

# SUNDAY MONDAY JANUARY

**1** 1830 A joint-nation New Year's party was held on the frozen surface of the Öresund, the narrow body of water between Denmark and Sweden. The opportunity for improving neighbourly relations was lost when nationalist spir- its, inflamed by bottled spirits, led to a number of brawls.

New Year's Day

**2** 1872 The first synoptic telegraphic weather reports were received in Toronto from the Ontario towns of Kingston, Port Dover, and Port Stanley and then forwarded to Washington to begin a daily exchange of weather data between Canada and the United States.

**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 in Victoria. The afternoon temperature at Victoria was 1.2°.

**4** 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.

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

**6** 1709 A devastating cold spell began in France, destroying crops and livestock. The ensuing famine killed thousands. According to one account, "Most of the hens had died of cold, as had the beasts in the stables. When any poultry did survive the cold, their combs were seen to freeze and fall off."

**7** 1969 An incredible cold wave began at Edmonton. The temperature remained far below 0°F (-17.8°C) for 26 consecutive days until February 2. The coldest temperature was reached on the 30th: -39.4°C.

**8** 1981 Between the 7th and the 10th, an intense storm centred near southern Greece caused snowstorms in Greece, flooding in Turkey, severe dust storms in Libya, and snowfalls of up to 5 cm in Tunisia (the first in that country since 1955).

**9** 1975 A memorable Prairie blizzard left 3½ m snowdrifts from Saskatchewan to Lake Superior. The storm lasted 33 hours and created countless emergencies. Winnipeg International Airport was closed for almost 1½ days. Visibility was zero for 14 hours.

**10** 1978 Brutal wind and rain storms and high tides inflicted considerable damage in the Maritimes. Casualties included the world's second-longest wooden bridge at Rocklyn, N.B. Saint John, N.B., registered a record gust of 143 km/h and a 1-minute mean wind-speed of 111 km/h.

**11** 1911 Fort Vermilion, Alta., registered a record low of -61.1°, the lowest temperature ever recorded in Canada outside of the Yukon.

**12** 1967 More than 8 cm of snow fell on Mexico City, its first snowfall in 26 years and its fourth of the century. Larger accumulations were reported in northern Mexico. Transportation was paralyzed, and filming of a Tarzan series was postponed because of snow in the jungle.

**13** 1918 A ferocious 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. The town of Listowel was swept by a fire fanned by strong winds. Food and fuel, cut short by the war, ran out quickly.

**14** 1950 For the first time in the history of Vancouver's weather records, the temperature reached 0°F (-17.8°C). This temperature has been equalled only once since then, on December 29, 1968. Weather records have been kept in Vancouver since 1898.

**15** 1671 Québec City received the season's first snowfall the previous day, marking 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** **Weather Quiz** The French mathematician Blaise Pascal (1623-62) conducted experiments on air pressure using a barometer filled with  
a) mercury  
b) water  
c) ink  
d) red wine  
(See inside back cover for answer.)

**17** 1974 Canada's greatest 1-day snowfall, 118.1 cm, was recorded at Lakelse, B.C.

**18** 1982 Wind gusts of 110 km/h, combined with -30° temperatures and deep snow, paralyzed Schefferville, Qué., for days. In P.E.I. it was the coldest weather since 1877. Water froze in pipes when power was cut to several homes.

**19** 1987 More than 20 cm of snow fell on Toronto around rush hour, stranding thousands of commuters. Some downtown hotels advertised snowstorm specials. Vehicles littered the highways, and plows and police cruisers were pulled off the roads. It was the second major storm in 2 days.

**20** 1981 In the Bahamas, a favourite holiday spot for Canadians, Nassau International Airport recorded its coldest temperature ever: 5°.

**21** 1962 At Pebble Beach in normally sunny southern California, snow and hail forced the postponement of the final round of the Bing Crosby Golf Tournament.

**22** 1906 The U.S. steamer *Valencia* ran aground on the rocky coast of Vancouver Island. Rough seas and rain hampered rescue operations. 126 perished.

**23** 1795 In one of the strangest engagements in military history, French cavalry captured the 14 ships of the Dutch Texel fleet. The Dutch anchorage had frozen over, locking their ships into the ice and making them vulnerable to attack from the land.

**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 to have been reported during the 6 months from November to April.

**25** 1990 Hurricane-force winds up to 200 km/h struck Western Europe, killing 93 people, cutting power to more than a million homes, and disrupting communications in six countries. Damage was estimated at \$1 billion. Destruction was greatest in Britain, where this was the worst storm since the Great Storm of November 1703.

**26** 1984 McInnes Island, B.C., recorded an enormous rainfall of 265 mm in 6 hours (319 mm in 24 hours), an unconfirmed Canadian rainfall record for a 6-hour period.

**27** 1990 It was an unusually warm January over most of Canada. On the Prairies, farmers worried about the lack of snow-cover and the drying of the soil by frequent chinooks. In central and northern B.C., weak ice roads disrupted the movement of heavy equipment for oil-drilling and logging operations.

**28** 1870 The ship *City of Boston* sailed from Halifax and disappeared during a storm with 191 passengers aboard.

**29** 1877 Charlottetown, P.E.I., recorded a minimum temperature of -32.8°, its coldest ever. Windsor, Ont., recorded the same temperature, also an all-time record low for the city, on this day in 1873.

**30** 1954 A freak tornado accompanied by heavy hail and lightning struck White Point Beach near Liverpool, N.S., at 11:40 p.m., causing localized damage.

**31** 1950 It was a crazy January. While the east basked in abnormally warm weather for most of the month — with maximum temperature records being set all the way from Windsor to Halifax — the west was frozen stiff. At Edmonton, it never rose above -8.8°, and usually balmy Vancouver was paralyzed by snow and record low temperatures.

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

# FEBRUARY

3

1947 Snag, Y.T., had the lowest temperature ever recorded in Canada: -63°. The freezing of one's breath produced hissing, and fog persisted above the dog teams.

4

1990 Mild weather with near-freezing temperatures boosted attendance at Québec City's Winter Carnival, but in Ottawa the rare February thaw forced the cancellation of some outdoor events in that city's Winterlude festival.

5

1911 Inspector Fitzgerald of the Royal Northwest Mounted Police "lost patrol" dashed off what was to be his final diary entry: "can only go a few miles a day." Plagued for weeks by snowstorms, high winds, and frequent -40° to -50° temperatures, the patrol lost its way between Fort McPherson, N.W.T., and Dawson, Y.T. Its 4 members perished about a week later.

6

1875 Dr. Richard Neuitt recorded this description of a chinook at Lethbridge, Alta.: "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."

7

1892 For the second time in 3 days at Verkhoyansk, USSR, the temperature fell to -68°, the coldest ever recorded in the northern hemisphere. This temperature was again equalled on February 6, 1933, at Oimekon, USSR.

8

1947 Southern Saskatchewan was reeling from a series of blizzards that 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.

9

1990 An extreme cold spell, beginning in late January, persisted across the Yukon and the Mackenzie district. North of Great Bear Lake, temperatures as low as -60° were reported. At such temperatures, many objects become brittle and break. Cars are hard to start, even with block heaters, and are often left running all day.

10

1776 A severe storm struck during the American siege of Québec City: "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."

11

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

12

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

13

1979 A massive avalanche near Roger's Pass buried the CP track in 7 m of snow, damaged a bridge, and caused traffic chaos. 7 skiers were killed in another avalanche near Golden, B.C.

14

1990 B.C.'s Lower Mainland got a snowy valentine, as the 4th major snowstorm in 3 weeks dropped 32 cm of snow on Vancouver on the 14th and 15th, causing flight cancellations and traffic chaos and forcing the closing of most schools. Total snowfall for the 15th was 28.6 cm, a 1-day record for February.

15

1965 Canada's controversial new maple leaf flag was unveiled on Parliament Hill. The Ottawa sky was overcast, but the midday temperature was a comfortable -1.1°; the flag was raised under a brisk 25 km/h breeze which showed off the new emblem to full advantage.

16

1990 A potpourri of precipitation was on the menu for southern Ontario: Residents sampled snow (up to 23 cm), ice pellets, freezing rain, and thunder in the worst storm of the season up to this point. In the Niagara area, ice snapped power lines, cutting electricity for nearly 2 days. At Toronto airport, flights were grounded by dense fog.

Valentine's Day

17

1982 A storm bashed 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.

18

1989 From Alberta to Ontario the incidence of migraine headaches increased sharply in February as an intense high pressure area took up residence for a few weeks over the Prairies. Earlier, on January 31, the weight of this same dome of air set a new North American high pressure record of 107.5 kPa at Northway, Alaska.

19

1956 In Newfoundland, 143 hours of almost continuous snowfall, beginning on the 13th, finally came to an end. At Gander, the total snowfall exceeded 44 cm.

20

**Weather Quiz**  
The mercury in a mercury thermometer freezes at  
a) -20°C  
b) -38°C  
c) -46°C  
d) -52°C  
(See inside back cover for answer.)

21

1987 Mild weather prevailed for most of February across Vancouver Island and the southern B.C. mainland. Because of the unseasonably warm temperatures, commercial flower growers resorted to spraying growth retardants on daffodils to delay blooming until Easter.

22

1936 An early morning survey of Toronto by automobile revealed incredible temperature differences due to the urban heat island effect and local topography. Conditions were clear and calm, and temperatures ranged from 8° to -9°. One valley at the north end of Yonge Street showed a drop of 15° over the range of a few blocks.

23

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 was comprised of blue skies, no precipitation, north winds at 12 km/h, and a temperature of -4°.

24

1988 Blizzards brought the first snow in 50 years to parts of Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan. Snow fell for 10 hours in Damascus, the capital of Syria.

25

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 \$7 M.

26

1990 For the second time in a month and the third time in 3 months, hurricane-force storms struck Western Europe. Winds as high as 200 km/h caused destruction from Sicily to Sweden and resulted in 65 deaths. High sea levels forced the evacuation of the Welsh town of Towyn.

27

1717 The first of 4 snowstorms in 10 days paid an unwelcome visit to the New England coast. While no measurements are available for Canada, 91 cm of snow was on the ground at Boston. The city was snowbound for 2 weeks. As much as 150 cm fell farther to the north.

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.

# MARCH

**3** 1875 It was snowing again in Toronto, where more than 55 cm fell in the first 5 days of the month. The snowstorms affected all of southern Ontario, disrupting road and rail traffic. One man froze to death near Caledonia.

**4** 1935 Winnipeg had its greatest 1-day snowfall: 35 cm. Although power and telephone lines were downed and road transportation was disrupted, trains and streetcars continued to operate, thanks to constant plowing. The storm provided a welcome opportunity for hundreds of unemployed workers to pick up a few days' wages shovelling snow.

**5** 1910 An avalanche in Rogers Pass, B.C., killed 62 railway workers.

**6** 1983 A severe winter storm carrying large amounts of rain and freezing rain (28 mm) did millions of dollars damage to southern Manitoba. Thick ice on the runways forced the closing of Winnipeg airport until the 8th. Several large TV towers collapsed.

**7** 1987 Toronto's temperature of 17.9° was the highest ever recorded so early in the year. 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.

**8** 1986 The Yukon Quest dog sled race between Fairbanks, Alaska, and Whitehorse, Y.T., was hampered by heavy snowfalls. Since the beginning of March, Whitehorse had received 47 cm of snow, establishing a new March snowfall record.

**9** 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.

**10** 1961 Wind speeds of 150 km/h, with gusts to 200 km/h, delayed trains for 17 hours at St. Andrew's, N.B.

**11** 1870 The first of 3 heavy March snowstorms hit southern Ontario. Hamilton reported 168 cm for the month. Near Napanee, there were 4-5 m drifts along the railway line. An observer in Simcoe commented, "We have had more snow, more boisterous weather, and more sleighing...than during either January or February."

**12** **Weather Quiz**  
Fact or fancy? March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb. (See inside back cover for answer.)

**13** 1757 From the Hudson's Bay archives for York Factory: "Mittens on in bed because of cold."

**14** 1870 A heavy snowstorm accompanied by high winds struck Iowa and Minnesota. The Estherville (Iowa) *Vindicator* called it a "blizzard," the first time the word had been used in print to describe a severe snowstorm.

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

**16** 1979 At Brandon, a record long spell of sub-zero temperatures in southern Manitoba ended after 126 days. The previous longest continuous period of sub-zero weather for the region was recorded in Winnipeg during the winter of 1874/75: 123 days.

**17** 1976 In Nova Scotia, a storm with winds of 148 km/h overturned trailers, destroyed buildings, tore off roofs, and downed hydro lines. Freezing rain made driving treacherous. Tidal flooding was extensive.

**18** 1989 The first rocket launch on Canadian soil since 1984 took place at Churchill, Man., as NASA began a series of launches to collect upper air samples for studies of air pollution, ozone depletion, and the greenhouse effect.

**19** 1885 Yarmouth, N.S., recorded 68.6 cm of snow—the greatest 1-day total on record for any station in Nova Scotia. The greatest single-day snowfall for Québec also occurred on this date in 1964, when 99.1 cm fell at Cape Whittle.

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

**21** 1980 An ice jam and heavy rain swelled the Ganaraska River near Port Hope, Ont., causing \$10 M in flood damage.

**22** 1894 The first Stanley Cup game was played before 5000 fans on natural ice at Montréal'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.

**23** 1987 Seven skiers were killed on a mountain in central B.C., 180 km north of Kamloops, when an avalanche 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 cascading wall of snow.

Spring 22:02 EST

World Meteorological Day

**24** 1975 102 cm of snow fell at Nalalu near Thunder Bay — a 1-day record for Ontario

**25** 1980 Persistent gale-force winds pushed ice floes up against the western shores of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, stranding 209 passengers and crew aboard the *Marine Atlantica* for 6 days outside Sydney harbour in Nova Scotia.

**26** 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, N.B. The Trans-Canada Highway and the CPR tracks near Hoyt and Stanley were washed away.

**27** 1980 It was 4.4° as Winnipeggers bundled up and left for work in the morning, but by afternoon many were wishing they had left their heavy coats behind as the temperature rose to 23.3°, a new high for the month.

**28** 1964 Following the great Alaskan Earthquake (8.2 on the Richter scale), a 67 m tsunami, the largest ever observed, was recorded off Valdez, Alaska. Giant waves from the Alaskan quake wrought death and destruction not only in Alaska but also on Vancouver Island, and in Oregon, California, and Hawaii.

**29** 1975 An Easter weekend storm lashed B.C.'s Georgia Strait and adjacent land areas with 125 km/h winds. Parked aircraft were overturned, boats swamped, and 5 people killed.

**30** 1848 As a result of a wind-driven ice jam near Buffalo, Niagara Falls ran dry. The sudden silence startled hundreds from their sleep and filled churches with those who feared the end of the world. Others walked out onto the river bed to hunt for artifacts. By April 1, the River and the Falls had returned to normal.

**31** 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°.

Good Friday

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<div>1</div> <div>1960 The world's first weather satellite, <i>Tiros I</i>, was launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida. In its 2½ - month lifetime, it transmitted nearly 20,000 photos to earth.</div> <div>Easter Monday</div>	<div>2</div> <div> <b>Weather Quiz</b>            A raindrop is shaped like            a) a pear            b) a grape            c) a mushroom cap            (See inside back cover for answer.)         </div>	<div>3</div> <div>1974 In the worst tornado outbreak ever recorded, 148 tornadoes swept over the American Midwest in an 18-hour period on the 3rd and 4th. The devastation included more than 300 killed, nearly 5500 injured, and \$600 M damage. The town of Xenia, Ohio, was almost totally destroyed.</div>	<div>4</div> <div>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 swamped the area.</div>	<div>5</div> <div>1242 A Russian army under Alexander Nevsky defeated the Teutonic Knights on the ice of Lake Peipus in Estonia. The debacle of the mail-clad Knights was made complete when the spring ice broke underneath them.</div>	<div>6</div> <div>1985 Following a tornado sighting near Windsor, fierce winds raked southern 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.</div>
<div>7</div> <div>1989 At Augusta, Georgia, the Masters Golf Tournament was played under the worst weather conditions in its history. High winds, 10° temperatures, and rain persisted throughout the 3-day event. On the 8th, heavy rain forced a delay and then a postponement of the third round.</div>	<div>8</div> <div>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 southwestern Ontario. Driving was treacherous; 13 fatalities were blamed on the storm.</div>	<div>9</div> <div>1917 At 5:30 a.m., 1000 guns opened fire and Canadian troops advanced towards Vimy Ridge. It was bitterly cold, and a sleet and snowstorm, urged on by westerly winds, began as the attack went in. Victory was clinched on the 12th, again accompanied by driving sleet and snow.</div>	<div>10</div> <div>1986 An early April snowstorm blanketed Ontario and paralysed Québec and the Maritimes. Several snowfall records were set: 44.4 cm at Sept-Îles, Qué., and 75 cm at Charlo, N.B. St. John's, Nfld., received 70 mm of rain, which flooded parts of the city and shorted the power to many homes and schools.</div>	<div>11</div> <div>1987 Maple syrup production in eastern Canada was down drastically, owing to the mild spring and the lack of freezing nighttime temperatures.</div>	<div>12</div> <div>1872 Winnipeg recorded the greatest 1-day snowfall in its history for April: 33 cm.</div>	<div>13</div> <div>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 papers were unable to publish.</div>
<div>Daylight Saving Time</div> <div>☾</div>						
<div>14</div> <div>1953 Opening day snowstorms are not unique to Canada. A 5.6 cm snowfall forced postponement of the Boston Red Sox opener at Fenway Park. Pitcher Mel Parnell put on skis and pitched snowballs before the game was cancelled. Twenty years before, Boston's entire opening series had been snowed out.</div> <div>●</div>	<div>15</div> <div>1826 From the diary of Joseph Pickering, a settler in southwestern Ontario: "Two or three rather frosty days at the beginning of the week; one morning seventeen degrees [Fahrenheit], the next at thirteen only above zero, when the next it was as high as fifty-three."</div>	<div>16</div> <div>1985 On April 16 and 17, winds gusting to 113 km/h along the lower north coast of the Gulf of St. Lawrence caused structural damage to buildings and several light planes. A fishing boat capsized near Havre St. Pierre, taking 5 lives.</div>	<div>17</div> <div>1982 Inauspicious weather marked the signing of the Constitution by Queen Elizabeth II in Ottawa under a canopy of hazy skies. The temperature during the ceremony was a balmy 18.8°, but winds were gusty and a rain shower dampened the proceedings.</div>	<div>18</div> <div>1976 Easter Sunday temperatures soared to 28° in southern Ontario, to be followed 8 days later by a 10.2 cm blanket of snow and a windchill of -6°. "False spring" was reconfirmed as a time-honoured Canadian tradition.</div>	<div>19</div> <div>1973 In Manitoba a dust devil swept across Brandon airport, lifting a Cessna 172 completely off the ground.</div>	<div>20</div> <div>1941 Montréal recorded its warmest April temperature ever: 30°.</div>
<div>21</div> <div>1985 The worst April snowstorm in 30 years struck Alberta. The heaviest snowfall, 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.</div> <div>☾</div>	<div>22</div> <div>1985 April weather extremes across southern Ontario included frequent snowfall, tree-toppling gales, a tornado, severe thunderstorms, and hail. Finally, on the 22nd, the thermometer at Toronto reached 30.3°, a new monthly record and, as it turned out, the warmest temperature there all year.</div>	<div>23</div> <div>1980 A 2-day deluge swamped Gaspé on the 23rd and 24th. The 253.1 mm total broke the previous rainfall record for April.</div>	<div>24</div> <div>1974 Heavy autumn rains and winter snowfalls that were 180% above normal resulted in extensive flooding over low-lying agricultural areas in central Alberta and southern Saskatchewan between mid-April and mid-May. Seeding was delayed by 2-3 weeks.</div>	<div>25</div> <div>1986 Three lives were lost as four fishing trawlers sank in a coastal storm near B.C.'s Queen Charlotte Islands. Winds exceeded 115 km/h. Many other boats got into trouble when the weather deteriorated faster than expected. Helicopters plucked 22 fishermen from the cold Pacific waters.</div>	<div>26</div> <div>1986 An explosion caused the release of radioactive debris from the Soviet nuclear power plant at Chernobyl. Within 2 weeks, winds in the upper atmosphere had carried dust from the explosion completely around the world.</div>	<div>27</div> <div>1987 The mercury climbed to 25° in Vancouver, the highest ever for the month of April. While worshippers headed for Vancouver beaches, there was an extreme water shortage in Penticton and an early start to the forest fire season in the Kamloops area, where the temperature soared to 33°.</div>
<div>28</div> <div>1980 The temperature at Fort McMurray in northern Alberta rose to 30°, making it the hot-spot for Canada during this particular week. Because of a prolonged dry spell, Alberta also experienced its worst April ever for forest fires. Ice-covered lakes slowed fire-fighting efforts, as water bombers were forced to refill at airports.</div> <div>☾</div>	<div>29</div> <div>1986 Vancouver received a dusting of snow, followed the next day by a minimum temperature of -0.5°. This was the latest spring frost ever recorded in Vancouver, a city usually renowned for its mild climate.</div>	<div>30</div> <div>1979 Heavy precipitation and late melting snow caused the ice-clogged Clearwater, Athabasca, and Peace rivers to flood 1530 square km of Alberta farmland; 7000 residents fled their homes.</div>	<div>APRIL</div>			

# MAY

1

1980 Moose Jaw received only 2% of its normal precipitation for the month of May. The 1980s turned out to be the driest decade on the Prairies since the notorious Thirties.

2

1983 Intense thunderstorms spawned at least 8 tornadoes in southern Ontario. One of them, rated F4 (severe) on the Fujita scale, traced a 36-km path of destruction, flattening farms and demolishing the hamlet of Reeces Corners. Miraculously, no one was killed, but 12 were injured and 50 families were left homeless.

3

1979 An ice jam on the Yukon River caused severe flooding in Dawson, Y.T. Flood waters 2 m high submerged several historic sites and damaged 80% of the town's buildings.

4

1971 Heavy rains led to an earth cave-in at St-Jean-Vianney, 200 km north of Québec City. A bus, several cars, and 35 homes were dumped into a crater 600 m wide and 30 m deep, killing 31 people.

5

1987 It rained green rain in Moscow. Scientists attributed the colouring to pollen from late-blooming trees and bushes.

6

1989 It was 6° at Louisville as Sunday Silence won the coldest Kentucky Derby ever. It was also the slowest and muddiest Derby in 31 years. Conditions are normally much better, with a 50% chance of a temperature between 18° and 27° and a 75% chance of a good or fast track.

7

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

8

1360 The Peace of Bretigny brought a short respite in the Hundred Years' War between England and France. Edward III of England agreed to the treaty after a tornado and violent hailstorm struck his army, killing hundreds of men and thousands of horses.

9

1886 Halifax recorded its greatest single-day rainfall for the month of May: 127.3 mm.

10

1963 Dorval Airport registered Montréal'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

1984 An unusual snowfall (2 to 7 cm) resulted in a white Mother's Day in south-western Ontario.

14

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 storm, 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 the outbreak of a large forest fire in Atlantic Canada, where more than 100 fires were burning at the same time. Over 150,000 hectares of forest were lost, in addition to the destruction of several buildings. Thousands were evacuated and the Trans-Canada Highway was closed.

16

1669 On seeing the glaciers of the Alps, René Le Pays, a French government official, was moved to write this barbed remark to a lady who was apparently immune to his charm: "Madame, I see here three mountains which are just like you yourself...mountains of pure ice from head to foot, whose coldness is unchanging."

17

1974 Heavy rainfalls of 50 to 100 mm produced extensive flooding along the Grand River at Cambridge and Galt, Ont. Direct damage totalled \$6.7 M.

18

1950 The heaviest 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

1780 This was eastern North America's famous Black Friday, when smoke from forest fires in the west obscured the daytime sky. Noon was almost like nighttime, chickens went to roost, and people were fearful of divine wrath.

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

**Weather Quiz**  
In what province or territory would you find the wettest location in Canada?  
(See inside back cover for answer.)

22

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

23

1980 A severe windstorm, likely accompanied by a tornado, damaged the town of Hilda, Alta., near Medicine Hat. Property damage totalled \$0.5 M and included uprooted trees, crushed buildings, and downed power lines. Winds were reported at 111 km/h.

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.

25

1933 An intense cloudburst brought flash floods to southern Manitoba. Muddy waters surged down the streets of Morden: "roaring like an express train, the churning torrents carried boardwalks along like chips." Bridges were washed away, crops ruined, and livestock killed.

Victoria Day

26

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

27

1967 A 60-hour deluge from the 25th to the 28th left portions of Nova Scotia with more than 75 mm of rain. Sydney had 151 mm.

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 M 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 Québec City, and sank in 25 minutes with the loss of 1024 passengers. There were reports of shallow river fog. The weather at Anticosti and Québec, 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.

## JUNE

1

1644 The Bishop of Geneva led a procession of 300 people to exorcise a glacier threatening the town of Chamonix near the French-Swiss border.

2

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.

World Environment Week

3

beam skyward and opened the stadium's retractable roof—letting in a deluge of water from a rainstorm outside. Performers were drenched and many of the 50,000 spectators abandoned their seats for shelter.

4

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

5

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

6

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

7

1988 Regina imposed water rationing after a daily water consumption record of 245 million litres was set the previous day. Temperatures were above 35° for 4 days.

8

1985 Hurricane-force winds swept across southern Saskatchewan and Manitoba, 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.

9

1816 At Québec City temperatures fell below freezing every night from the 6th to the 10th and snow fell frequently, "the whole of the surrounding country... having, within twelve days of the summer solstice, the appearance of the middle of December."

10

1752 Benjamin Franklin performed his famous kite-flying experiment in a thunderstorm, narrowly missing electrocution but successfully proving that lightning was a form of electricity.

11

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

12

1962 A 12-hour rain of 200 mm fell southwest of Moose Jaw, Sask., causing local flooding and damage.

13

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

14

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

15

1887 Regina was as soggy as an old dishcloth, as 160 mm of rain fell in 24 hours. This is the wettest day ever recorded in the city.

16

**Weather Quiz**  
Which has the stronger winds, a tornado or a hurricane?  
(See inside back cover for answer.)

17

1946 A tornado skirted along the southern edge of Windsor, Ont., and moved out over Lake St. Clair, killing 16 and injuring hundreds. Damage was estimated at \$1.5 M.

18

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.

19

1932 One of the worst hailstorms in history occurred in western Honan, China. Large stones fell for 2 hours, killing 200, injuring thousands, and destroying houses, crops, and animals.

20

1989 Just after midnight, in foggy Arctic twilight, the Soviet cruise ship *Maxim Gorky* struck an iceberg 480 km east of northern Greenland. Passengers escaped to lifeboats and ice floes, and sipped vodka as they waited in light rain and near-freezing temperatures to be rescued.

21

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

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.

23

1980 At Dallas, Texas, maximum temperatures remained stuck above 100°F from June 23 to August 3. In the American southwest, more than 1200 people died in the summer's heatwave.

24

1985 A tornado touched down near Fort St. John, B.C., causing minor damage.

25

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

26

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

27

1978 Responding to reports of a forest fire, volunteer firefighters from Lac-des-Loups, Qué., raced towards a plume of smoke on the horizon. When the smoke kept moving away from them, they realized they were chasing a tornado.

28

1981 Between the 10th and the 28th, Karnataka, India, received 1100 mm of precipitation, about the same as Charlottetown or Vancouver receive in an entire year.

29

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

30

1989 A tornado struck the Poundmaker Indian Reserve near Cutknife, Saskatchewan, destroying 70 houses and injuring 9.

St-Jean-Baptiste

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<div>1</div> <div>1792 The first recorded tornado in Canadian history touched down between Fonthill and Port Robinson in Ontario's Niagara Peninsula, levelling houses and clearing a wide path through the woods between the two villages. A road was later built along this path and named the "Hurricane Road," a name which it still bears today.</div> <div>Canada Day</div>	<div>2</div> <div>1843 An alligator was reported to have fallen from the sky during a thunderstorm at Charleston, South Carolina.</div>	<div>3</div> <div>1953 A violent widespread hailstorm ripped up prairie grain fields from Swift Current, Sask., to Winnipeg. Hailstones 2 cm in diameter covered the ground to a depth of 5 cm at Waldeck, Sask.</div>	<div>4</div> <div>1902 An abnormally wet spring and drenching rains of over 100 mm in 6 days produced floods on the Bow River at Calgary. The river flow was the second highest discharge since 1884.</div>	<div>5</div> <div> <b>Weather Quiz</b>            The highest temperature ever recorded in Canada was registered on this day in 1937 at Midale and Yellow Grass in southern Saskatchewan. The temperature was:            a) 39.6°            b) 43.4°            c) 45.0°            c) 50.3°            (See inside back cover for answer.)         </div>	<div>6</div> <div>1980 Torrential rains in the Gaspé were the worst since 1940. A phenomenal 137.8 mm fell in 24 hours at Grande Vallée. Bridges and roads were washed away and a helicopter had to be used to evacuate 75 families.</div>
<div>7</div> <div>1985 Clean-up continued, following a tornado that struck Mississauga, west of Toronto, the previous day. There were 10 injuries and the damage totalled \$400,000. The storm forced a 90-minute delay of the Canadian Open at Glen Abbey.</div>	<div>8</div> <div>1984 Violent thunderstorms, hail, and tornadoes cut a swath of destruction across southern Manitoba. At St. Claude, a twister toppled a ferris wheel, injuring 20 persons.</div>	<div>9</div> <div>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 town that had been shelled.</div>	<div>10</div> <div>1913 The warmest temperature ever recorded in the United States, 56.7°, was registered in Death Valley, California, at a place with the ironic name of Greenland Ranch. This is also a record high for the Western Hemisphere.</div>	<div>11</div> <div>1969 A slow-moving weather system took 84 hours to cross the Maritimes. From the 11th to the 14th, Saint John, N.B., recorded 198 mm of rain.</div>	<div>12</div> <div>1984 A severe hailstorm struck Munich, West Germany, causing 1 death and \$100 M damage to cars, aircraft, buildings, and crops. The highest single claim was \$12 M for a Boeing 757 damaged at Munich airport.</div>	<div>13</div> <div>1816 <i>The Old Farmer's Almanac</i> 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. The editor missed it, and it appeared in the first copies printed. Later printings predicted a dull July 13, but those who received the earlier copies swore by the <i>Almanac</i> for the rest of their lives.</div>
<div>14</div> <div>1987 A ferocious 2-hour thunderstorm lashed Montréal with 102 mm of rain. The flash flood caused scores of accidents, killing 2 people and inflicting widespread property damage. The storm knocked out electricity and halted subway and commuter trains, stranding hundreds downtown overnight.</div>	<div>15</div> <div>1928 Near Constance, Sask., hailstones as big as teacups battered a ranch, killing more than 750 animals, including 3 horses. A shepherd escaped injury by covering his head with a saddle.</div>	<div>16</div> <div>1927 A rare British Columbia tornado occurred in the Cariboo region. Furious winds mowed down stands of timber and felled power lines.</div>	<div>17</div> <div>1953 Québec City recorded its highest temperature ever: 36.1°.</div>	<div>18</div> <div>1941 Record high temperatures were set for the Northwest Territories (39.4° at Fort Smith) and Alberta (43.3° at Fort McLeod).</div>	<div>19</div> <div>1922 It rained for nearly a week (from the 17th to the 23rd) in southern Québec. Drummondville received the greatest amount, 234 mm, most of it on the 18th.</div>	<div>20</div> <div>1989 Rainfalls of up to 160 mm caused heavy flooding in southwestern Ontario. Cottages were swept into Lake Erie, power, roads, and communications cut, and crops ruined. Damage estimates were as high as \$35 M. Hardest hit was Essex county, which had suffered severe drought the year before.</div>
<div>21</div> <div>1983 The coldest day in history. At Vostok, Antarctica, the temperature dropped to -89.6°, the coldest air temperature ever recorded in the world.</div>	<div>22</div> <div>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 waters rough.</div>	<div>23</div> <div>1971 Two days of severe weather inflicted enormous damage over the western Prairies. A 535-km hailswath caused \$20 M damage. Rainfall exceeded 75 mm in 12 hours.</div>	<div>24</div> <div>1989 Manitoba was in the middle of the worst forest-fire crisis in its history. On the 18th, thousands of lightning strikes started 30 new fires, while another 99 were already burning. By the end of the month, 225 fires had destroyed about 18,000 sq km of forest and forced the evacuation of nearly 25,000 people.</div>	<div>25</div> <div>1975 An enormous clean-up began at St. Bonaventure, Qué., 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.</div>	<div>26</div> <div>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."</div>	<div>27</div> <div>1989 A tornado touched down in Edmonton, injuring 2 people and causing moderate damage to buildings in the city's west end. The tornado, and the severe thunderstorm that accompanied it, sparked fears of a repeat of the deadly twister of July 31, 1987, that left 27 dead and caused \$350 M damage.</div>
<div>28</div> <div>1980 Toronto recorded its wettest day since <i>Hurricane Hazel</i>, with a rainfall of 118.5 mm, a new 1-day record for July. The roof of a department store collapsed under the weight of the water.</div>	<div>29</div> <div>1946 A hailstorm that struck near Penticton, B.C., in the Okanagan Valley inflicted \$2 M in damage on the apple and pear crop in 15 minutes. Some hailstones measured over 5 cm in diameter.</div>	<div>30</div> <div>1978 A tornado, a rare event in the Northwest Territories, was sighted 80 km NE of Yellowknife.</div>	<div>31</div> <div>1759 Montcalm repulsed an attack by Wolfe at Montmorency Falls. The battle ended when "the dreadfulest thunder-storm and fall of rain that can be conceived" dampened the powder of both sides.</div>	<div>JULY</div>		

## AUGUST

1

1989 The month began with 818 forest fires burning in B.C., 102 in Saskatchewan, 211 in Manitoba, and 213 in Ontario, while Québec had so far recorded 788 for the entire season. Only the Atlantic provinces and Alberta were free of major fires. 1989 was the worst year on record for forest fires in Canada.

2

1989 Forest fires raged in southern France, helped along by extremely dry conditions and strong mistral winds of up to 160 km/h. As thousands of residents and tourists fled their homes and campsites, more than 3000 firefighters and soldiers were mobilized to battle the flames.

3

**Weather Quiz**  
"Kirmet" is the name of  
a) a wind  
b) a rainy season  
c) a frog  
(See inside back cover for answer.)

4

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

5

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

6

1879 The Bouctouche tornado prevailed upon St. Mary's, N.B., ravaging the village and demolishing everything in its path. 7 were killed and several were injured or left homeless. Losses amounted to \$100,000.

7

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 established the new world record with a time of 3:58.8.

8

1813 Squalls capsize 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.

9

1960 Vancouver experienced its hottest day ever. The day's high was 33.3°.

10

1972 A meteor entered the upper atmosphere, producing a bright fireball that blazed across the daylight sky over Canada and the United States. The meteor, estimated to be about as big as a house, came within 60 km of the earth's surface.

## Civic Holiday

11

1937 Québec City recorded the wettest day in its weather history, with a 1-day rainfall of 131 mm.

12

1989 Phil Latulippe, a 70-year-old runner from Loretteville, Québec, arrived in Halifax, completing a 6,078 km run from Vancouver in 134 days. Strong winds and a clear sky greeted his finish; the high was 26.1°.

13

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.*

14

1876 St. John's, Nfld., recorded the hottest day in its weather history with a high of 33.9°.

15

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

16

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

17

1943 British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and American President Franklin D. Roosevelt met in Québec City to discuss strategy. Canada provided the venue but took no part in the discussions. Cloudy, rainy conditions presided over the meeting; the high was 19.7°.

18

1860 It was an oppressively hot and humid day at Québec City as Canadian ministers awaited the arrival of the Prince of Wales on the first royal tour in Canadian history. Dressed in ceremonial uniforms for the occasion, they perspired profusely, looking (as one newspaper put it) "as uncomfortable as so many pigs in armour."

19

1935 Maximum temperature records were established throughout the Maritimes. Provincial extremes recorded were 39.4° at Rexton, N.B., 38.3° at Collegeville, N.S., and 36.7° at Charlottetown, P.E.I.

20

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

21

1986 A cloud of toxic gas emerged from the waters of Lake Nyos in western Cameroon and drifted over nearby villages, killing 1746 people and several thousand animals. The exact cause of this event remains a mystery.

22

1588 The Spanish Armada, already severely damaged in battles with the English under Sir Francis Drake, encountered a succession of storms off the coast of Ireland. During the next two weeks, the great fleet lost 17 ships and thousands of men to the heavy weather.

23

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, whereas on the northern shore, they were only 5°.

24

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

25

1989 The *Voyager 2* satellite made its closest approach to Neptune and Triton, the largest of the planet's moons. Sensors aboard the satellite determined that Triton, with a surface temperature of -240°, was the coldest body in the entire solar system.

26

1986 Between August 19th and September 5th, *Typhoon Wayne*, the longest-lasting Pacific cyclone in history, meandered menacingly back and forth over the South China Sea. At Hong Kong, the warning signals were hoisted on 3 separate occasions, the only time this has been done for a single storm.

27

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

28

1883 Krakatoa, the mightiest volcano of modern times, erupted on the 27th. Ash from the eruption spread around the world, causing brilliantly coloured sunrises and sunsets and unusually tinted suns and moons for several years.

29

1583 Canada's first recorded marine disaster took 85 lives when the *Delight* was wrecked on Sable Island, off the coast of present-day Nova Scotia, during a storm.

30

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

31

1967 At Yarmouth, N.S., fog occurred on 85 of the 92 days of June, July, and August.



## SUNDAY

1

1937 Trans-Canada Airlines (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°.

## MONDAY

2

1666 The Great Fire of London broke out. After a hot, rainless summer, water levels in the

Thames were so low that many boatmen faced economic ruin and wooden houses were tinder dry. The diarist Samuel Pepys wrote, "After so long a drought even the stones were ready to burst into flame."

## TUESDAY

3

1879 The Toronto Industrial Exhibition, later to become the Canadian National Exhibition, opened for the first time in Toronto. The inaugural event was marked by overcast skies, with showers, moderate to fresh winds, and an afternoon temperature of 20.6°.

## WEDNESDAY

4

1876 Frederic Stupart issued the first Canadian-prepared storm warning from the headquarters of the new

Meteorological Service of Canada in Toronto.

## THURSDAY

5

1881 A yellowish-green fog covered NE North America as the result of forest fires in Michigan and Ontario.

The air was very still and hot and filled with debris and smoke. Near Lake Huron the fires burned 20 villages, killed 500 people, and caused \$3 M in damage.

## FRIDAY

6

1952 Canada's first television station, CBFT in Montréal, went on the air and presented the country's first televised weather forecast.

## SATURDAY

7

**Weather Quiz**  
On average, how many hurricanes strike Canada each year?

- a) none  
b) 1-2  
c) 3-4  
d) 5

(See inside back cover for answer.)

## Labour Day

8

1869 Hurricane winds blasted the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Two vessels were sunk in the St.

Lawrence and ships attempting to sail up to Québec City were seriously hindered by the changing wind pattern.

9

1983 Hong Kong was deluged by 172.4 mm of rain from *Typhoon Ellen*. The storm added an estimated 32 million cubic

metres of water to the region's reservoirs in 1 day.

10

1981 The first snow in 17 years fell in the vicinity of Johannesburg, South Africa, with depths up to 10 cm

measured in some places. Five days later, temperatures reached 30°.

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.

12

1988 *Hurricane Gilbert*, the most powerful Atlantic hurricane of the century, tore through Jamaica before moving

on to Mexico and the southern U.S. Jamaica and Mexico were hardest hit, with more than 200 killed and 800,000 left homeless. At its peak, *Gilbert* had winds of 320 km/h and a central pressure of 88.8 kPa, a record low for the Atlantic.

13

1922 This was the hottest day in history. At Al'azizyah, Libya, the temperature reached 58°, the highest ever recorded in the world.

14

1882 The steamer *Asia* sank in Ontario's Georgian Bay during a fierce gale with the loss of 126 lives.

15

1977 A severe storm crossed the Maritimes and brought heavy rains of 50 mm and wind gusts of 100 km/h, causing heavy losses to fishing equipment and the P.E.I. tobacco crop.

16

1987 Taking the first major step to protect the world's ozone layer, delegates from 24 countries reached agreement

in Montréal to make a 50% cut in production of ozone-destroying chemicals by 1999.

17

1932 A tropical storm struck the Maritimes, destroying 300,000 barrels of apples in Nova Scotia's Annapolis Valley

and smashing countless lobster traps in P.E.I.

18

1975 An intense low over Winnipeg brought enormous rainfalls to Manitoba. Riding Mountain Park received

more precipitation in one day than any Manitoba station ever had before: 217.2 mm. Dauphin received 294 mm in 60 hours. Flooding was described as the worst in living memory.

19

1965 Divers found the wreck of *Le Chameau*, which went down during a raging 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.

20

1986 In the high Arctic, it was the end of a cool summer that was marked by unusually severe ice conditions.

For the first time since 1947, ice floes in Norwegian Bay prevented the resupplying of provisions to Eureka by sea.

21

1989 After leaving a trail of destruction from Guadeloupe to Puerto Rico, *Hurricane Hugo*

slammed into Charleston, South Carolina, with 200 km/h winds and a 5-m tidal surge. Altogether, *Hugo* left at least 36 dead, hundreds injured, more than 50,000 homeless, and caused an estimated \$1 billion in damage.

22

1942 A massive rain-storm hit the Maritimes on the 20th. By the 21st, Charlottetown received 164 mm, its greatest 1-day rainfall ever. After 4 days, totals exceeded 350 mm at Stellarton, N.S., and 275 mm at Charlottetown.

23

1986 At Whitehorse, Y.T., nearly 7 cm of snow fell on this day, 16 cm on the next, and 9 cm on the third. The 3-

day total of 32 cm surpassed Whitehorse's average for any given month and was a quarter of the normal winter total.

24

1985 An intense storm tracked across the Arctic. Wind gusts reached 106 km/h at Rankin Inlet, N.W.T. In

the Yukon, winds toppled hundreds of trees and caused power outages. In the Beaufort Sea, huge waves eroded a man-made island and levelled a drilling rig.

25

1816 In the "year without a summer," water froze to a thickness of at least 1 cm across NE North America as far south as Baltimore.

26

1950 Not only a blue moon but also a blue sun was observed across eastern Canada, the northeastern U.S., and Great Britain, as smoke from muskeg and forest fires in Alberta drifted across North America and the Atlantic.

27

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.

28

1981 Heavy rains hit Nepal on the 28th and 29th. Flooding caused a dam to burst, leaving crops destroyed, 1500 dead, and thousands homeless. Over the 2-day period, Nepalganj recorded 780 mm of rain.

29

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 Montréal (-4.0° in 1980).

30

1986 Toronto received 218 mm of rain for the month, making it the city's wettest September of the century and, in

fact, the wettest since 1843. It was a wet summer generally in southern Ontario, with July and August rainfalls being nearly twice normal values. Rain damage to crops totalled \$100 M.

SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

## OCTOBER

1

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

2

**Weather Quiz**  
The term "acid rain" was coined by the British scientist Robert Smith in

a) 1859  
b) 1906  
c) 1935  
d) 1967  
(See inside back cover for answer.)

3

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

4

1980 At Olympic Stadium, rain delayed the start of the National League pennant-clinching game between the Expos and the Phillies for 3 hours and 10 minutes—the second-longest individual rain delay in baseball history.

5

1868 Lt. Saxby of the Royal Navy predicted that on 5 October 1869 a storm of marked severity and exceptionally high tides would occur. One year less a day later, the famous *Saxby Gale* struck the Bay of Fundy. Tides were 2 m above any previous record at Moncton.

6

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

7

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

8

1985 Manitoba and northwestern Ontario were bashed by an early snowstorm, with snowfalls ranging from 10 to 30 cm. Following the blizzard, temperatures plunged to -15°.

9

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.

10

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.

11

1984 Gale winds pounded northwestern 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

1934 The temperature at Regina soared to 31.1°, an October record. The fine weather drew many people from their offices. "Owing to good weather," the YMCA postponed its fund-raising drive to the 22nd, when "heavier" weather was hoped for.

13

1930 At Halifax the temperature reached 31.1°, making it the warmest October day in the city's history.

14

1989 An intense thunderstorm, announced by a rapidly advancing wave of thick cloud, struck the Toronto area. Winds gusting as high as 124 km/h felled trees and power lines along Toronto's lakeshore. Strong winds and pressure differences caused sudden drops in water level, some close to 2 m, on Lakes Ontario, Simcoe, and Huron.

15

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

16

1876 A severe Atlantic storm ravaged P.E.I. and northern Nova Scotia. A barkentine was wrecked on Squaw Bay Reef and the schooner *Pearl* was beached at Arichat. Rescuers managed to get her cargo of cattle ashore, but many animals were injured.

17

1091 A tornado struck London, England, blowing the roof off St. Mary le Bow church and destroying 600 houses.

18

1984 Between the 16th and the 18th a snowstorm traversed Alberta and Saskatchewan. In Edmonton, over 150 accidents were reported and flight schedules were in disarray. October snowfall at Edmonton was a record 54.1 cm., while Regina's 42.8 cm also set an October high.

19

1844 SW hurricane-force winds drove waters from Lake Erie and Lake Ontario into the streets of Buffalo, N.Y., and Toronto. Two hundred were reported drowned.

Thanksgiving



20

1965 An intense low-pressure system centred in the Gulf of Alaska brought a steady rainfall along the Pacific coast. The storm lasted 90 hours. The greatest rainfalls were at Zeballos (348 mm), Tasu Sound (255 mm), and Kitimat (177 mm).

21

1911 The longest rain delay in World Series history began on the 18th when the Giants and the Athletics were rained out by 73 mm of precipitation over 5 days at Philadelphia. The game was finally played on the 24th. Ironically, it was another Giants-Athletics series that was delayed for 11 days by the 1989 San Francisco earthquake.

22

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

23

1979 Pleasant Indian summer weather ended abruptly across Ontario when cold air (-4°) and abundant snowfall erased record high 25° readings at Ottawa.

24

1945 B.C.'s lower Fraser Valley was in the midst of a 3-day rainfall that caused mud slides and diversions of mountain streams east of Abbotsford, disrupting electric railway service. From the 23rd to the 25th, Chilliwack received 248.4 mm of rain.

25

1885 Edmonton recorded a spectacular 40.6 cm of snow on this early date—the greatest 1-day total in the city's weather history.

26

1948 An inversion layer formed over Donora, Pa., and persisted until the 29th, trapping emissions from the town's many smokestack industries. Half of the town's 14,000 people became ill and 20 died in the first major smog disaster in American history.

27

1692 Approximately 15 cm of snow fell near Paris, France. After a cold summer and fall had ruined the harvest of 1692, another cold year in 1693 caused one of the worst famines of the 17th century. Millions are reported to have died in France and neighbouring countries.

28

1886 It was a cool, drizzly, overcast day in New York as the city dedicated its new landmark, the Statue of Liberty. Maximum temperature for the day was 12.2°.

29

1988 In Winnipeg the temperature plunged to -17°, a new record for the day. The previous record had stood for more than 100 years.

30

1949 Haines Junction received 67.3 cm of snow, the greatest 1-day snowfall on record at any Yukon station.

31

1981 Disastrous flooding occurred in the towns of Squamish and Pemberton, B.C., 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.

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

# NOVEMBER

1

1988 A record total of 147 tornadoes struck various parts of the United States during November. The American monthly average is 23, while Canada averages only about 75 for the whole year.

2

1978 A 5-day rain-fall, with amounts totalling 300 to 400 mm, finally ended — but only after serious flooding had resulted along the northern B.C. coast. At Terrace, mudslides broke the only natural gas line serving the area and destroyed valuable spawning grounds. Residents were evacuated by boat.

3

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

4

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

5

1975 Winnipeg recorded its highest-ever November temperature: 23.9°. Residents took advantage of one last chance to go golfing, play tennis, or mow the lawn.

6

1812 Fierce Russian winter weather struck Napoleon's Grande Armée as it retreated from Moscow. The first snow fell on the 4th. By the 9th the mercury was at -15° and still plummeting. Thousands of men and horses died from enemy attacks and exposure. By December less than 5000 of the 100,000 who left Moscow had survived.

7

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

8

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

9

1986 With lake levels already at a record high, a powerful gale, packing snow, ice pellets, and 80 km/h winds, lashed the Great Lakes. Cottages, marinas, and lakefront resorts were flooded. 3-m waves eroded the shore and washed out roads.

10

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

11

1918 On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, World War I ended. It was a sombre day over the western front, with overcast skies and temperatures around 6–8°.

12

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

13

1989 In the Yukon, the month began with mild weather and little snow, frustrating a British film crew in search of winter scenery. In the second week, however, temperatures dropped, reaching -52° at Ross River on the 11th and -47° at Dawson on the 13th. Propane heating systems were disabled when the gas turned to gel.

14

1969 *Apollo 12*, the second manned mission to the moon, blasted off from Cape Canaveral, Florida, to the accompaniment of a light rain. Shortly after lift-off it was struck twice by lightning, suffering a temporary shutdown of its computers and guidance system.

15

1983 A week of heavy rain on the southwestern coast of British Columbia resulted in Vancouver's water supply turning murky. The scenic highway to Squamish was closed due to mudslides, and several bridges were washed away.

16

**Weather Quiz**  
The energy in a single 1-hour thunderstorm would supply Canada's entire electrical energy needs for:  
a) 1 minute  
b) 1 day  
c) 1 month  
d) 1 year  
(See inside back cover for answer.)

## Remembrance Day

17

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

18

1931 An hourly average wind speed of 201 km/h, an all-time Canadian record, was measured at Cape Hopes Advance (Quaqtaq) on Québec's Ungava Peninsula.

19

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

20

1986 An early winter storm blanketed southern Ontario with 20 cm of wet snow, snarling traffic in Toronto and extending the afternoon rush hour well into the evening. Thousands of suburban homes were without power.

21

1906 A storm packing 100 km/h winds sank a steam barge, the *Resolute*, off Toronto Island; 6 lives were lost.

22

1783 The British evacuated Fort Oswego on Lake Ontario. 190 of their troops were lost when the sloop *Ontario* 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.

23

1975 The Grey Cup was played in a deep freeze at Calgary. A temperature of -11° and winds over 20 km/h produced a wind chill of -22°. To the delight of 33,000 spectators, the pre-game entertainment was supplied by a female intruder who cavorted shoeless and topless: the coldest streaker in North American history!

24

1944 American bombers approaching the Japanese island of Honshu at 10,000 m were suddenly swept forward by a 250 km/h wind. They had accidentally discovered the jet stream.

25

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.

26

1703 The "Great Storm" struck southern England and the Channel with winds up to 160 km/h. Hundreds of ships were damaged or sunk, 400 windmills were overturned, countless buildings lost their roofs, and thousands of trees were uprooted.

27

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

28

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

29

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.

30

1981 During the last 2 weeks of November, Sherbrooke, Qué., recorded only 2.4 hours of sunshine. Toronto, on the other hand, just 600 km to the southwest, recorded 120 hours for the entire month, its sunniest since 1917.

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

1 1923 Henderson Lake, B.C., 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, B.C., in November 1917.) Henderson Lake averages 6655 mm of precipitation a year, the highest in Canada.

2 1989 From the Prairies to the Atlantic, December was bitterly cold. On the 20th in Saskatoon the mercury rose no higher than -35.8°; the lowest December maximum in the city's weather records. Downtown Toronto's average temperature for the month was the coldest since 1876. Saint John and Moncton also set new record-low December averages.

3 1989 *Typhoon Gay*, the worst hurricane to hit the Gulf of Thailand in 35 years, struck with 185 km/h winds and 11-m waves, capsizing a 107-m drilling ship with 97 aboard and sinking several other vessels.

4 1926 The coldest game in the history of the Grey Cup was played in Toronto between the Ottawa Senators and the University of Toronto. The temperature: -12.8°. The score: Ottawa 10, Toronto 7.

5 1952 One of the world's worst smog disasters occurred when a high pressure system stagnated over southern England. In London, the calm, cold air rapidly absorbed emissions from factory chimneys and from millions of household coal fires. The ensuing smog lasted until the 9th and contributed to more than 4000 deaths.

6 1917 A ship collision set off the Halifax Explosion, which was felt and heard as far as 100 km away. 1630 people were killed, 9000 injured, and 6000 left homeless. The next day, a cruel blizzard struck, with 40.6 cm of snow and winds of 55 km/h.

7 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.

8 1989 Towering seas and 100 km/h winds hit the Gulf of St. Lawrence on the 7th and 8th, forcing the closure of the Trans-Canada Highway in Cape Breton, N.S., and the suspension of ferry service to Newfoundland. The sinking of two cargo ships and a long-liner south of Cape Race, Nfld., claimed the lives of 47 crew members.

9 1977 From the 7th to the 9th more than 100 cm of snow fell on London, Ont., during a fierce winter storm. Winds gusting to 100 km/h created huge drifts that isolated the city. Armed forces personnel aided in supplying emergency services.

10 1979 A severe storm with sustained wind speeds of over 100 km/h swamped several fishing boats 100 km north of Prince Rupert, B.C. Ten fishermen were lost. In the interior, strong winds downed many hydro lines.

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

12 1901 A landmark day for radio reception. Marconi received the first transatlantic radio transmission on Signal Hill in St. John's, Nfld. Midday weather at St. John's was fair with light winds and a temperature of -1°.

13 1927 The worst snowstorm in a decade hit the Vancouver area on the 11th. Between the 7th and the 15th, a series of 3 storms plastered the city with almost 65 cm of snow. Six snowsweepers used over 4 tons of Java swamp cane in cleaning the streetcar tracks.

14 1872 The largest known earthquake in B.C., 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.

15 1964 The "Great Blizzard" blasted 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.

16 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."

17 1903 At Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, the Wright brothers successfully completed the first flight of a heavier-than-air machine, covering 255.6 m in 59 seconds. The weather was cloudy and cool, with a temperature of 3° and fresh winds from the northeast at about 35 km/h.

18 **Weather Quiz**  
What percentage of Canada's land mass is permanently frozen?  
a) 10%  
b) 20-30%  
c) 40-50%  
d) 60%  
(See inside back cover for answer.)

19 1963 A severe windstorm 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, while even stronger winds hit southwestern Newfoundland.

20 1961 Lethbridge, Alta., 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).

21 1963 Canada's weather service received cloud pictures from *Tiros 8*, the first automatic picture transmission from a satellite ever received in Canada.

22 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°) dashed any hope of a white Christmas.

23 1975 In Zimbabwe, 21 people were killed when lightning struck their hut. This is the greatest number of people known to have been killed by a single bolt of lightning.

24 1879 This was the coldest day in Winnipeg's recorded weather history: -47.8°. Luckily, the air was calm and there was no wind-chill effect.

25 1972 A Christmas Day rainstorm brought more than 100 mm of rain and some flooding to the Vancouver area.

26 1968 Victoria's snowiest and coldest spell in 20 years began. Over a 5-week period, 120 cm of snow fell. The temperature bottomed at -15.6° on the 29th, an all-time record minimum, and the maximum temperature stayed below freezing for 11 consecutive days.

27 1989 Rare cold waves brought below- or near-freezing temperatures to such unlikely places as Guatemala, northern India, and Bangladesh. The homeless and the aged were particularly hard hit, and there were many fatalities.

28 1969 Montréal 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.

Winter 03:54 EST Christmas Boxing Day

29 1974 Peter Fidler, a Hudson's Bay Company employee and one of the first weather observers in Canada, recorded that Holland gin freezes solid at -17°F, English brandy at -25°F, and rum at -31°F.

30 1988 In terms of average global temperature, this was the hottest year on record for planet Earth. Several other years in the 1980s also stood out as being exceptionally warm. World temperature averages have been calculated since 1881.

31 1775 In a howling snowstorm, defenders at Québec City repulsed a predawn attack by a force of nearly 2000 Americans led by Benedict Arnold.

DECEMBER

# Weather Quiz Answers

## January

d) red wine

## February

b) -38°C

## March

Fancy. A survey of a 10-year period at Halifax, for example, showed only two years in which March roared in and baa'd out.

## April

c) a mushroom cap. Air resistance flattens the bottom of the drop as it falls.

## May

British Columbia. If you define wettest as the most precipitation in one year, then the wettest place is Henderson Lake, B.C., which has the greatest average annual precipitation in Canada (6655 mm) and also holds the record for the most precipitation in one year (8122.4 mm in 1931). Other supersoggy B.C.

localities are Swanson Bay, which holds the record for the most precipitation in one month (2235.5 mm in November 1917), and Ucluelet Brynnor Mines, which holds the record for the most precipitation in 24 hours (489.2 mm on October 6, 1967).

## June

A tornado. The most powerful tornadoes (F5 on the Fujita scale) may have winds of 500 km/h or more. The most powerful hurricanes may have sustained surface wind speeds of 250 km/h with gusts as high as 320 km/h.

## July

c) 45.0°

## August

b) a rainy season. The kirmet is the principal rainy season in Ethiopia and lasts from June to September.

## September

b) 1-2. These are Atlantic hurricanes and mostly affect the east coast, but some-

times penetrate as far inland as southern Québec and Ontario. Though usually considerably weakened by the time they reach Canadian waters, they can still bring very heavy rains and high winds. In the Pacific, typhoons die out over the cold waters of the North Pacific well before reaching Canadian territory. Remnants of these storms, however, occasionally cause damage on the B.C. coast.

## October

a) 1859

## November

b) 1 day

## December

c) 40-50%. This is the amount of Canada's land area that contains an underlying layer of permafrost. Permafrost is overlaid by an active layer, anywhere from a few centimetres to several metres thick, that thaws in warm weather.