strong gusty NW winds and heavy snowsqualls produced near-zero visibility across much of southern Ontario. Several road accidents were attributed to the suddenness with which the visibility diminished to nil.

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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.

1757 From the Hudson's Bay Archives for York Factory: "Mittens on in bed because of cold."

1986 Heavy fog paralyzed southern Ontario, closing the Queen Elizabeth Way and grounding air traffic. Air Traffic Control at Pearson International described the fog as the worst in 25 years. There were 3 fatalities in related traffic accidents.

1980 After an unusually mild winter, Montreal received a snowfall of 20 cm, its worst snowstorm of the season. The storm, which also hit Quebec, disrupted transportation and caused school and business closures in both cities.

1979 The longest spell of below-zero temperatures in southern Manitoba ended after 126 days at Brandon. The previous longest consecutive period of below-zero weather for the region was 123 days at Winnipeg in the winter of 1874/75.

1976 In Nova Scotia a storm with winds of 148 km/h overturned trailers, destroyed buildings, tore roofs off, and downed hydro lines. Freezing rain made driving treacherous. Tidal flooding was extensive.

1980 A record deluge of 74 mm fell at Saint John, flooding basements and forcing many residents to vacate their homes. A flood watch was in effect for several days.

**19**

**20**

SPRING 10:28 EST

**21**

**22**

**23**

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL DAY

**24**

GOOD FRIDAY

**25**

1885 Yarmouth NS recorded 68.6 cm of snow—the greatest 1-day total on record for any station in Nova Scotia. The greatest 1-day snowfall in Quebec also occurred on this date in 1964 when 99.1 cm fell at Cape Whittle.

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

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

1984 The first Stanley Cup game was played before 5000 fans on natural ice at Montreal's enclosed Victoria Rink. The evening temperature at Montreal was -1°, down slightly from +1° in the afternoon. Montreal AAA defeated Ottawa Capitals 3-1.

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

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. Five transcontinental trains were snowbound between Winnipeg and Calgary. Hundreds of stranded immigrants overflowed the Immigration Building.

1980 Persistent gale force winds pushed ice floes along the western shores of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, stranding 209 passengers and crew aboard the *Marine Atlantica* for 6 days outside Sydney Harbour.

**26**

EASTER SUNDAY

**27**

EASTER MONDAY

**28**

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**31**

1921 The fishing schooner *Bluenose* was launched at Lunenburg NS under overcast skies with NW winds at 8 km/h and a temperature of 13.8°.

1986 Strong winds gusting to over 100 km/h funneled down Calgary streets, blowing pedestrians down and resulting in some injuries. In some open rural areas, blowing dust and drifting soil reduced visibilities to 1-2 km.

1946 An incredible early spring heatwave brought all-time record high temperatures for March to Ottawa (25.6°) and Toronto (26.7°) and on the previous day to Winnipeg (23.3°).

1975 An Easter weekend storm lashed BC's Georgia Strait and adjacent land areas with 125 km/h winds. Parked aircraft were overturned, boats swamped, and 5 people killed.

1964 A severe earthquake centred near Anchorage Alaska produced a tidal wave that damaged several communities on Vancouver Island.

1949 Newfoundland became Canada's tenth province. Midday weather at St. John's was cloudy with winds from ENE at 22 km/h and a temperature of 1°.

What's the windiest place in the world? The honour goes to Eastern Adeline Land and West King George Land in Antarctica. In 1951 a French station in the area recorded 122 days with mean winds greater than 117 km/h. The windiest day was March 21-22, when the mean windspeed was 174 km/h. The annual mean windspeed was 64 km/h.

# SUNDAY

# MONDAY

# TUESDAY

# WEDNESDAY

# THURSDAY

# FRIDAY

# SATURDAY

April 30, 1888 In what may have been the world's worst hailstorm, 246 people were reported killed in India by hailstones as large as baseballs.

The most destructive flood in human history occurred along the Yellow River in China in 1887. Deaths were estimated at 900,000.

There are heat waves and then there are HEAT WAVES! For 162 consecutive days, from October 30, 1923 to April 7, 1924, the temperature at Marble Bar, Australia, did not go below 100°F (37.8°C).

April 14-15, 1921 Silver Lake Colorado received a bountiful 193 cm of snow, setting a North American record. This may also be a world record, but it is impossible to know for certain. Only Canada and the United States take separate measurements of snowfall. The rest of the world includes it with other precipitation readings.

Between 1958 and the end of the 1975 season, only 1 game was ever rained out at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles, and that was on April 21, 1967. The baseball season coincides with California's dry season, from May to October, when only 4 % of the annual rainfall is received.

Held in mid-April, the Boston Marathon has been run under a great variety of weather conditions. The coldest Marathon took place in 1925 when temperatures ranged between 0 and 3°C. By contrast, the 1976 Marathon started with the mercury at a scorching 38°, although temperatures dropped to 20° by the end of the race, thanks to a sea-breeze.

1987 At the end of March and beginning of April, Halifax harbour was blocked by ice for the first time in living memory. Pack ice blown in from the Atlantic covered about 3/4 of the harbour.

## 2 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

## 3

1987 Flood waters and ice took out railway bridges at Perth-Andover NB on the 2nd, and on the Ste-Anne River east of Trois-Rivières on the 1st. In 1986 the covered bridge at Anse-St. Jean on the Saguenay (the one on the \$1000 bill) met a similar fate. Not a good time of year for bridges.

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.

## 4

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.

## 5

1987 Maple syrup production was down drastically in eastern Canada owing to the mild spring and the lack of freezing temperatures.

## 6

1980 A small tornado lashed Altona Man with 40 mm of rain. Hail covered the ground to a depth of 13 cm. Winnipeg had marble-size hailstones.

## 7

1977 The Toronto Blue Jays played their first home game before 44,649 fans. Weather at the start was light, continuous snow, winds SE at 22 km/h, and a -10° windchill. Blue Jays 9, White Sox 5. The 1989 opener will be weatherproof. It will take place inside the new Skydome.

## 8

1979 The third major storm in 5 days dumped snow (43.9 cm at Hamilton), freezing rain (13 mm at London), and ice pellets over SW Ontario. Driving was treacherous; 13 fatalities were blamed on the storm.

## 9

1987 La Ronge Sask was buried under 48 cm of snow, a new single-day record. On the same day PEI got 12 cm of snow and Sydney 42 mm of rain.

## 10

1946 Vancouver International Airport received 44.5 mm of rain, a one-day rainfall record for April.

## 11

1945 Halifax recorded its highest April temperature ever: 28.3°.

## 12

1872 Winnipeg recorded its greatest 1-day April snowfall: 33 cm.

## 13

1984 A severe ice storm covered all of SE Newfoundland with 25 mm of glaze during a 2-day storm. St. John's was without electricity for days and the daily newspapers couldn't be published.

## 14

1861 A sudden St. Lawrence flood inundated almost one quarter of Montreal. Evening churchgoers were stranded in water nearly 2 m deep, and many had to stand on the pews to keep their heads above water.

## 15

1912 On the night of the 14th to 15th, the *Titanic* collided with an iceberg 700 km SE of Newfoundland. 1500 people drowned in the worst accident caused by an iceberg. St. John's had clear skies with light winds.

## 16

1987 North of Calgary the mild winter and unharvested grain fields produced the worst infestation of field mice in 40 years.

## 17

1982 Queen Elizabeth II signed the Constitution in Ottawa during a rain shower and under hazy skies. Temperature during the ceremony was 18.8° and winds were gusty.

## 18

1855 "The hurricane of 1855," a line of violent thunderstorms, swept across southern Ontario. The water rose 3 m at Owen Sound and along Lake Ontario's north shore. Winds levelled forests and unroofed buildings.

## 19

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°.

## 20

1941 Montreal recorded its warmest April temperature ever: 30°.

## 21

1985 The worst April snowstorm in 30 years struck Alberta. The heaviest snowfall 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 30-50 km/h.

## 22

1984 A winter-long drought left southern Manitoba very dry and in the grips of the worst spring forest fire season on record.

## 23

1980 A 2-day deluge occurred at Gaspé on the 23rd and 24th. The 253.1 mm total broke the previous record for April.

## 24

1984 One hundred cargo ships were stuck in the ice of Lake St. Clair for 2 weeks. Ice breakers struggled to break the ice pack until mild weather arrived.

## 25

1937 Heavy rains caused the Thames River at London Ont to flood; 8% of London was submerged and 4200 people fled their homes. Water damaged 1075 buildings and washed away bridges, roads, and rail lines.

## 26

1874 Toronto recorded its latest significant snowfall on record: 10.2 cm on the 25th and 26th.

## 27

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°.

## 28

1757 From Hudson's Bay Company Archives for York Factory: "Severity of weather froze beer in cellar."

## 29

1986 Vancouver received a dusting of snow, followed the next day by a minimum temperature of -0.5°, the latest spring frost ever recorded at the airport.

## 30

1984 The game between the Texas Rangers and the Toronto Blue Jays was delayed for 30 minutes by wind before being called off.



## SUNDAY

## MONDAY

## TUESDAY

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## THURSDAY

## FRIDAY

## SATURDAY

1

May 31, 1899 The worst flood tragedy in American history occurred when the Little Conemaugh River, swollen by heavy rains, burst through the South Fork Dam. A 9-12 m wall of water surged down the valley, razing everything in its path, and striking the town of Johnstown, Pennsylvania. Best estimates put the death toll at 2100.

1871 The federal government authorized expenditures for setting up a Canadian weather service. The initial budget: \$5000. Budget in 1987: \$220 million. The economic value of weather forecasting in Canada is currently valued at more than \$1.5 billion a year.

2

1913 The largest flood in many years occurred along the Assiniboine in Manitoba. The river was 5 km wide at some points.

3

1979 An ice jam on the Yukon River caused severe flooding in Dawson YT. Flood waters 2 m high submerged several historic sites and damaged 80% of the town's buildings.

4

1985 A snowstorm on the 4th and 5th disrupted 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.

5

1907 Ottawa recorded its coldest ever temperature for May: -7.2°. The day before, the city had a record May snowfall of 19.1 cm.

6

1979 A late blast of winter struck southern Alberta and Saskatchewan. Record low temperatures were 9 degrees below normal; 35.4 cm of snow fell at Rockglen Sask.

7

1874 Toronto recorded its coldest ever May temperature: -3.9°.

8

1987 Unusually warm, dry weather helped seeding but aggravated the forest fire situation on the Prairies. Strong winds fanned a forest fire at Wallace Lake Man, destroying approximately 70 cottages. One of Saskatchewan's worst forest fires in 30 years burned north of Prince Albert.

9

1886 Halifax NS recorded its greatest precipitation for one day in May: 127.3 mm.

10

1963 Dorval airport registered Montreal's greatest snowfall for a day in May: 21.8 cm.

11

1986 A powerful tornado struck south of Morden Man tearing up farm buildings and ripping off the tops of evergreens as if they were carrot stems. Beams from a roof were carried 100 m through the air and driven 30 cm into the ground.

12

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 3 consecutive days.

13

1973 Western Canada basked under record warm temperatures: 30.6° at Medicine Hat and Brandon and 28.9° on the shores of Lake Athabasca.

14

MOTHER'S DAY

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, temperatures climbed into the mid-30s.

15

1986 Prolonged warm, dry, sunny weather contributed to a large forest fire outbreak in Atlantic Canada where more than 100 fires were burning at the same time. More than 150,000 hectares of forest and several buildings were lost. Thousands were evacuated and the Trans-Canada Highway was closed.

16

1975 Cape Dyer had 80.5 cm of snow—the greatest amount ever for one day at any station in the Northwest Territories.

17

1939 King George VI and Queen Elizabeth's trip to Canada was delayed by sea fog and ice floes about 500 km east of Cape Race Nfld.

18

1950 The highest Red River flood in modern times crested at 9.2 m above normal near Winnipeg. 100,000 people were evacuated. Damage to 5000 homes and buildings was estimated at \$100 M.

19

1987 After a mild winter and warm May weather, Edmonton had 20 cm of snow and sleet from a storm which swept northern and central Alberta. Traffic accidents were numerous and flights into Edmonton were cancelled, delayed, or re-routed to snowfree Calgary.

20

1826 The Red River at Winnipeg approached its highest recorded level ever. The flow was estimated to be twice that of the peak flow in 1950. Settlers were unable to return to their homes until the 15th of June.

21

1953 Tornadoes in SW Ontario caused 5 deaths and 41 injuries. Property losses totalled \$8 M in Sarnia as 12 blocks of the business district were levelled. Soldiers were called in and the riot act was read.

22

VICTORIA DAY

1980 A fine grey residue alleged to be volcanic ash from Mount St. Helens was left across the Atlantic region by widespread thunderstorms.

23

1983 A tornado touched down in Montreal and caused several injuries and deaths.

24

1912 The first parachute jump in Canada was made by Charles Saunders in Vancouver. The weather was ideal: 21°, no precipitation, and light winds.

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1978 Baseball-sized hail accompanied a tornado in Winnipeg.

26

1854 Favourable weather for viewing the solar eclipse occurred at Toronto and Kingston but not Montreal. During the eclipse, Toronto's temperature, recorded from thermometers exposed to the sun, fell 13 degrees.

27

1765 From the diary of Alexander Rose, an army Lieutenant stationed at Quebec 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.

28

1948 British Columbia's worst flood on record occurred during late May and early June along the lower Fraser River. The toll: 10 deaths, \$300 million in damage, 200 families left homeless, rail service disrupted for 2 weeks, and 82 bridges washed away.

29

1914 The CP liner *Empress of Ireland* collided with a Norwegian collier in the St. Lawrence River 300 km seaward from Quebec City and sank in 25 minutes with the loss of 1024 passengers. There were reports of shallow river fog. The weather at Anticosti and Quebec, however, was clear with light NE winds.

30

1961 The most intense rainstorm ever in Canada, 250 mm in under 1 hour, occurred at Buffalo Gap Sask. Accompanied by heavy hail and strong winds, the torrents of water washed out roads, eroded fields, and even stripped bark from several large trees. The land was stripped clean of soil and vegetation.

31

1985 Three confirmed tornadoes struck the Ontario communities of Barrie, Grand Valley, Orangeville, and Tottenham. There were 12 deaths, hundreds injured, and 1000 buildings destroyed or damaged. The tornado was the 4th most damaging and had the longest track (200 km) in Canadian history.

Between 1916 and 1919 Bogor, Indonesia, had an average of 322 days per year with thunderstorms. Kampala, Uganda, averages 242 days per year with thunderstorms. The thunderstorm capital of North America is Fort Meyers Fla with an average of 96 days. London and Windsor Ont have the highest Canadian average with a comparatively tame 34 thunderstorm days per year.

With only a few exceptions, the Kentucky Derby has been a May event. According to our bookie, the odds are even that the temperature will be between 18° and 27° and 4 to 1 in favour of a good fast, or clear track.

May 1, 1986 Hailstones weighing up to 5 kg killed at least 16 villagers, injured 125, and damaged nearly 16,000 ha of crops in Guangxi in SW China. On May 9, 1935 a hailstorm in Chad left hailstones piled 48 cm deep over an area of 2.6 square kilometres.

## SUNDAY

## MONDAY

## TUESDAY

## WEDNESDAY

## THURSDAY

## FRIDAY

## SATURDAY

June 21, 1942 At Tirat Tsvi, Israel, the mercury climbed to 53.9°, the highest temperature ever recorded in Asia.

June 14, 1945 Charlotte Pass, New South Wales, recorded a temperature of -22°, the lowest ever recorded in Australia. Charlotte Pass reached this figure again on July 22, 1947.

June 10, 1752 Benjamin Franklin performed his famous kite-flying experiment in a thunderstorm. He narrowly missed electrocution but succeeded in proving that lightning was a form of electricity.

June 22, 1918 At Wasatch National Forest, Utah, 504 sheep were killed by 1 bolt of lightning. The sheep were crowded together in an open field.

1984 100 km/h winds whipped across drought-stricken central Alta and Sask, ravaging newly seeded fields and eroding top soil. Blowing dust reduced visibility and forced road closures.

1829 A tornado raced through Guelph Ont levelling trees in every direction, downing fences, ripping roofs off, and demolishing buildings. The town was inactive for 3 years afterwards.

1961 A 10-day heat wave with afternoon temperatures above 32° began at Regina. Across western Canada June 1961 is remembered as the hottest, driest month in history. By the end of June, grain growing areas were locked into a serious drought.

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WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

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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.

1888 A tornado touched down near Cornwall and skipped along to Montreal. The losses included 3 deaths, dozens of injuries, and 500 flattened homes.

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

1985 Hurricane-force winds swept across southern Sask and Man, causing heavy soil erosion and damaging buildings and power lines. Newly seeded crops were ruined and everything was left covered by a layer of fine dust. The sky was obscured for hours.

1816 Ice was reported on ponds and sleighing was enjoyed across eastern Canada and New England during "the year without a summer".

1971 With the passing of the Government Reorganization Bill, the Department of the Environment was created and the Canadian Meteorological Service was renamed the Atmospheric Environment Service.

### ENVIRONMENT WEEK

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

1986 The Blue Jays played the Detroit Tigers amid persistent rain and fog at Toronto's Exhibition Stadium. The game was called with the Blue Jays ahead 9-0 after a pop fly to centre field disappeared in the fog for an inside-the-park home run.

1930 A mixture of blowing dust and heavy rain produced a rain of mud at Provost Alta. Buildings were left caked with grime.

1987 Solo sailor John Hughes arrived in fog and driving rain to a hero's welcome in Halifax, completing a 315-day trip around the world. After being dismasted, Hughes sailed around Cape Horn in a violent storm using a spinnaker pole for a mainmast.

1984 Golfball-size hail devastated crops near Brandon Man. Hail in some places accumulated to a depth of 15 cm.

1979 A Quebec City deluge of 78 mm in 2 hours broke the short-duration rainfall records for 30 min, 1 hr, 2 hr, and 24 hr.

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

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FATHER'S DAY

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SUMMER 05:53 EDT

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SAINT-JEAN-BAPTISTE

1927 A tornado at Elfros Sask picked up a home and carried it nearly 20 m, killing 1 person. The family buggy was found in a tree 1.5 km away. The tornado cut a swath 11 km long and 60 m wide through bush country, clearing out thousands of trees and piling them in heaps up to 15 m high on either side of its path.

1893 A 10-minute hailstorm with stones ranging in size from small marbles to hen's eggs destroyed windows throughout Winnipeg. The CPR workshops had 1800 panes broken.

1874 An 8-hour storm, described as the greatest thunderstorm that Manitoba had ever seen, brought torrential rain and terrific lightning. Seven people were killed by lightning and 250 mounted police horses stampeded.

1981 Last upper air weather flight from Ocean Weather Station PAPA, Canadian weather ships occupied this station in the North Pacific (about 1500 km west of Vancouver Island) from 1950 to 1981.

1985 At Toronto, the game between the Blue Jays and the Boston Red Sox was delayed by rain in the 5th inning for 3 hours and 16 minutes—one of the longest delays in baseball history.

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

1986 Strong winds near Sherbrooke blew a hangar onto 4 planes. Total storm damage exceeded \$1 M.

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

1930 Lightning struck the bow of the John B. King drillship in the St. Lawrence River. Dynamite exploded killing 30 and injuring 11.

1860 The first Queen's Plate was run at the Carlton track in Toronto under almost cloudless skies. The Toronto temperature was 21°, but breezes off the lake made it somewhat cooler at the track. The winner was Don Juan.

1985 The temperature at Goose Bay Labrador reached 35.4°, a new record for June. Fire-fighting crews were kept busy battling major forest fires near the town.

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.

1988 The world conference on The Changing Atmosphere: Implications for Global Security ended in Toronto with an urgent call to governments around the world to take action on dealing with humankind's influences on the atmosphere.

The Houston Astrodome has the distinction of being the only covered stadium in which a baseball game was called because of rain. The game was "rained in" rather than "rained out". A 25-cm downpour had flooded the streets around the stadium shortly before game time, forcing cancellation of the game but stranding the teams and umpires inside the park.

## SUNDAY

## MONDAY

## TUESDAY

## WEDNESDAY

## THURSDAY

## FRIDAY

## SATURDAY

1 CANADA DAY

July 25, 1987 Greece declared a national state of emergency because of a week-long heatwave with temperatures in excess of 43°. The large number of casualties (more than 300 deaths occurring in the first week) caused space problems in hospitals and morgues.

Cherrapunji, India, received a colossal 9300 mm of rain in July 1861 during the monsoon season. This is greater than the total amount of precipitation ever recorded for an entire year anywhere in Canada. Between August 1860 and July 1861 Cherrapunji received 26,461.2 mm of precipitation.

July 10, 1913 The warmest temperature ever recorded in the United States, 56.7° was set in Death Valley, California, at a place with the ironic name of Greenland Ranch. This is also a record high for the western hemisphere.

July 21, 1983 The coldest temperature ever recorded in the world, -89.6° was registered at Vostok, Antarctica.

July 4, 1956 The citizens of Unionville, Maryland, celebrated Independence Day with the world's greatest 1-minute rainfall: 31.2 mm. The deluge occurred during an intense thunderstorm which brought a total rainfall of 91 mm.

The Old Farmer's Almanac called for rain, snow, and hail on July 13, 1816, and that is just what it did in eastern North America. The typesetter inserted the forecast as a joke, fully expecting the editor would correct it. He missed it, and it appeared in the first copies to be printed. Later printings predicted a dull July 13, but those who received the earlier copies swore by the Old Farmer's Almanac for the rest of their lives.

1881 The Meteorological Service of Canada began to issue daily forecasts at midnight for use in morning newspapers throughout eastern Canada.

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1924 Edmonton recorded its highest July temperature: 36.7°.

1987 A torrential downpour at Glen Abbey golf course near Oakville Ont forced officials to suspend play midway through the second round of the Canadian Open, the first time that a round could not be completed in the Open's 78-year history. Less rain fell north of Toronto at the site of the Weatherman's Golf Tournament.

1974 More than 250 icebergs drifted ashore along eastern Nfld, a record number for so late in the year. In 1974, nearly 1400 icebergs drifted to the Grand Banks, one as far south as 42°N.

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

1975 A giant hailstone weighing 249 g fell during a 13-minute hailstorm on a farm SW of Wetaskiwin Alta—one of the heaviest hailstones documented in Canada.

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

1984 At St. Claude Man a twister toppled a ferris wheel injuring 20 persons.

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1936 Residents of Tuffnell Sask cleaned up after being bombarded by giant hailstones on the 8th. Some stones were more than 11 cm in diameter and weighed 170 g. Car tops were pierced as if by bullets and practically every window was broken. After the storm, Tuffnell looked like a shell-bombed town.

1936 Large portions of Ontario and Manitoba continued to swelter through a 10-day killer heat wave. Temperatures reached 40.6° at Toronto on the 9th. Maximum temperatures occurred on the 11th: 42.2° at Atikokan Ont and 44.4° at St. Albans Man.

The author of the Canadian Weather Trivia Calendar calls this date Canadian Weather Day. More notable weather events occurred on this date than on any other in the year. For a few of the events that happened on this day, see the Weather Flashes at the end of the calendar.

1985 Record warmth, dryness, and sunshine continued throughout British Columbia. The forest fire danger was rated extreme in the south. Residents of North Bend were evacuated when fire threatened their town. The cost of fighting fires in 1985 surpassed \$100 M.

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.

1953 Hailstones as large as golf balls covered 1800 square kilometres in central Alberta. Thousands of birds were crushed by hail.

1974 A 2-day rainstorm (100 mm) washed out roads and bridges at the southern end of the Alaska Highway in British Columbia, closing the highway for 10 days.

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1941 British Columbia's warmest day ever: Lillooet and Lytton recorded 44.4°. On the same date, Victoria had its all-time high temperature of 36.1°.

1976 The XXI Olympiad opened at Montreal under partly cloudy skies with a temperature of 21°. During the games, the temperature averaged 2° below normal. There were 6 days with rain and 5 with traces of rain in the 16-day period.

1941 The highest temperature ever recorded in the Northwest Territories was reported at Fort Smith: 39.4°.

1922 It rained for nearly a week (from the 17th to the 23rd) in southern Quebec. Drummondville received the greatest amount, 234 mm, most of it on the 18th.

1963 A total eclipse of the sun was observable during excellent weather for about 1 1/2 minutes. The path of totality extended from Dawson YT to south of Nova Scotia.

1960 A temperature flash of 9 degrees occurred at Gretna Man during the passage of a line of thunderstorms. Blasts of hot air from the south raised the temperature to 36° for 15 minutes.

1793 Alexander Mackenzie completed his trip to the Pacific and "on a clear and pleasant" morning wrote his famous inscription on a rock: "Alexander Mackenzie, from Canada, by land, the twenty-second of July, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-three." He first reached tidewater on the 20th when skies were cloudy, winds strong, and the water rough.

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1918 The coldest July period on record occurred through the western Prairies. Temperatures of -5° to -10° resulted in crop and garden losses.

1987 A wave of destructive thunderstorms hit southern Ontario. Lightning struck a YMCA camp near Bala, injuring 15 campers.

1975 An enormous clean-up began at St. Bonaventure Que the day after a tornado demolished half the town, killing 4 and causing \$1 M damage. 100 buildings were destroyed and the town's water tower was knocked down.

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.... 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 Sask 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.

1980 Toronto recorded its wettest day since Hurricane Hazel when 118.5 mm fell, a new record 1-day July rainfall. The roof of a department store collapsed under the weight of the water.

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

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1985 Southwestern Quebec was cleaning up after a day of devastating wind, rain, and hail storms.

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1759 Montcalm repulsed an attack by Wolfe at Montmorency Falls. The battle ended when "the dreadfullest thunder-storm and fall of rain that can be conceived" dampened the powder of both sides.

# AUGUST 9 8 9

## SUNDAY

## MONDAY

## TUESDAY

## WEDNESDAY

## THURSDAY

## FRIDAY

## SATURDAY

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August 8, 1882 A snowstorm struck Lake Michigan and snow showers were also observed at various points on shore. A ship reported: "thick cold cloud burst on decks, covered them with snow and slush 6 inches deep."

The 2 most expensive hurricanes in history both occurred in August. *Betsy* in 1965 caused \$1,419.8 M damage in the Bahamas, Florida, and Louisiana and killed 76. *Carmille* in 1969 caused \$1,420.7 M damage in Cuba, the Gulf States, and Virginia and left 365 dead or missing.

1987 Edmonton was cleaning up after a tornado devastated the east end of the city on the 31st, killing 27, injuring more than 200, and leaving 400 homeless. The storm, the most destructive in Canadian history, toppled transmission towers and blew apart a giant oil tank. Damage was estimated at \$250 M.

1979 A tornado was observed in west-end Montreal. Wind gusts of 108 km/h and hail caused \$1M damage to the tobacco crop south of Joliette.

1985 After more than 380 mm of rain fell on Parkman Sask, 2 brothers made the best of a bad thing and went waterskiing on their wheatfield.

1983 Winnipeggers sweltered during the hottest night in almost 100 years, with temperatures above 22°.

1859 A tornado, described as the worst ever experienced in PEI, uprooted trees and swamped boats. Several persons drowned.

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CIVIC HOLIDAY

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1987 In the wake of the Edmonton tornado, severe weather continued over the Prairies. Heavy thunderstorms with torrential rains and hail occurred over a wide area of Sask and southern Man on the 5th. On the 6th, a tornado picked up a barn at Grandview Sask.

1954 Roger Bannister and John Landy ran the "Miracle Mile" at the British Empire Games in Vancouver. Conditions were nearly perfect: temperature 24°, winds 9 km/h, clear skies, and no precipitation. Bannister's winning time was 3:58.8.

1813 Squalls capsized the armed schooners *Hamilton* and *Scourge* in Lake Ontario near the mouth of the Niagara River, killing 53, the largest single loss of life on the Great Lakes during the war of 1812.

1941 Winston Churchill in HMS *Prince of Wales* arrived in Placentia Bay for meetings with President Roosevelt aboard the USS *Augusta*. The meetings produced the Atlantic Charter which defined British and U.S. aims for the postwar world. Skies over SE Nfld were heavily overcast that day, winds were calm, and the midday temperature was 20°.

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

1987 A strong contrast in temperature between warm lake waters and cool early morning air caused the formation of non-tornadic waterspouts near Kelly's Island in Lake Erie.

1957 A low pressure centre south of Regina brought steady rain for 60 hours to southern Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Boissevain had 267 mm over 3 days.

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1806 "The summer's extraordinary rain, having overflowed the low country, has caused the buffalo to resort to the highland southward. Famine general amongst the Indians." From the journals of Alexander Henry.

1987 The region SW of Portage La Prairie had 120-140 mm of rain in 24 hours, a once-in-a-century occurrence for this area.

1971 Hurricane *Beth* wrought havoc across Nova Scotia. At Halifax the rainfall total was 296 mm, enough to wash away several highways and bridges, damage buildings, and flood farmland.

1958 A twister is believed to have developed in the midst of a forest fire near Merritt BC. Two firefighters were hurled into the blaze.

1987 Hot, muggy weather, with temperatures reaching the 30s, gave an extra challenge to riders in the Niagara Classic, Canada's longest and hardest bicycle race. Only 17 of 45 starters finished the 3-day women's event on August 16th. In the 10-day men's event, only 87 of the 130 starters were left after 3 days.

1987 Prolonged hot, dry weather in parts of Atlantic Canada stunted crops, killed livestock, and forced water rationing and a ban on forest operations. The hot weather may have been a factor in the Atlantic mussel poisonings which killed 3 the following December.

1935 Maximum temperature records were established throughout the Maritimes. Provincial extremes recorded were 39.4° at Rexton NB, 38.3° at Collegetown NS, and 36.7° at Charlottetown PEI.

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1987 Prairie weather was significantly cooler and wetter than normal, with record daily low temperatures being set in several localities. The slump in beer sales was so great that it forced a temporary shutdown of Carling O'Keefe's Calgary brewery.

1816 During the "Year Without a Summer" a heavy snowfall on this date covered fields in eastern Canada.

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

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

1885 A tornado crossed the north end of the Muskoka Lakes district, mowing down trees, unroofing houses, and demolishing barns. Two children were killed by flying debris.

1873 A calamitous hurricane swept Cape Breton Island destroying 1200 fishing vessels, thousands of trees and damaging countless bridges, breakwaters, wharves, and buildings. An untold number of lives were lost.

1891 Weather forecasts were first published for the Prairies.

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1973 A hailstone weighing 290 g and measuring 114 mm across fell at Cedoux Sask. Its mass on impact was estimated at 450 g—the largest hailstone ever documented in Canada.

1981 From August 28 to September 4 the Muskoka-Haliburton region of Ontario had more than 200 mm of acid rain. This episode accounted for 28% of the year's total wet deposition.

1987 Jocelyn Muir completed her swim round Lake Ontario, covering 837 km in 300 hours and breaking the record for the longest international marathon swim. In some areas, chilly waters caused by upwellings forced her to wear 3 bathing caps and a wet suit to combat the cold.

1839 An Atlantic hurricane buffeted coastal shipping from Charleston VA to Nova Scotia. Strong easterly gales drove several ships ashore at Yarmouth.

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

Can lightning strike twice in the same place? Golfer Lee Trevino should know. He has the unique distinction of having been hit by lightning on two different occasions.

August 4, 1881 The temperature at Seville, Spain reached 50°, the highest ever recorded in Europe.



S	E	P	T	E	M	B	E	R	T	9	8	9
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	1	2					
September 13, 1922 This was the hottest day in history, at least at Al'azizyah, Libya, where the temperature reached 58°, the highest ever recorded in the world.	September 11, 1970 A tornado in the Gulf of Venice lifted a yacht and sank it near the Italian island of Santa Elena, killing 36 of the 60 people on board.	September 3, 1970 The largest hailstone ever recorded in North America fell at Coffeyville, Kansas. It weighed 758 g and measured 14 cm in diameter and 44.5 cm in circumference.	September 8, 1900 A hurricane and storm tide struck Galveston, Texas, in what was probably the worst natural disaster in U.S. history. The city was covered with 2.5 to 4.5 m of water. More than 6000 people were killed and 3600 houses destroyed.	September 10-11, 1963 Paishih, Taiwan, had 1245 mm of rain in 24 hours, the highest 1-day rainfall ever recorded in the northern hemisphere.	1976 Environment Canada switched to metric units for reporting precipitation: millimetres for rainfall and water-equivalent precipitation and centimetres for snow. One year later, metric units were adopted for wind speed.			1984 A tornado struck south London Ont causing \$5 M in property losses, including damage to 600 homes and 50 businesses. Thirty persons were injured and dozens left homeless.				
3	4	5	6	7	8	9						
1972 Ennadai Lake recorded a rainfall amount of 91.2 mm—the greatest ever recorded at any NWT station in one day.	1953 Toronto's longest heat wave ended after 10 days with maximum temperatures over 31°, including 38° on the 2nd, the highest ever for September. Water temperatures in Lake Erie became so high that millions of fish died from lack of oxygen.	1978 Hurricane <i>Ella</i> passed about 80 km south of Cape Race Nfld. She packed winds of 115 km/h and brought 45 mm of rainfall to St. John's. At maximum intensity <i>Ella</i> had a central low pressure of 95.6 kPa and 220 km/h winds.	1985 A funnel cloud was sighted at Vancouver. Several centimetres of snow blanketed parts of central Alberta and the foothills. More than 20 cm fell in the mountains.	1977 A line of thunderstorms, unusual for Vancouver, passed through the city, causing some local flooding and extensive property damage. Winds were gusty and hail was observed.	1869 Hurricane winds blasted the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Two vessels were sunk in the St. Lawrence and ships attempting to sail up to Quebec were seriously hindered by the changing wind pattern.	1864 The Charlottetown Conference, the first of the conferences leading to Confederation, ended on the 8th. A dense fog early in the morning of the 9th delayed the departure of the delegates for Halifax, where deliberations were to be continued.						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16						
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, visibility 12 km and precipitation zero.	1847 A hurricane off Newfoundland caused the loss of 300 lives.	1981 Warm dry weather caused a resurgence of forest fires in northern Alberta. Additional fire-fighting crews arrived from Alaska to fight the 43 fires that consumed over 800,000 ha of timber.	1759 Wolfe defeated Montcalm on the Plains of Abraham at Quebec City. His forces had ascended the cliffs at Anse au Foulon during the night under clear but dark skies, with the moon in its last quarter. A participant reported "fine weather, the night calm, and silence over all" at the beginning of the operation.	1882 The steamer <i>Asia</i> sank in Georgian Bay during a fierce gale with the loss of 126 lives.	1977 A severe storm crossed the Maritimes, bringing heavy rains of 50 mm and wind gusts of 100 km/h and causing heavy losses to fishing equipment and the PEI tobacco crop.	1987 Taking the first major step to protect the world's ozone layer, delegates from 24 countries reached agreement in Montreal to cut production of ozone-destroying chemicals 50 % by 1999.						
17	18	19	20	21	22	23						
1980 Eight separate sitings of waterspouts, some in groups of 2 or 3 funnels, were reported by numerous observers around Lake Ontario from Toronto to Niagara-on-the-Lake.	1982 Hurricane <i>Debbie</i> brought heavy weather to the Atlantic coast. The entire crew of the oil rig Sedco 706 was evacuated as the hurricane approached the Grand Banks.	1965 Divers found the wreck of <i>Le Chameau</i> which went down during a severe storm in August 1725 off the entrance to Kelpy Cove, Cape Breton Island. Her cargo included 11,000 silver coins and 3,000 gold coins—the payroll for French troops in New France. The treasure was valued at \$250,000.	1987 Pope John Paul II celebrated mass at Fort Simpson NWT, fulfilling a promise made when dense fog prevented him from visiting the community on September 18th, 1984.	1942 A massive rainstorm hit the Maritimes on the 20th. By the 21st Halifax had had 239 mm of rain, a 1-day record for eastern Canada. After 4 days, totals exceeded 350 mm at Stellarton NS and 275 mm at Charlottetown.	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.	1815 The Great September Gale caused extreme damage to forests and buildings across the Maritimes.						
24	25	26	27	28	29	30						
1950 The Great Smoke Pall, fed by muskeg and forest fires in northern Alberta, spread across North America darkening skies in eastern Canada in the afternoon and in Europe two days later.	1986 More than 20 cm of snow fell at Calgary.	1898 The Merriton tornado struck near St. Catharines Ont killing 5, injuring 18, and causing \$100,000 damage.	1983 Extreme cold, with temperatures of -28°, shattered minimum temperature records in the Yukon for September. A storm in the Alberta foothills dropped 17 cm of snow at Banff and 23 cm at Pincher Creek.	1985 Welcome rains from Hurricane <i>Gloria</i> helped douse forest fires in Nova Scotia and replenished wells, streams, and watering holes left dry by several months of below-normal precipitation. In northern New Brunswick rainfalls were between 30 and 75 mm and peak winds ranged from 90 to 100 km/h.	1899 Winnipeg recorded its coldest September temperature ever: -8.3°. Other September record lows were set on this day in Vancouver (0.0° in 1950) and Montreal (-4.0° in 1980).	1987 Thompson, Manitoba recorded its first September ever without frost.						

# U SUNDAY

# C MONDAY

# T TUESDAY

# B WEDNESDAY

# E THURSDAY

# R FRIDAY

# 9 SATURDAY

1

1987 A year-long spell of above-normal temperatures continued in BC. By October wells were drying up, the salmon run was threatened by low water levels, and other fish were also endangered. From August 17th to the end of October, Victoria airport recorded only 15.4 mm of rain, 11% of the normal amount.

2

Some days are more eventful than others, but October 2 is noteworthy because nothing happened on this day. To the best of our knowledge, this date is devoid of major storms, unseasonal heat or cold waves, or untimely frosts and snows. Today's forecast is for no surprises. Enjoy it!

3

A day for record high temperatures for October: 29.4° in Ottawa (1891) and 23.5° at Vancouver (1980).

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1851 Fearing arrest because of a fishing dispute, American fishermen chose to ride out a gale rather than seek refuge in Charlottetown harbour. Seventy vessels were wrecked and 150 to 300 fishermen drowned in what became known as the "Yankee Gale."

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1825 A long, dry summer contributed to the outbreak of the Miramichi Fire which burned out 15,500 square km of land north of the Miramichi River and destroyed the towns of Douglastown and Newcastle. Casualty estimates ranged from 200 to 500 dead.

6

1967 Ucluelet Brynmor Mines BC recorded a single-day rainfall of 489.2 mm, the greatest ever to have occurred in Canada.

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1979 Another soggy day. Shawinigan recorded 206 mm of rain—the greatest 1-day precipitation on record for any Quebec station.

8

1965 Manitoba and NW Ontario were bashed by an early snowstorm, with snowfalls ranging from 10 to 30 cm. Following the blizzard, temperatures plunged to -15°.

9

THANKSGIVING DAY

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

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1949 A storm passed through southern Manitoba when Winnipeg recorded its lowest ever sea-level pressure, 96.66 kPa, and its greatest 1-day October rainfall, 74.4 mm.

11

1984 Gale winds pounded NW Vancouver Island, the Queen Charlottes, and parts of the North Coast. Winds at Cape St. James reached hurricane force at 120 km/h with gusts to 165 km/h. Ten-metre waves capsized 8 fishing boats and drowned 5.

12

1962 The remnants of typhoon Freda struck the Pacific Northwest. At Victoria winds reached sustained speeds of 74 km/h with gusts to 145 km/h. Damage estimates were \$10 M to store windows, seven boats, power lines, and gardens. Seven deaths were attributed to the storm.

13

1984 In southern Ontario a stagnant airflow pushed the pollution index to 49 as officials issued a health warning. In Montreal dense morning fog reduced visibility to near zero, resulting in many accidents.

14

1866 High winds fanned the flames of a major fire which destroyed a large part of Quebec City. Five died, 2000 homes were burned, and 18,000-20,000 were left homeless.

15

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. Eighty people lost their lives. More words have been written about *Haze*/than about any other single Canadian weather event.

16

1944 The RCMP vessel *St. Roch* arrived at Vancouver, becoming the first ship to complete a round trip through the Northwest Passage. During the outward voyage she was trapped in the ice for 2 winters. She completed the homeward trip in 86 days.

17

1984 Between the 16th and the 18th a snowstorm traversed Alberta and Saskatchewan. At Edmonton over 150 accidents were reported and flight schedules were in disarray. Snowfall for October at Edmonton was a record 54.1 cm. Regina's 42.8 cm was also an October record.

18

1976 On the 18th and 19th storm winds hit Newfoundland, with gusts reaching speeds of 140 km/h at St. John's. Roofs were lifted off and fallen trees crushed many vehicles. Off Cape Race, 13 of 15 crewmen died when the *Gabriella* went down in high seas.

19

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

20

1974 An unusually early and heavy snowstorm caused severe damage to the southern Maritimes. 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.

21

1987 Kejimikujik weather station in southern Nova Scotia recorded 25 mm of acid rain with a pH of 3.2—halfway between the acidity of apples and weak vinegar. A pH of 4.7 is enough to cause environmental damage, while a pH of less than 4.0 is considered serious.

22

1962 Hurricane *Ella* crossed Newfoundland's Avalon Peninsula, bringing 30 hours of steady rainfall. Pierres Brook received the most: 93 mm.

23

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

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

25

1918 The *Princess Sophia* sank after grounding on Vanderbilt Reef off the BC coast on the 23rd. High seas, low visibility, and 90 km/h winds prevented rescuers from reaching the ship. All 343 on board perished. The only survivor was an English Setter that swam ashore.

26

1983 A severe rain and snow storm accompanied by winds gusting to 130 km/h struck Cape Breton Island and PEI. Thousands were left without electricity for up to 15 hours.

27

1854 Canada's first major rail disaster occurred in predawn fog at Baptiste Creek near Chatham Ont. A late express struck a freight train, killing 52 and seriously injuring 48 more.

28

1983 A small twister damaged 45 buildings near Valleyfield, Quebec. At least 7 people were injured and property damage was estimated at \$1.5 M.

29

STANDARD TIME

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

30

1984 Strong winds gusting to 98 km/h at Val d'Or Que uprooted trees, overturned small planes and damaged many roofs.

31

1981 Disastrous flooding occurred in the towns of Squamish and Pemberton BC, north of Vancouver. At Seymour Falls 206 mm of rain fell on the 30th and 200 mm on the 31st. Property damage was estimated at \$2.6 M. Residents were evacuated by air.

October 7, 1737 A tropical cyclone struck the Bay of Bengal and the Ganges delta, killing more than a quarter of a million people and sinking 20,000 boats. A 12-m wave inundated islands and lowlands. This is probably the worst hurricane tragedy on record.

12 October 1987 Snowdrifts up to 3 m deep were left by a freak blizzard which hit Lesotho in southern Africa. Eight herdboys were frozen to death.

13 October 1987 Beachcombers and bathers were startled to find hundreds of TV sets washing up on the beaches of southern Florida's Atlantic coast. The sets had been in 17 cargo containers washed from the decks of a freighter the day before by Hurricane Floyd.

16 October 1987 A freak storm with hurricane-force winds up to 175 km/h struck southern England, leaving 19 dead and hundreds injured. A channel ferry was driven aground, and power disruptions were widespread. London recorded a record low pressure of 96.1 kPa.

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

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November 7, 1940 The Tacoma Narrows Bridge in Washington collapsed in 60-65 km/h winds. This was the famous Galloping Gertie suspension bridge which undulated noticeably even in light breezes. The bridge did not collapse because of the force of the wind but because wind conditions reinforced and intensified the bridge's usual vibrations.

November 3-4, 1966 The Arno River in Italy overflowed its banks, killing 113 people and causing extensive damage to priceless art treasures in Florence.

November 1987 Villagers in Uganda murdered their local rainmaker, blaming him for hailstones and torrential rains which struck the village. Earlier, he had threatened the people with hailstorms unless they showed him more respect.

The warmest November temperatures on record occurred at Toronto (23.9° in 1950), Halifax (23.3° in 1956), and Edmonton (23.3° in 1931).

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

1985 Remnants from Hurricane *Juan* slowly moved up the Mississippi Valley and reached Ontario. The storm produced many 24-hour precipitation records. Trenton recorded 60 mm of rain.

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

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REMEMBRANCE DAY

1975 Winnipeg recorded its highest temperature for November: 23.9°.

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

1885 At 9:22 AM Donald Smith drove in the ceremonial last spike of the CPR at Craigellachie BC. The temperature was 10° and the skies were cloudy. The sun came out an hour later.

1819 From Kingston Ont to Quebec City, noon skies were as dark as night because of immense fires in the West. During the afternoon, a thunderstorm showered soot or soapy rain on Montreal.

1985 Arctic air spilled across the west, dropping temperatures to record low values, especially in Alberta. Readings were in the -20s in the south and -30s in the north. Victoria's suburbs had 20 cm of snow and thunderstorms were reported.

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.

1940 An Armistice Day storm on the Great Lakes caused the wreck of 3 large ships and several small craft with the loss of 69 lives. Sustained winds reached 130 km/h.

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1987 Strong winds and heavy precipitation ravaged the Maritimes. St. Paul's Island off Cape Breton clocked wind gusts of up to 120 km/h. Charlottetown had 61 mm of precipitation, the most ever recorded there for 1 day in November. The storm caused at least 3 deaths, disrupted transportation, and toppled power lines, leaving thousands without electricity.

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

1972 Winds of 130 km/h caused Lake Erie to "tilt". The water level at the eastern end dropped 1.2 m, while extensive flooding took place at the western end, causing \$25 M in property loss and damage.

1987 A storm with snow and winds to 100 km/h developed off the coast of Newfoundland. On the 17th, the trawler *Hosanna* with 34 aboard disappeared without a trace about 400 km SE of Cape Race. Search operations were hampered by high winds and seas.

1900 Indian Head, near Regina, had 88.9 cm of snow, the greatest 1-day total on record for any station in Saskatchewan.

1987 In sub-zero temperatures and with winds gusting to 50 km/h, former Olympians Barbara Ann Scott-King and Ferd Hayward started the Olympic torch on its 87-day, 18,000 km journey from St. John's to Calgary for the 1988 winter Olympics. Some 6820 Canadians eventually participated in the torch relay.

1929 The Burin Peninsula of Newfoundland was struck by 10-30 m tidal waves caused by an earthquake in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Tons of rock and gravel were ripped off the sea floor. The toll was 36 dead, 500 homes destroyed, and 100 fishing boats smashed. Nobody knew about the catastrophe for 4 days because of knocked-out telegraph lines.

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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.

1962 Regina recorded its lowest sea-level pressure: 97.51 kPa.

1986 More than 70 cm of snow buried Gaspé over a 2-day period, a record, and more than twice the November average. Sherbrooke had 52 cm, the most ever in a single storm, and at Quebec, 31 cm was the most ever for so early in the season. The snow meant an early start to skiing.

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

1972 An intense storm brought 35.8 cm of snow to St. John's Nfld, a new 24-hour record for November.

1970 A 60-cm snowfall in the London area paralyzed traffic along Hwy 401 where more than 1000 cars were abandoned over a 25-km stretch east of the city.

1985 Victoria recorded its first November snowfall since 1978. More than 27 cm of snow fell on the 25th and 26th, and between the 18th and 26th more than 50 cm of snow was recorded. This was also the coldest November on record for the city.

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GREY CUP

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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 Queen Elizabeth Way.

1898 A storm east of Yarmouth NS, with a central pressure of 98.61 kPa and easterly winds of 90 km/h dropped 15.5 cm of snow. SS *Portland* sank off Cape Cod and 91 drowned. Other sea tragedies raised the death toll to 400.

1984 A southerly circulation of very mild air in Quebec resulted in several daily maximum temperature records. The temperature at Hull reached 19°. Ski resorts closed temporarily. Dense fog plagued air and road transportation.

1966 The large ore carrier *D.J. Morrell* broke up on Lake Huron under the stress of 74 km/h winds and 6-m waves; 28 men were lost.

1985 Toronto had 186 mm of rain, making it the wettest November since records began in 1840 and the wettest month in 70 years. Some parts of southern Ontario fared even worse. Simcoe had 235 mm of rain and London recorded only 16.8 hours of sunshine for the whole month.

November 26-27, 1703 The "Great Storm" struck southern England and the Channel with winds up to 160 km/h. Hundreds of ships were damaged or sunk, four hundred windmills were overturned, countless other buildings lost their roofs and thousands of trees were uprooted. The Eddystone lighthouse, and its occupants disappeared without trace! Close to 8 thousand people lost their lives.

November 9, 1914 It finally rained at Bagdad, California, after 767 days of dry weather, the longest dry spell in American weather history.



# SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

December 11, 1905. The mercury at Rivadavia, Argentina, climbed to 48.9°, the highest ever recorded in South America.

Sunny Hawaii also has some of the wettest spots in the world. Mt. Waialeale on the island of Kauai holds the world record for greatest average annual precipitation: 11,680 mm. From December 1981 to December 1982, Kukui on the island of Maui received 18,780 mm of rain, the greatest 12-month rainfall for any place in the United States.

December 26-31, 1955 Thompson Pass in Alaska received an incredible 444.5 cm of snow, of which 157.5 cm fell on the 29th.

December 13, 1962 Florida's severest cold snap of this century caused temperatures to drop to -11° at Jacksonville and -8° at Tampa. Damage to fruit crops was in the millions.

December 17-18, 1944 A typhoon struck some 90 ships of the U.S. Third Fleet about 800 km east of Luzon in the Philippines while they were in the middle of refueling operations. When the typhoon subsided, 3 destroyers, 146 aircraft, and 790 men had been lost, and 18 other ships had been severely damaged.

1923 Henderson Lake BC received an amazing 2018.5 mm of precipitation during December, the second greatest monthly total ever recorded in Canada. (The greatest was 2235.5 mm, recorded at Swanson Bay BC in November 1917.) Henderson Lake averages 6655 mm of precipitation a year, the highest in Canada.

1987 Great Lakes water levels dropped significantly from the record high levels of 1986. At the beginning of December, Lake Superior was down 32 cm from the previous year and Lake Huron was down 58 cm. Cottagers and resort owners looked forward to bigger beaches and less flooding in the coming year.

1878 Weather forecasts were first made for the Maritime Provinces and transmitted to 20 locations there.

1983 Extreme winds with gusts to 140 km/h created rough seas and waves of 13 m off Newfoundland. The 600 tonne freighter *Homeng* was in peril 300 km SE of St. John's and its crew were airlifted to safety.

1909 University of Toronto football fans recovered from celebrations after their team defeated Toronto Parkdale 26-6 the previous day in the first Grey Cup game. It was good football weather at Toronto's Rosedale Field, with clear skies, light winds, and a temperature of 4°.

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.

1917 A cruel blizzard, with 40.6 cm of snow and 55 km/h winds, added greatly to the misery of Halifax. The previous day, the Halifax Explosion—the greatest non-nuclear explosion in history—killed 1630 people and left thousands injured and homeless.

1984 An iceberg threatened several drilling platforms near the Grand Banks. Ocean tugs harnessed the berg and towed it out of the way.

1979 Edmonton had 25.8 cm of snow in 24 hours, a new record for December. Schools and businesses were closed because of the snow and impassable roads.

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.

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. A total of 57.2 cm fell on the 11th and 12th.

1901 A good day for radio reception. Marconi, on Signal Hill in St. John's, received the first transatlantic radio transmission. Mid-day weather at St. John's was fair with light winds and a temperature of -1°.

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

1872 The largest known earthquake in BC, estimated at 7 on the Richter scale, struck in the vicinity of Hope. In towns as far away as Clinton and Soda Creek, residents were forced out of their houses in -30° temperatures. Fortunately, there were no fatalities.

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.

1876 From the Winnipeg Free Press: "Travelling on the plains was impossible and in the city was attended with the very greatest difficulty. The fine snow was so blinding that even in the city citizens lost their way."

1977 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 southwestern BC. Roads and rail lines were severed, forcing evacuation of residents and train passengers. Damage costs exceeded \$3 M.

1985 Strong winds gusting to 157 km/h struck Newfoundland's SW coast. All forms of transportation were halted because of winds and blowing snow.

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

1963 Canada's weather service received cloud pictures from TIROS 8, the first automatic picture transmission from a satellite ever received in Canada.

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 of the eastbound 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.

1879 This was the coldest day in Winnipeg's recorded weather history: -47.8°. There was no wind chill effect.

1775 In a howling snowstorm, defenders at Quebec City repulsed a predawn attack by a force of nearly 2000 Americans under Benedict Arnold.

1839 The first official weather observation in Canada was taken in Toronto on this day 150 years ago by the British Ordnance Survey. It consisted of 2 temperature readings: -3° at 9 AM and +1° at 3 PM. Continuous and more detailed observations began in 1840, giving Toronto the longest continuous set of weather records in Canada.

1980 Boxing Day floods near Vancouver did \$13 M in damage along the Squamish River. Residents were evacuated following a week of heavy rains and flooding. Hope recorded 444 mm of precipitation in December (178% of normal).

1959 The most damaging glaze storm on record occurred NW of Toronto. As much as 30 mm of freezing precipitation fell over 32 hours. Rural subscribers went without full utility services for up to a month.

1969 Montreal experienced a record snowfall from the 26th to the 28th. During a 60-hour storm, 70 cm of snow fell, snarling traffic for days. Storm-related deaths numbered 15.

1985 During the last 2 weeks of 1985 fog blanketed the western half of BC, disrupting all modes of transportation and forcing thousands to cancel holiday travel plans. Vancouver had 16 days of fog in December; the normal number is 6.

1987 This was the warmest year on record for much of Canada. Mean annual temperatures reached their highest levels ever at several locations in an area extending from the Great Lakes basin to British Columbia and the Yukon.