

DECEMBER

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January

FEBRUARY

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SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

BLIZZARDS

Unless you can see a building nearby, stay with your car during a blizzard. Wait for help to arrive. From time to time clear snow away from your tail pipe to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.



1986: A 57-year-old man froze to death after crawling under a parked taxi to escape the blinding snow and wind during the height of a storm that dropped 70 cm of snow in Bathurst, NB. The man, who had apparently been locked out of his apartment, was found dead when the taxi's owner began digging out his car.

4

1997: A severe ice storm from the 5th to the 7th knocked out power in the Laurentians, north of Montreal. About 1,000 hydro workers, many flown in from regions as far away as Abitibi and Saguenay, worked around the clock to restore electricity to more than 200,000 shivering households. Emergency shelters were set up in churches, town halls, and community centres in the worst-hit areas.

5

First Quarter ☉

1997: For the first time, Toronto's medical officer of health issued an "extreme cold weather alert" to help prevent homeless people from freezing on the streets. Temperatures dropped below -15°. The city increased some services to the 25,000 homeless, such as opening up extra beds in hostels. The emergency plan was drawn up after 3 homeless people died of exposure last winter.

11

1997: In Durham, ON, militia soldiers joined volunteers piling sandbags and building snow dykes to hold back the ice-clogged Saugeen River. About 300 people had been moved out of their homes since the town declared a state of emergency. In some houses, water in basements had turned to ice, causing extensive structural damage. Even the town's hydro office had to be evacuated because of rising water.

12

Full Moon ○

1990: An avalanche buried and killed a 20-year-old man who was snowboarding near Calgary. Two of his friends were also engulfed in a metre of snow but managed to work themselves free and go for assistance. However, it took them almost 2 hours to reach help, and by then it was too late; the man had died.

6

1993: Frozen logs caused production problems for mills on the lower Fraser River during a cold snap. Millworkers had to reset blades to cut logs that were frozen "like Popsicles." Also, towing logs upriver to the mill through drift ice added enormously to the fuel costs.

7

1992: Foul weather—freezing rain, storm-force winds, heavy snow, and falling temperatures—walloped southern and central Ontario. Blizzard conditions and ice caused well over 500 automobile accidents and shut down Toronto's Pearson Airport for several hours. Even the Metro Zoo, which prides itself on being open every day except Christmas, had to close its doors.

14

1997: A raging holiday storm with driving snow and wind chills estimated at -64° paralysed the eastern Arctic community of Iqaluit for 2 days. Described as one of the worst storms in years, the blizzard stranded New Year's Eve revellers, airline travellers, and the police. It forced closure of the airport and just about everything else in the community.

1

New Year's Day

1997: Fishery scientists warned that a deep snow cover on Saskatchewan lakes could be harmful for fish this year. When snow doesn't allow sunlight to penetrate to oxygen-producing plants in the lake, the plants die, which in turn depletes the oxygen supply in the lakes, so the fish die.

8

1997: Because of deep snow and cold weather in Alberta, moose started eating farmers' hay. The Alberta government decided to spend up to \$1 M to help feed the deer, elk, and moose. In Saskatchewan, coyotes were at historic high levels, partly because many hunters stayed indoors, due to the persistent -40° temperatures.

15

1997: Brutally cold weather and thick ice fog settled over Yukon. The thermometer dipped to -52° at Mayo and Dawson City and -45° at Whitehorse—all record lows for the day. Towing companies were barraged with calls: one firm had to turn down about 500 requests. Because propane doesn't flow well when it's so cold, there were plenty of propane problems. Ice fog forced the cancellation of several flights.

2

1989: Inco Ltd. in Sudbury pleaded guilty to charges related to an incident in which the company released sulphuric acid into the atmosphere. The acid mist formed a cloud that measured approximately 1 km in length and 1/2 km wide. Inco Ltd. received 7 charges for emitting the contaminant and 1 for failing to report the release.

9

1996: Temperatures started plummeting across the centre of North America under the influence of bitterly cold Arctic air. In southern Manitoba, the temperature bottomed out at -40° over the next 2 weeks, and at International Falls, Minnesota, -42°. The American town near the Canadian border had to cancel its "annual macho cold festival, Icebox Days, because it was too cold even for them."

16

1997: Alberta environment officials considered a special hunt quota for deer in some regions to thin populations and prevent starvation of the entire herd. Since mid-November, heavy snow had covered the ground, and temperatures had hovered near -30° for days at a time. Deep snows lead to weakened wildlife, as it becomes too difficult for them to forage and to move.

3

1997: Extremely cold weather prompted officials to postpone a winter-survival workshop at the Delta Marsh University field station, 20 km north of Portage La Prairie, MB. Organizers were concerned that the students arriving from Winnipeg would be stranded on the Trans-Canada Highway by cold temperatures and blowing snow, and in need of survival skills, before they had received them.

10

1997: A blast of icy Arctic air plunged Ontario into a deep freeze on the 17th and 18th. The entire province was under a wind chill advisory. In Welland, a 68-year-old man froze to death outside the front door of his house. In eastern Ontario, 2 mentally disabled young friends who ran away from group homes suffered frostbite so severe that one had to have both legs amputated and the other had to have a foot removed.

17

1997: The deep freeze across eastern Canada reached down into the southern US from the 18th to the 21st, causing severe frost to fruit and vegetable crops in Florida. As a result of the damage—more than \$300 M—retail prices for vegetables such as green beans, yellow squash, and zucchini soared as much as 33%.

18

1994: Between 31 December 1993 and 19 January 1994, Yellowknife endured 20 consecutive days when the minimum temperature was less than or equal to -37° . This beat the old record of 18 days established between 15 January and 1 February 1982.

19

1958: Officials had to use dynamite to break up an ice jam created by a January thaw on Newcastle Creek, just upstream of North Minto, NB. Rising flood waters forced 1 family to leave their home.

20

1997: A snowstorm caused blackouts and slippery road conditions in southeastern Newfoundland. Twenty centimetres of snow fell on the Avalon Peninsula. Localized power losses were reported in St. John's and Paradise. Airlines diverted planes to Gander, where the weather was much less severe; the police traded in their cars for 4-wheel-drive vehicles; and hydro crews worked to restore electricity to some homes.

21

1936: The temperature in Winnipeg dropped to -41° . Although it was not the coldest day of the month, it was cold enough for the weather service's liquid-mercury thermometer to freeze. Downtown, streetcars derailed and fog hindered visibility, leading to traffic accidents.

22

1997: Cold weather hampered rescuers looking for a car that went through a hole in the ice on the St. Lawrence River at Pincourt, PQ. The car plunged through the ice while the driver and his passenger were trying to take a shortcut over a section of the river normally used to launch pleasure craft in the summer. Divers emerged from water so cold that it took 2 men to pull off their frozen gloves.

23

1997: Skiffs of blowing snow, poor visibility, and icy patches on Alberta highways made travel dangerous across the province on the 24th and 25th. In Edmonton, with the temperature hovering around -40° , organizers for several weekend events featured in *The Edmonton Journal's* "Ten Best Ways to Beat the Cold" cancelled some activities, including a nature walk, cross-country skiing, and mush dog-sled rides.

24

Last Quarter ☾

1997: About 200 people in a fishing derby spent the night in fishing huts on Lake Simcoe in bone-chilling weather after the ice cracked, leaving an expanse of frigid water between them and the shore. The gap in the ice—100 m wide in places—stretched for 32 km. Earlier, about 300 people had been brought to safety by military helicopters and hovercraft.

25

Weather Quiz
On 1 January, when it is 6:00 P.M. at Toronto, what time is it at the North and South Poles?
(a) no time
(b) same time
(c) any time
(d) 1 hour earlier
(e) 5 hours later
(See inside front cover for answer)

26

1997: Emergency wards in Montreal hospitals treated a record number of injuries, especially sprains and fractures, as pedestrians slipped and slid off ice-covered pavement. Over the weekend, staff treated more than 60 people for fractured bones—more than the emergency room chief had seen in his 15 years at the hospital.

27

1997: The combination of snow and rain coupled with falling temperatures made highway driving treacherous across the Maritimes. The weather was blamed for a 4-car pile-up on the Trans-Canada Highway near Sackville that killed 2 people and injured 3. The snowfall caused mass confusion for parents in Halifax, who scrambled to pick up their children when schools were closed at mid-morning.

28

1997: Alberta roads and ditches were cluttered with vehicles after a bout of freezing rain and black ice. In one bizarre tragedy, a trucker hauling a flatbed loaded with hay received a message on his CB radio that there was a pickup truck wedged under his trailer. The unwitting driver had dragged the crushed pickup and its dead driver for 8 km before a fellow trucker alerted him.

29

1997: Record cold weather and heavy winter snows across western Canada were blamed for delays in getting Prairie grain to west coast export terminals. The railway companies said locomotives used for track clearing during recent snowstorms were in the shops for service. Maintenance and service fell behind when snowstorms blocked main rail lines for more than 2 days.

30

1993: Freezing spray likely contributed to the sinking of the scallop dragger *Cape Aspy*, which capsized near Cape Sable Island, off Nova Scotia's southwest tip. Five fishermen died as a result. The bitterly cold temperatures of around -30° , lasting through the weekend, set a number of daily records.

31

New Moon ●

JANUARY

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February

MARCH

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>1996: With nighttime temperatures hovering for days around -35°, SaskPower asked customers to cut back on nonessential use of electricity. The provincial utility set records for total production in a 24-hour period. It was unable to buy electricity from neighbouring utilities because those companies were struggling to keep up with demand themselves.</p> <p>1</p>	<p>1997: Legend says that if the groundhog sees its shadow today, we can expect another 6 weeks of winter. If it doesn't, spring is just around the corner. In 1997, all famous groundhog forecasters—Staten Island Chuck on Long Island, Manitoba's weather rodent Merv, Alberta's gopher Balzac Billy, Canadian veteran Wiarton Willie, and the granddaddy prognosticator, Punxsutawney Phil—agreed that Canada and eastern North America were in for an early spring—how wrong they were!</p> <p>2</p> <p>Groundhog Day</p>	<p>1947: North America's coldest day ever occurred at Snag, YK, when the temperature dipped to -63°. Most Canadians have never experienced temperatures half that cold. It was so cold that axes bounced off ice, metal snapped in half, wood became petrified, and rubber turned concretelike. If you ventured outside, your nose hairs became icicles, and any deep breathing sealed your throat and lungs.</p> <p>3</p> <p>First Quarter ☾</p>	<p>1992: A motorist found out how Seal River got its name when he drove into a 500-kg grey seal near Vernon Bridge, PE. The seal was headed for the North Shore in search of open water.</p> <p>4</p>	<p>1997: Hundreds of volleyball-sized snowballs littered streets, fields, and schoolyards outside Gander. Later in the week, hundreds of these natural snowballs or snowrollers formed near Banff under near-perfect snowroller weather: soft, sticky snow on top of a hard snow crust, winds neither too strong nor too light, and temperatures close to but not quite at zero.</p> <p>5</p>	<p>1875: From the diary of Richard Neuilt, the first surgeon in Fort Macleod, describing a chinook at Lethbridge: "Still cold and the snow on the ground is about 6 inches deep, around 4:30 P.M. a strong wind from the west sprang up and in 9 minutes the thermometer had risen 32 degrees from 8°F to 40°F."</p> <p>6</p>	<p>1868: The <i>Sarnia Observer</i> printed this account of the weather: "Friday night, the 7th instant, was very beautiful. Sufficient snow lay on the roads to make good sleighing. The air was light and healthy. The wind, which had raged furiously the previous day, had retired ..."</p> <p>7</p>
<p>1995: Between 8 December and 8 February, 31 people died in snowmobile accidents across Ontario, 8 more deaths than in all of winter 1993-94. Ontario Provincial Police blamed it on several factors: alcohol, bad choices, inexperience, speed, and thin ice.</p> <p>8</p>	<p>1951: Frozen mist and ice fog in -47° temperatures were blamed for the deaths of 7 International Nickel workers killed in Coniston, ON, when a train travelling westbound from Montreal collided with a Nickel Belt Coach Lines bus carrying 39 people. The other 32 people on the bus suffered injuries.</p> <p>9</p>	<p>1996: Extremely icy conditions, high winds, and blowing snow wreaked havoc across southern Manitoba. Two police vehicles got stuck in a snowdrift as officers tried to rescue a pregnant woman who was headed to the hospital. A milk-truck driver came to the rescue. The heavy snow and high winds combined to snap power lines, cutting electricity to many homes.</p> <p>10</p>	<p><i>Weather Quiz</i> Which day of the week do the biggest snowfalls occur in Winnipeg? This day has twice the number of occurrences of heavy snowfalls (greater than 10 cm) than any other.</p> <p>(a) Saturday (b) Monday (c) Tuesday (d) Friday (e) Sunday (See inside front cover for answer)</p> <p>11</p> <p>Full Moon ☾</p>	<p>1995: Richard Weber of Chelsea, PQ, and Misha Malakhov, a Russian surgeon, set out on their second (and successful) attempt to ski 740 km to the North Pole and back without dog teams or supplies other than the 220 kg they pulled on their sleds. On their first try, they came within 25 km of the Pole, but had to turn back when warm weather began breaking up the ice.</p> <p>12</p>	<p>1975: Canada's highest-ever wind chill factor of 3357 watts per square metre or an equivalent wind chill temperature of -92° was reported at Pelly Bay, NT. The wind chill was created by a temperature of -51° and winds of 56 km/h.</p> <p>13</p>	<p>1987: St. John's, NF, broke a 1-day record when 47 cm of snow fell, bringing the accumulation so far this winter to about 350 cm, more than twice the height of an average man. Winds of 90 km/h caused drifting, and many residents who tried to go outside to do more shovelling found they couldn't open their doors. Several people called an already overtaxed fire department to help dig them out.</p> <p>14</p> <p>Valentine's Day</p>
<p>1995: Victoria and Vancouver were still buried under 30 cm of snow that fell on the 13th and 14th. In Victoria, the storm caused 4 deaths and a record number of broken bones. In Vancouver, traffic was snarled for hours, and Valentine's Day plans were ruined for many commuters. Part of the problem was that city trucks could not be converted from salting to ploughing sooner.</p> <p>15</p>	<p>1997: In Winnipeg and the Red River Valley, only 4 cm of snow fell. However, strong winds blew the snow back into the air, producing whiteout conditions that were blamed for numerous traffic accidents and injuries. Motorists became confused when they couldn't see in the snow, so they stopped on the road, causing chain reaction multi-vehicle pile-ups.</p> <p>16</p>	<p>1993: Forceful winds gusting to 135 km/h toppled fuel-storage tanks in Chéticamp, NS, spilling almost 70,000 L of gasoline into a safety dyke. When southeast winds intensity due to the Cape Breton Highlands, the Acadian people call them "les suetes." The Maritimes Weather Centre issued a "suede" warning 24 hours in advance of the event.</p> <p>17</p>	<p>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 and 56 mm of rain. Maximum temperatures were consistently 2 to 3° above freezing.</p> <p>18</p>	<p>1860: The large steamship <i>Hungarian</i> wrecked on Cape Sable Island when a severe storm lashed the coast. All 205 of the passengers and crew aboard were lost.</p> <p>19</p> <p>Last Quarter ☾</p>	<p>1997: People on PEI dug out from a cruel blast of winter that stopped even the snowploughs. High winds above 75 km/h and drifting snow combined to make driving a nightmare in most parts of the province. Snowploughs in the east were pulled off the roads for several hours. Schools were shut down, and a number of businesses also decided to close for the day.</p> <p>20</p>	<p>1997: A record rainfall of 40 mm fell in the Ottawa-Carleton area. When it turned to freezing rain and ice pellets, local hospitals became packed with people suffering from minor breaks, bumps, and bruises. The city's Winterlude was more like waterlude. The Rideau Canal, the world's largest skating rink, became the world's largest slush pond. The snow sculptures that highlight the carnival began to melt.</p> <p>21</p>

1997: Two young people froze to death and another was in critical condition after becoming lost in a snowstorm that dumped 54 cm on the Quebec City region. The trio lost their way when travelling to a cottage on the St. Lawrence River. Sadly, they were only 100 m from the cottage but became disoriented in the snowstorm. Earlier in the day, the storm contributed to the deaths of at least 7 people in Ontario who died in traffic accidents blamed on icy roads.

22

1996: Canadian meteorologists attending an American Meteorological Society meeting in Atlanta created quite a stir with their campaign "If you have the instrument ... we've got the weather." They were trying to convince weather-instrument manufacturers that Canada has some of the world's worst weather and would be an excellent test site for their instruments, especially in Newfoundland. Several companies were eager to test their wares in Canada.

23

1985: A complex weather system brought snow and freezing rain to central and eastern Canada. Some areas in northwestern New Brunswick received 30 cm of snow. Freezing rain disrupted flight schedules and resulted in treacherous driving conditions in many areas of Nova Scotia.

24

1997: Winnipeg's temperature finally rose above freezing for the first time in 108 days, almost 4 straight months, setting a new record for duration in the process. The previous winter was colder—for 19 days the overnight low stayed below -30° . This year, though, was a lot snowier. To this date Winnipeg had received more than 140 cm compared with the 80 or so in a normal year.

25

1988: With weather conditions more reminiscent of spring than the middle of winter, the final week of the 15th Olympic Winter Games in Calgary saw both participants and spectators alike basking in unseasonably mild and sunny weather. Maximum readings on the 25th and 26th were in the high teens. Newspaper head-lines described it as "weather fit for a camel."

26

1984: Southern Ontario recorded its worst winter storm in 10 years. Snowfalls of up to 58 cm and strong winds gusting near 90 km/h brought life to a standstill. Blowing snow severely restricted visibility and made roads impassable. Many flights were cancelled and travellers remained stranded at airports. The storm claimed 2 lives.

27

1997: Winds in southern Ontario gusted to 130 km/h and overturned 3 tractor-trailers on the Queen Elizabeth Way. Pedestrians had to scurry to avoid being hit. Both the Burlington Skyway and the Garden City Skyway in St. Catharines were closed for 6 hours. In Toronto, winds blew a pedestrian off a bridge to the railway tracks 8 m below after he lunged to retrieve his baseball cap.

28



FEBRUARY

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March

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SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1987: The greater part of Brockville, ON, was without power for more than 9 hours when broken tree limbs felled power lines during an ice storm. Fallen branches also interrupted phone service throughout the city and damaged several cars.

1991: A late-winter snowstorm blasted southwestern BC for 2 days. As much as 10 to 15 cm of snow in Victoria, and 35 cm of snow outside the city blanketed blooming spring flowers. On the Trans-Canada Highway near Abbotsford, 40 cm of snow and strong winds resulted in a 100-vehicle collision.

1996: Snow squalls forced closure of most highways east of Lake Huron. Whiteouts on Highway 400 north of Toronto were responsible for a 38-car pile-up. Given the winter's heavy dumping of snow, ski resorts in the area readied for the March-break holiday and one of the best ski seasons ever in terms of attendance and skiing conditions.

1990: When a mysterious drifting smog blanketed the Edmonton area for 2 days at least 14 cars were damaged in road accidents. Near Fort Saskatchewan the fog was so thick motorists were unable to see the cars in front, resulting in a series of rear-end crashes. At the time, light snow was falling, and the temperature was about -6.4°.

1964: A severe windstorm developed over Texas and intensified above the lower Great Lakes before racing across southern regions of Ontario and Quebec. At Kitchener, wind gusts over 120 km/h shattered windows and pushed over a wall, injuring 2 workers. At Montreal, wind gusts exceeded the capacity of the recording wind anemometer (160 km/h).

1997: One of the season's worst storms battered eastern Canada from Montreal to Moncton. In New Brunswick, schools closed, and ploughs couldn't keep up with street-clearing. Canadian Forces Base Gagetown, outside Fredericton, shut down temporarily, and nonessential personnel were sent home early. "If anyone invades," said one captain, "we'll tow their tanks out of the snow."

1993: Record warm weather swept across the Prairies, rapidly depleting the snow cover. Temperatures reached the teens as far east as Manitoba. Lack of deep snow at Fort Chipewyan in northern Alberta had organizers frantically rearranging winter carnival events.

Weather Quiz
Anemomania is a disease in which victims become:
(a) concerned with the nutritional value of their food
(b) morbidly anxious about the direction of the wind
(c) lethargic from an excess of positive air ions
(d) depressed by long bouts of static weather
(e) worry over distant light flickering
(See inside front cover for answer)

1997: Unusually high snowfall and dogs on the loose threatened the white-tail deer population in the Winnipeg area. The snow cover made it difficult for the deer to forage, and hard for them to escape when attacked by dogs. Dogs can run on the crust of the snow, but the deer break through. Officials of the Pine Ridge Wildlife Sanctuary threatened to charge dog owners whose pets pursued, harassed, or molested game animals.

1991: As scattered thunderstorms moved across BC's Lower Mainland, several funnel clouds were sighted over the Fraser Delta. At Pitt Meadows, a small tornado touched down briefly, a rare site at any time.

1997: On election day in Alberta a winter snowstorm from the Pacific caused slippery roads, resulting in more than 165 minor crashes, 17 of them injury cases. The blowing snow, treacherous roads, and sub-zero temperatures kept droves of Alberta's 1.6 million eligible voters home.

1996: Unseasonably warm weather turned melting ice to floods in southern Saskatchewan and Alberta. Water pouring into main telephone boxes knocked out long-distance telephone service in several communities. Also under water were parts of a trailer park in Maple Creek, SK, and a golf course in Medicine Hat. In Cochrane, AB, drinking water had to be boiled when muddy runoff contaminated water supplies.

1986: McMaster University students beat the mid-winter blues by holding the First Annual McMaster Engineering Society Fish Derby. To do so they stocked the annual spring backup of water in the middle of the campus with trout from a local fish dealer. They set up beach umbrellas and a barbecue and started to party, and the would-be anglers began fishing.

1902: Following a week of springlike weather in Winnipeg, with temperatures between 8 and 12°, it started to snow again. Three days later, the city had 30 cm of snow, but drifts were 3 to 4 m deep along Portage Avenue. Many storefronts were completely covered. The wind howled at about 100 km/h for 48 successive hours. By the time the blizzard blew away the temperature had plummeted to -30°.

1993: Hurricane-force winds from the "storm of the century" generated 15- to 20-m waves off the coast of Nova Scotia, sinking the freighter *Gold Band Conveyor* near Cape Sable Island shortly after it left Halifax. All 33 crew members perished.

1992: A blizzard slowed the progress of an international team of Arctic explorers planning to ski unaided to and from the North Pole. The 3-man team lost 5 planned rest days because of the storm but remained on schedule for the 100-day trip.

1902: High temperatures and heavy rains caused ice jams and flooding in southern New Brunswick. Saint John received 100 mm of rain over a 57-hour period, from the 17th to the 20th. Buildings, farms, and bridges were swept away by flood waters. An ice jam 15 m high and 5 km long occurred in the Miramichi River Basin.

St. Patrick's Day

1987: People living along the Credit River, ON, dried out and cleaned up today after flood waters forced some residents from their homes. Flooding was worst in Churchville, where an ice jam south of the village backed up water more than a metre deep along some streets. One man said it rose to his knees in the time it took to cross the street.

1936: In a dramatic break-up, the Saint John River rose 9 m above normal at Fredericton. At its peak, the river rose 1 m every 3 hours, with huge chunks of ice flowing into downtown Fredericton. That evening, water surged against the ice front, causing it to tear the railway bridge from its piers. The bridge had withstood many spring freshets since its construction in 1886.

1996: On the first day of spring, the winter's strongest snowstorm hit southern Ontario. Traffic came to a virtual standstill in many areas. Fewer sanders, salters, and ploughs were clearing the wet, sticky snow from provincial highways because of a 24-day-old strike by Ontario Public Service Employees Union members. In Windsor, the city spent 1/4 of its annual snow-removal budget.

Spring Equinox 14:55 EST

1905: A stubborn ice barrier finally eased near Pictou Harbour. It had halted all PEI ferry traffic since 25 January.

Last Quarter

1968: How dry can it get? Calgary had the lowest relative humidity ever recorded in Canada: 6%. The air temperature was 18°, and the dew point -20°. Calgary's normal afternoon relative humidity in March is 59%.

22

1971: The effects of a strike by city snow-removal workers in Halifax worsened when 20 cm of snow fell overnight. The 264-member Halifax Civic Workers Union had also stopped collecting garbage, cleaning streets, and maintaining parks.

23

1979: Winds gusting to 117 km/h blew over a 72-unit motel under construction at Thetford Mines, Quebec.

24

1996: Winnipeg's high for the day reached only -19.8°, making it the coldest ever and smashing the previous record of -16.1° set in 1894. Volunteer counsellors at the city's Klinik crisis program said the prolonged winter contributed to the feelings of frustration, helplessness, isolation, and irritability expressed by those calling the 24-hour crisis line.

25

1996: Icy roads and rush hour traffic combined to cause a string of crashes involving at least 50 vehicles on the Trans-Canada Highway just east of Regina. When warm mid-day temperatures plunged and snow blew across the asphalt, road surfaces became extremely slippery.

26

1987: For the first time in 27 years, ice drifted into Halifax, disrupting marine traffic in the normally ice-free ocean port. Ferry services between Halifax and Dartmouth had to be halted. Shipping returned to normal when the ice moved out a few days later.

27

1989: Very mild temperatures and rain triggered a rapid ice breakup and flooding on several rivers in southern Quebec. Rising waters forced the evacuation of about 1,000 people, while many others were isolated by submerged highways. Ice and water damaged numerous homes.

28

World Meteorology Day

New Moon



1986: Three men and a woman were killed when an avalanche roared down on their snowmobiles while they were participating in a weekend snowmobile rally in BC. One helicopter pilot who took part in the rescue remarked, "It looked as if the whole mountain fell on them." Searchers said the depth of the avalanche ranged up to 10 m, taxing recovery efforts.

29

1986: It was a glorious Easter weekend in Windsor, as temperatures soared to 29.6°, a city record for March. While holidayers enjoyed tennis, windsurfing, and other outdoor activities, the fire department was busy dousing grass, brush, and railway boxcar fires.

30

1993: Icy conditions persisted in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and east Newfoundland waters. Over a 1-week period, 4 vessels became stuck in ice on the approach to Cabot Strait.

31

ICE

Beware of thin ice! Estimate ice strength by first testing the edges. Shore ice is generally weaker, and ice forming over flowing rivers, streams, or spring-fed lakes also tends to be unsafe.



MARCH

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April

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31

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

FLOODING

Motorists should not drive into water covering a road, especially if the water is moving, as it can hide a washed-out roadway. If the car stalls in flood water, leave it immediately and wade to safety; even a little water can wash away a car.



1976: Rain, mild temperatures, melting snow, and ice jams caused widespread flooding along the Saint John River and its tributaries. Two people died as the result of flooding near Bath and Ste-Anne-de-Madawaska. A railway brakeman perished when a washout caused his train to derail. A young motorist drowned when his vehicle left the road and landed in a flooded ditch.

Daylight Saving Time Begins

1996: Near-record winter snowfalls began to melt under abnormally warm weather across Manitoba. Clogged drainage ditches and river-ice jams added to the danger. Near Morden and Winkler, crews worked feverishly using backhoes, front-end loaders, and bulldozers to clear channels in snow-clogged drainage ditches and break up ice jams at culverts and bridges. Six cattle were swept down the river.

Easter Sunday

1996: Heavy rain falling on 30 cm of snow cover combined with record mild temperatures to produce a sudden and voluminous spring thaw in Yellowknife. City workers rushed to open storm drains 3 to 4 weeks earlier than usual. The city's only "suck truck" earned its keep, working two 19-hour shifts to clear flooded roads. All ice roads except Mackenzie River road were closed early.

Weather Quiz
Which of the following Canadian media personalities did not begin their career as a weather broadcaster?
(a) CBC's Shelagh Rogers
(b) Ron MacLean from "Hockey Night in Canada"
(c) Mr. Dress-up (Ernie Coombs)
(d) retired CBC broadcaster Knowlton Nash
(e) Judy Halliday of The Discovery Channel
(See inside front cover for answer)

1997: A nasty storm, one of the worst in history, finally departed Manitoba, but not before dumping up to 65 cm of snow and shutting down Winnipeg for 48 hours. Canada Post cancelled mail delivery, and the Winnipeg Free Press couldn't make home deliveries. Manitobans suspended sandbagging for snow shoveling. The storm intensified the threat of major flooding in the Red River Valley.

1996: Freezing rain fell all day in the Barrie, Bracebridge, and Huntsville areas of Ontario. The enormous weight of ice buckled ice-laden trees onto power lines. The sparking lines ignited dozens of fires. Hundreds of trees fell across sideroads, rendering them impassable. Officials cancelled an ice-skating performance featuring Elvis Stojko when power failed during the show.

1875: An unexpected storm on Lake Ontario caught 4 fishing boats by surprise when they were several kilometres from shore. Two boats returned to Cobourg with an exhausted crew, but the other 2 never made it back. Six men and 3 young boys lost their lives.

1996: Long-suffering Edmontonians headed outside in droves as temperatures soared to a balmy 19°, short of the record of 21° set in 1886. One ice-cream company ran out of ice cream. Children romped in the dry brown grass of parks. Environment Canada reluctantly forecasted that cold and snow from the Pacific coast was on its way.

1996: Winds of 90 km/h and a 10- to 20-cm snowfall combined to knock out electricity and close schools in many areas around Halifax. With snow melting in the afternoon and meltwater freezing overnight, many bridges became exceptionally slippery.

1976: During a disastrous flood in Perth-Andover, NB, a train was placed on a bridge over the Saint John River to act as a ballast. Despite this, the bridge collapsed, and the train was carried into the flood along with the bridge. Thirteen cars, carrying phosphates, nitrates, and sulphates, ruptured, and their contents were released into the river.

1996: As temperatures in parts of southern Saskatchewan rose to almost 20° from the 9th to the 12th, the winter's above-average accumulation of snow melted, resulting in severe flooding. In Regina, more than 80,000 sandbags were stacked along Wascana Creek for several kilometres through the city, with another 40,000 standing by.

1996: Another snowy day added to Orillia's winter snowfall total of 478.1 cm. The previous record of 477.8 cm was set during the winter of 1874-75 when Stephen Leacock's Mariposa was a town of horses and buggies and mud streets.

1974: 323 people died when a series of tornadoes struck Ontario and 11 US states within 8 hours. The tornadoes caused more than \$1 billion in damage. In Windsor, ON, a twister skipped along before destroying the Windsor Curling Club and killing 8 people.

First Quarter ☾

1996: A huge iceberg drifted down the Newfoundland coast and dropped anchor outside the mouth of St. John's Harbour. The immense iceberg dwarfed the lighthouse on the point and was estimated to be dozens of stories high. It was the first iceberg of the year and one of the first signs of spring on the "Rock."

Good Friday

1987: A mild winter and an inability to complete the grain harvest, due to a early winter snowfall, meant farms north of Calgary were plagued by the worst infestation of field mice in more than 40 years.

1991: On the 3rd and 4th, the northern tip of Vancouver Island recorded sustained hurricane-force winds from the southeast. An associated storm caused power outages and considerable damage in Greater Vancouver.

1991: Heavy rainfalls, amounting to 64 mm since the 7th, and temperatures as high as 24° melted a deep snow pack that contributed to serious flooding in the Haliburton and Kawartha cottage districts, northeast of Toronto. The Burnt River peaked to an all-time record high of 218 m/sec, causing some of the worst flooding in 60 years.

Full Moon ☾

1988: A snowstorm in Quebec dumped nearly 40 cm over 2 days at Sept-Îles and Baie-Comeau. Freezing rain accumulated on high-voltage power lines, causing a province-wide power failure that affected 80% of the population and cost the industrial and commercial sectors several million dollars in losses.

1996: North of Selkirk, MB, officials ordered residents out of their homes due to rising waters. But some people stayed behind to look after their animals. Said one resident, "We can't abandon our horses. They can't stand in water that cold for long." She and her husband hurried to load 8 horses, including a mare about to give birth, into a fifth-wheel trailer.

19

1996: A severe line of thunderstorms unleashed 2 tornadoes in Ontario, one rated an F3. One twister near Williamsford plucked a 78-year-old man from the kitchen of his trailer and flung him 150 m into a field. He recalled opening a can of soup, hearing the storm, then seeing splintering glass. Next he remembers crawling in the field spitting dirt and looking for his glasses and false teeth.

20

1997: The "flood of the century" arrived in Manitoba, forcing thousands to flee the Red River Valley. Troops and volunteers worked around the clock to shore up dykes. Authorities even conscripted inmates from Stony Mountain Prison to help. Former Manitoba premier Duft Roblin opened the Red River floodgates to divert almost half of the river's flow east of the city.

21

1981: A snowstorm with severe winds struck north-eastern Nova Scotia and eastern PEI, causing the closure of schools and considerable damage to fishing boats. The storm left 20 cm of snow in the Sydney area.

22

1897: Morris, MB, was completely inundated by flooding when the Morris River overflowed. Every street in town was flooded. The only dry spot was where the Presbyterian church now stands. To the west, the country had the appearance of a vast lake.

23

1996: A powerful spring storm dumped between 20 and 25 cm of snow across southern Manitoba and northern Ontario on the 24th and 25th. In Winnipeg, the wet, heavy snow snarled traffic and made walking difficult. The buildup of snow toppled an equipment tower owned by the Manitoba Telephone System, knocking out cellular phone service. Even the Assiniboine Park Zoo closed due to the inclement weather.

24

1937: One man drowned and 6,000 people were left homeless when the Thames River in London, ON, rose 10 m above normal and overran its banks. The flood caused an estimated \$2 M in losses. Railway lines were washed away, and many bridges and roads were destroyed. The flood poured down both branches of the Thames into west London, and water flowed into hundreds of homes.

25

Last Quarter ☾

1996: Bad weather in Winnipeg, including 15 cm of snow, delayed the plane carrying Prince Charles to Toronto and forced cancellation of the official welcome (known in RCMP security parlance as "grip-and-grins"). Instead, a handful of spectators, mainly airport employees, looked on in cold, grey, overcast conditions. The next day the prince was in Hamilton for the city's 150th anniversary celebrations. He strolled about among 300 wellwishers in a miserable, cold rain.

26

1987: Daily high April temperatures soared to record levels at a number of locations in the southern valleys of BC. In the Okanagan, where the mercury hit 33°, apple trees were in full bloom. In the north, the fine weather quickly depleted the remaining snow cover.

27

1967: The International World Exposition (EXPO '67), opened at Montreal under sunny skies, with a temperature of 13°, winds at 8 km/h, and a visibility of 48 km.

28

1903: Seventy-six men, women, and children died in Frank, AB, when 50 tonnes of limestone from Turtle Mountain roared down and obliterated the entrance to a coal mine. The rock debris covered the valley below and a couple of nearby ranches to a depth of hundreds of metres and swept across the valley to knock out part of the village of Frank. Three days earlier, 14 cm of snow fell and temperatures plunged from 22 to -9°.

29

1984: Up to 10 cm of ice and high winds brought power lines crashing down over a 50-km-wide area in central Manitoba. Twelve steel transmission towers and more than 3,000 utility poles were damaged as a result of the severe icing. More than 5,000 hydro personnel arrived from all parts of the province to repair the damage. The loss of hydro poles was the largest, and most costly, in the utility's history.

30

New Moon ☾

APRIL

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May

JUNE

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SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

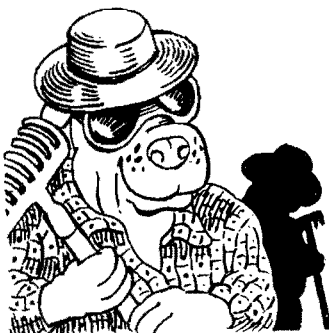
THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

UV RADIATION

If your shadow is shorter than you are, you should protect yourself from the sun. Wear clothes that cover your skin such as hats, shoes, long pants, and long-sleeved shirts. Protect your eyes with sunglasses that are UV-rated.



1956: A twister ripped through east Vancouver, breaking windows and tearing shingles off buildings.

3

1986: A storm with violent winds, heavy rains, and some snow buffeted the Maritimes from the 2nd to the 4th. Nova Scotia, especially Cape Breton Island, experienced strong wind gusts of 148 km/h, and Sable Island had a rainfall total of 100 mm. Lobster fishermen lost over 5,000 traps.

4

1986: A small tornado hit Lampman, SK, in the early hours of the morning. The twister lifted a large construction-office trailer off the ground, threw it over 3 trucks, and deposited it on a fence 30 m away. The trailer was then picked up again and tossed near its original location, crushing the back of a truck when it landed.

5

1996: North York Mayor Mel Lastman came to Edmonton to explain his earlier remarks that comparing North York to Edmonton was "akin to being compared to the Yukon and comparing a stylish brick bungalow to a clapboard outhouse." Yukonlike weather of falling snow and sub-zero temperatures awaited the mayor when he arrived in Edmonton.

6

1862: The American ship *Zone* was destroyed when it struck a Sable Island sandbar during the night. Thirteen deck hands lost their lives in the shipwreck. One man managed to save himself by clinging to a plank from the ship until he washed ashore.

7

1996: Temperatures in Edmonton stayed below 3° for 3 days in a row, each a new record low for the day. City workers dumped sand on icy streets to combat the freezing weather. In Calgary, 10 cm of snow fell. There, city workers had to shift from repairing potholes to spreading salt and sand.

8

1996: Windsor, ON, received 40 mm of rain and marble-sized hail in a fierce storm that produced floods and massive electric-power outages. Several cars were disabled and abandoned in flooded roadways. Lightning knocked out transformers in the city's east end for 5 hours.

9

First Quarter ☾

1996: Montreal experienced its coldest Mother's Day on record when temperatures remained below 7°. From Montreal to Sept-Îles, 100 km/h winds and 10 to 25 cm of snow kept people indoors. Highway crews had to haul out the heavy winter machinery. In Ottawa, the weather put a damper on outdoor spring activities, including the launch of 70,000 rubber duckies down the Rideau Canal.

10

1990: Metro Toronto residents battled winds gusting to 80 km/h. It was so windy that the CN Tower had to slow down its elevators to make the ride safer and smoother for passengers. The ride took 4 minutes instead of 58 seconds. Officials also closed the space-deck elevator, which takes passengers to the tower's highest observation point at 447 m.

11

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.

12

1816: From the diary of Parson Dibbles in Woodstock, NB: "Never, never," the parson laments, "was there such a spring." By 12 May it was snowing again, but the parson took a chance and planted his onions. It was a poor guess, for the next day there was 10 cm of snow on the ground.

13

1986: A spring blizzard with winds up to 80 km/h surprised residents of southern and central Alberta. In Calgary, 500 homes were without power for up to a week. Telephone service was also interrupted when more than 2,300 telephone poles were downed across the province. The Alberta government asked the public to make as few phone calls as possible.

14

1986: A forest fire out of control in the Grand Falls-Windsor area of central Newfoundland swept to within 100 m of storage bunkers loaded with blasting caps and the equivalent of 7 boxcars of dynamite. Fortunately, the wind shifted at the last minute, turning back the flames.

15

1974: In the spring of 1974, floods struck several hundred Quebec municipalities. Water inundated more than 1,000 homes and 600 summer cottages. Rising water levels in Maniwaki flooded about one-third of the town and forced the evacuation of 3,000 residents. Townspeople had to use boats to navigate the main street.

16

Mother's Day

Full Moon ○

1996: The third-worst May weather in 100 years in Edmonton caused financial woes for golf courses, garden centres, and the semi-professional Trappers baseball team. Attendance at golf courses was down about 65% compared to 1995. The baseball team had only 3 decent days of weather out of a home stand of 17. Two games began in the coldest weather in the club's history.

17



1996: Severe thunderstorms wreaked havoc across southern Ontario. On Manitoulin Island, violent winds blew over tents and sheds, injuring dozens of the 750 boy scouts and girl guides from across Ontario and the northern US. At least 12 scouts and guides were hospitalized with broken bones, sprained wrists and ankles, shock and hypothermia, and asthma attacks. In Algonquin Park, lightning terrorized hundreds of campers.

18

Victoria Day
Last Quarter ●

1996: Several residents fled their homes as flood waters rose 3 m above normal along the Mattagami River in Timmins—the worst flooding in 36 years. Hundreds of curious on-lookers arrived, some in boats and kayaks on the river. Heavy rains also closed the Trans-Canada Highway between Nipigon and Schreiber, forcing motorists to take a 7-hr, 600-km detour after rising waters washed out a bridge.

19

1996: A severe hail- and windstorm with possible tornadoes tore apart homes and barns, tossed around trailers, and flattened cars in the Niagara region. One tornado struck a drive-in theatre about to show the movie *Twister*. The storm tore the roof from a barn housing 20 prized vintage cars. A couple of cars were flattened by debris, and many were rife with holes, cracks, and smacked-up bodywork—most of them irreparable.

20

1979: A tornado tore off part of an annex roof from a Wheat Pool elevator in Regina. The funnel cloud also destroyed a farmhouse and barn and sent a truck flying across the yard. The farmer, who was working on his tractor in a nearby field, escaped injury.

21

1980: Hail the size of peas fell on Prince Edward Island during a severe thunderstorm. Most Islanders found themselves in the dark when lightning hit an electrical sub-station, causing blackouts.

22

1977: A lightning storm passed through Pictou County, NS, leaving a dead cow and calf and damaging at least 2 houses. Herders had been transferring the animals from the pasture to the barn. Fortunately, the herders and the main herd escaped being hit by the lightning.

23

1948: Temperatures in the BC interior climbed quickly, causing river levels to rise. At Prince George, the Chilako River weakened an important bridge, while the Tulameen at Princeton rose 45 cm in 36 hours. In the Kootenays, 20,000 sandbags were flown into Kimberley as well as 30 tents to shelter people forced from their homes.

24

1896: The Bulls of Windsor, ON, were sitting in the front room of their home when a tornado carried away one side of the house's upper storey, leaving the family in the open air. They later discovered one of their bedsteads in a tree a couple of hundred metres away. The tornado left a 1/2 km path of destruction in its wake.

25

Weather Quiz
In campaigns to lure immigrants to the Canadian West, the Canadian government forbade the use of this word in the official brochures and handouts in Europe:
(a) frontier
(b) Communism
(c) cold
(d) mosquitoes
(e) flood
(f) cyclone
(See inside front cover for answer)

26

1986: A funnel cloud, rare for this far north, was sighted west of Watson Lake, YK.

27

1972: Only a trace of rain had fallen all month in Grande Prairie, AB. That, coupled with a heat wave with 40° temperatures, had residents gobbling up enormous amounts of water. Then a pump at the treatment plant broke. The city engineer's solution to the crisis: "Drink beer."

28

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

29

1986: Insurers were still assessing damage from yesterday's multimillion-dollar hailstorm on Montreal's south shore. Hailstones the size of tennis balls fell from the sky during a severe thunderstorm. The hailstorm, which lasted 10 minutes, broke windows, flattened vegetable gardens, and dented cars. Damage estimates exceeded \$65 M. One year later, on the same date, a second multimillion-dollar hail disaster occurred in Montreal.

30

1984: Cambridge Bay, NT, had 413 hours of sun in the month of May, making it the sunniest place in Canada that year.

31

World Environment Week

New Moon ●



MAY

JULY

June

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SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1993: The rector at an Anglican church in Halifax learned firsthand the power of the heavens when a bolt of lightning struck a nearby tree and the resulting impact shattered 12 of the church's plate-glass windows. Fortunately, no one was in the church at the time.

1

1996: About 400 passengers were stranded in Iqaluit, NT, when their jet, headed for Los Angeles from London, was damaged after an emergency landing with a sick passenger. Temperatures hovered near freezing, and the wind chill was -12°. The rest of the passengers took refuge in the curling rink; the more adventurous—clad in the airline's plaid blankets—strolled the main street of Iqaluit to buy pizza.

2

1996: In Halkirk, AB, a torrential downpour of almost 175 mm in 1 hour washed out crops, flooded roads and ditches, left gullies everywhere, pushed down fences, and disrupted telephone service. When storm sewers couldn't handle the deluge, manholes popped their tops. The rainfall recorded in 1 hour was more than half the area's normal rainfall for the year.

3

1788: Because of a serious drought and famine in Ontario, garrison troops in the Niagara district were reduced to a ration of 1 biscuit a day; farmers traded their entire farms for a few pounds of grain; families ate their dogs and horses; children were sent into the woods to rob squirrels' nests; some people starved, and still more died from eating unsafe roots or from disease induced by malnutrition. [Source: *Encyclopedia Americana*]

4

1996: Two BBC film makers, shooting a piece on polar bears, and their Inuit guide spent 24 hours floating on a huge chunk of drifting ice off of Baffin Island. A storm prevented rescue planes from taking off until the next day. To the RCMP detachment near Arctic Bay, such missions were becoming routine. Last year, a French film crew with 12 people had to be rescued.

5

1959: A tornado lifted an occupied garage and dashed it against the roof of a 2-storey house in La Salle, MB, 15 km south of Winnipeg. Remarkably, the car left behind was unscathed. The tornado's funnel could be seen in Winnipeg.

6

First Quarter ☾

World Environment Day

Weather Quiz
Potentially, the greatest hazard to scientists chasing severe thunderstorms is:
(a) large hail
(b) damaging winds
(c) tornado hidden behind rain
(d) highway traffic
(e) fallen trees and power lines
(See inside front cover for answer)

7

1633: "I have never experienced in France anything like the heat and drought which we have had here during the month of June. Everything on the earth burns, and nothing prospers in such weather; yet it froze one morning." [From *Jesuit Relations and Allied Documents 1632-1633*.]

8

1993: Torrential downpours, hail, and damaging winds occurred throughout southern and central Ontario, including the Toronto area, where power outages and local street flooding were common. A downdraft along the southeast shore of Lake Simcoe damaged 8 houses and several large trees. A tornado touched down in the Bracebridge area.

9

1990: The remnants of tropical storm *Boris* brought 3 days of heavy rain (54 mm) to central BC. Twice that amount fell in the Peace River area of BC and Alberta. Nine people drowned in the resulting floods, including 4 young treeplanters who drove off the washed-out end of a bridge southeast of Prince George. Total flood damage was estimated at \$10 M.

10

1996: A severe thunderstorm may have spawned a tornado or violent downburst winds at the old Queensway drive-in theatre near Ottawa. Described as white in colour and cone-shaped, the mini-twister picked up debris, flipped and dragged a storage trailer, and bounced a few cars.

11

1880: A ship collided with an iceberg, 60 m high and 180 m wide, obscured by dense fog near St. John's. Although the hull was damaged, no one was injured, and the ship was able to make it back to St. John's for repair.

12

1792: A painting of Captain Vancouver's historic landing on the west coast shows a limp Royal Navy flag, sunshine, and a clear view of the North Shore mountaintops. In 1579 when Sir Francis Drake arrived, he encountered "thicke mists and most stinking fogges" and sailed home in disgust. If Vancouver had met with the same conditions, there might not be 1.8 million people in the lower mainland today.

13

Full Moon ☾

1990: The hull of a 150-m oil tanker cracked when it was struck by a piece of ice while returning to Dartmouth, NS, from Goose Bay, NF. The North Atlantic was uncharacteristically calm, and a rescue ship just happened to be nearby.

14

1995: Described as a plough wind, powerful wind gusts in a sudden downward draft of cold, wet air from a thunderstorm fanned straight across Fillmore, SK. Winds exceeding 100 km/h blew the roof off the grain elevator, broke a radio tower, toppled a chimney on a church, and damaged dozens of buildings. Puddles with as much as 50 mm of rain formed in 15 minutes.

15

1943: Canadian and American governments banned the publishing or broadcasting of weather information for fear it would fall into enemy hands. Even baseball announcers were prevented from commenting on the weather. When play was suspended because of rain, one announcer supposedly told his audience to "stick your head out the window if you don't understand the reason for the suspension."

16

1996: A Calgary teenager missed her school exams when lightning struck within a few cm of her. Just after 5 A.M., as a thunderstorm boomed across the city, a lightning bolt entered her bedroom, scorched her prize hope chest, tore a hole in the ceiling, and set the bed on fire. The girl suffered minor burns to her hand and elbow.

17

1948: A Regina rainmaker put his "universcope" (rainmaker) into reverse to stop the rains prior to an RCMP band concert in Medicine Hat, AB. When the concert was over, he went to work and the rains returned. The nearby Redcliff rodeo committee persuaded him to lock up his machine so it would not rain on their rodeo. It had rained 8 of the 9 days since his arrival, ending a 3-week drought.

18

1893: Hailstones ranging in size from small marbles to hens' eggs fell on Winnipeg, breaking windows throughout the city. The CPR workshops had 1,800 panes broken. One stone measured 8.89 cm x 7.62 cm x 3.8 cm. The large stones fell a long distance apart and appeared to come from different directions.

19

1877: Fire destroyed a building housing the meteorological observatory in Saint John, NB. The fire spread throughout the city, taking 18 lives and consuming \$27 M in property.

20

Last Quarter ☾

1908: Strong gusty winds blew sparks from a fire, started in the dry kiln of a mill, into the business section of Bracebridge, ON. Among the losses were the Anglican church, 2 hotels, 18 stores, and 2 livery stables.

21

Father's Day
Summer Solstice 10:03 EDT

1996: Repeated lightning strikes plagued Yellowknife residents this summer. On this day, lightning hit a main digital transmission line, shutting down bank machines and damaging computer equipment. Public safety was at risk in Cambridge Bay, Gjoa Haven, and Pelly Bay as residents climbed on metal roofs to see lightning strike the area for the first time in 30 years. Lightning has mythical importance to some Inuit.

28

1996: Over 100 mm of rain fell in Sarnia, overwhelming sewers and flooding thousands of area basements. More than 100 residents filed lawsuits for compensation from city hall for sewer problems. The rainstorm, referred to as the "Flood of '96," caused up to \$20 M in damages. On street after street, residents dragged out carpets and sofas to dry out.

22

1996: Park rangers warned of a black-bear hazard on Vancouver's north shore, and closed trails to hikers. Normally the bears would have moved to higher ground, but the late summer prompted them to stay in the valley, where grass and clover were still abundant.

29

1996: The UV index at Hamilton hit a whopping 9.7 on the scale, and temperatures hovered near 25°, leading to several cases of heat exhaustion. Fairground stands were full of people for the "Combine Crush," a demolition derby of sorts, involving 10 large combine harvesters. Unprepared for the sun and heat, about 6 spectators had to be hospitalized for sunstroke.

23

New Moon ●

1990: A man was revived in hospital after being struck by lightning in Bowmanville, ON. He had been working on his charter fishing boat, *The Lucky One*, at a marina when the storm hit. A tree under which he had taken refuge was struck by lightning. A bystander performed CPR in an effort to restore his heartbeat until an ambulance arrived.

30

1992: For the second day in a row, tornadoes, large hail, and torrential downpours struck southern Manitoba. Near Morden, hail the size of tennis balls pelted the ground, while at Pilot Mound wind gusts reached 154 km/h. There were numerous funnel sightings and 5 confirmed tornado touchdowns.

24

St. Jean Baptiste Day

1996: Cooler weather and some precipitation over the last several days helped fire crews extinguish the Wasaw fire, which had been burning in Prince Albert National Park for 2 weeks. The blaze, thought to have been started by a lightning strike on 12 June, consumed 2,170 ha in the northeastern portion of the park.

25

1990: A farmer near Rycroft, AB, discovered 32 ha of his wheat field had mysteriously dropped 50 m, creating a huge crater. Recent heavy rains had probably caused lower layers of soil to slide into the adjacent Burnt River, allowing the top layer to slump. The crater was dry, and the wheat was still growing, but there was no hope of getting a combine down there to harvest.

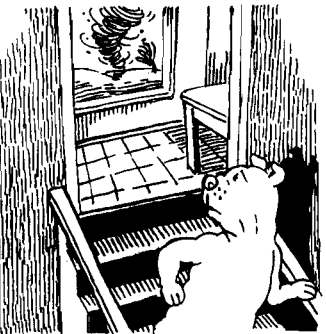
26

1996: An ice-white tornado "as big as the Calgary Tower" crossed south of Calgary at High River. The twister tore and ripped everything along the way, tossing around 5 huge steel granaries as if they were toys. One flying steel bin forced a tractor-trailer off the highway, pinning the driver behind the steering wheel and gearshift for over an hour.

27

TORNAOO

When a tornado threatens, take shelter immediately. Stay away from windows, doors, and exterior walls. Don't waste time opening windows to keep pressure from building up in the house. It's unlikely to help anyway!



JUNE

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July

AUGUST

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SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

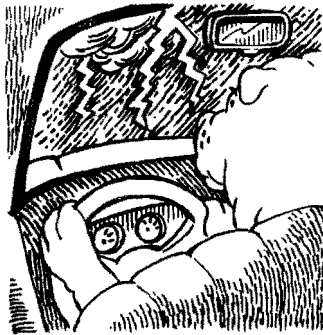
THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

LIGHTNING / HAIL

During a thunderstorm with lightning, you are safe inside a vehicle, not in an open convertible or in the back of a pick-up. Don't park near or under trees or other tall objects that may topple over during a storm. Be wary of downed power lines that may be touching your car. Stay inside your vehicle; you may receive a shock if you step outside.



1867: From the *Sarnia Observer* (ON): "Whether caused by the hot weather, or bad whisky, or both combined, fighting seems to have been the rage wherever a number of people were gathered together. It is to be regretted that the first day of our national existence should be marked by so much disreputable conduct."

Canada Day
First Quarter

1816: Another cold spell occurred in the "Year without a Summer." Men pitching horseshoes had to wear topcoats to keep warm. Frost followed on 4 successive nights and wiped out the majority of the June replantings. Some ponds near Quebec City did not become free of ice until August.

1991: During the first royal visit to Labrador, Princess Anne's schedule changed due to bad weather and her fascination with the Viking ruins at L'Anse aux Meadows. A scheduled 5-minute ride to a nearby island aboard a boat had to be cancelled because of ice flows. The delays kept more than 500 people waiting in the cold at a downtown park in St. Anthony.

1996: A severe thunderstorm with hail and tornadic winds struck Saskatoon and parts of the Rosthern and Battlefords regions, resulting in widespread property damage. Grain bins were tossed about and hydro poles knocked over. Plough winds gusting over 125 km/h snapped hundreds of trees and felled 20 steel towers carrying the main transmission lines for Saskatoon. Insurance payouts totalled \$13 M.

1914: A farmer died when he was struck by lightning in a severe thunderstorm in Sidney, BC. When the storm hit, the farmer and a friend took refuge in a barn. The victim was standing under the ventilator when a flash of lightning hit the barn, passed through the ventilator, and killed him instantly. His friend standing next to him was unharmed.

1842: Weather observers had to dive for cover when bullets whizzed through the observatory at the University of Toronto. In the 1840s, the university held its shooting matches on nearby grounds. Sir Henry Lefroy, the observatory's director, wrote a stiff note of protest to the university, claiming: "Yesterday afternoon 5 different discharges passed through the windows of the observatory."

1996: A farmer near Chatham, ON, was at home watching TV when a severe thunderstorm sprang up. Seconds after he got up to close a window, the chimney crashed through the ceiling, flattening his empty chair and sending it through the floor into a crawl space. The storm tore off roofs, uprooted trees, and sucked windows and screens from their frames.

1989: Tornado-force winds and hail caused considerable damage to buildings and cars in several towns and farms in southeastern Saskatchewan. At Peebles, the general store and the skating/curling rink were blown into the bush about 3 km from where they had originally stood. A grain elevator was also destroyed.

Weather Quiz
The peak month for tornadoes in the US is May, and in Canada it is June. On average, Great Britain has about 40 or 50 tornadoes each year. What is the peak month for British twisters?
(a) July
(b) June
(c) August
(d) April
(e) October
(See inside front cover for answer)

Full Moon

From *The Assiniboine and Saskatchewan Exploring Expeditions of 1858* by Henry Youle Hind: "Near the banks of Qu'appelle or Calling River [at Cross Woods] we observed ... grasshoppers descending from a great height perpendicularly like hail—a sign, our (Indian Guides) stated, of approaching rain ... The grasshoppers were excellent prognosticators: a violent thunder storm in the afternoon commenced in the east, and was accompanied by exceedingly heavy rain and boisterous wind."

1991: Weeks of heavy rain had produced several puddles and ponds in the Prairies's predominantly clay soils, ideal breeding grounds for mosquitoes. Sampling traps in Winnipeg captured at least 4,600 mosquitoes—more than 5 times the previous record set in 1984. There were so many mosquitoes that unprotected skin could be bitten in 1 minute.

1996: Remnants of Hurricane *Bertha* blew into the Maritimes, felling trees and causing power outages. Southern New Brunswick had some minor flooding from the 90 mm of rain. Instead of the monster blow that ravaged the mid-Atlantic US, *Bertha* was a mere whimper in Atlantic Canada—a sea-side curiosity for residents and tourists. Said one Environment Canada meteorologist: "interesting but not very exciting."

1996: The fifth gale in 3 weeks temporarily halted salvage work on the sunken oil barge *Irving Whale*. A large crane, a submersible barge, and a Canadian Coast Guard ship had to stay in harbour at PEI. The attempt to lift the barge had been criticized by some salvors, who said there was unlikely to be enough good weather in the Gulf of St. Lawrence to allow completion of the operation.

1996: Hailstones the size of fists bombarded Winnipeg and Calgary, racking up close to \$300 M in property losses. In Manitoba, more than half the losses were for auto damage, making it the worst single disaster claim against the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation in its 25-year history. In Calgary, hail was so deep that children made "hailmen" and enjoyed some mid-summer tobogganing.

Last Quarter

1996: A province-wide bear alert was issued in BC. Cold, wet spring weather produced a poor berry crop, forcing bears to scrounge for food. Advice from the province: if you are attacked by a grizzly do not run, drop to the ground, curl up into a ball, clasp your hands tightly over the back of your neck or use a backpack to protect your head and neck, remain still.

1996: Torrential rains (up to 270 mm) led to flooding and mudslides in the Saguenay region from the 18th to the 21st, resulting in Canada's first billion-dollar natural disaster and the largest-ever overland deluge in Canada this century—equivalent to a 2-month flow over the Niagara Falls. The surge of water, rocks, trees, and mud killed 10 people and forced 12,000 residents to flee their homes.

1996: The foothills and eastern slope area of southern Alberta is one of the most lightning-prone regions in Canada, receiving over 1/2 million strikes a year. On this day lightning hit a truck near Alhambra, AB. The driver felt only a short jolt. Over the next 2 days, all 4 tires on the truck went flat. The lightning had burnt out the tires' steel belting.

19

1975: A model draped her nude body in a Canadian flag, then exposed herself on Parliament Hill in front of 25 local media and a few spectators. An Environment Canada meteorologist testified that a strong gust of wind blew at precisely 2:54 P.M.—the time the RCMP noticed the exposed woman and arrested her. But the judge didn't buy the defence's arguments and fined the model \$300.

20

1994: The ground-level ozone exceeded 82 parts per billion for several hours at some locations in southern New Brunswick, causing an increase in patient admissions at local hospitals. A smog advisory had been issued 22 hours earlier. At Fredericton, temperatures hovered around 30°.

21

1993: A butcher near Charlottetown was hit by lightning while carving a piece of meat. The lightning bolt somehow entered the building, travelled through the electric saw he was using, passed through his body, and exited through the toes of his boots. Although the man experienced some momentary numbness, he was unharmed. The saw was still in working condition.

22

1859: Sir John A. Macdonald's career almost came to a premature end during a storm on Lake Huron when he was aboard *The Ploughboy*. The steamer's engine broke down just as a strong gale arose, driving the helpless ship towards the rocky shore. At the last minute the anchor miraculously caught hold. Had it not, Canadian history would have likely been deprived of one of its most famous figures.

23

New Moon ●

1996: Calgary was pounded by the second severe hail- and rain-storm in 8 days. Orange-sized hail clogged storm sewers and caused massive flooding. Drivers were marooned on the roofs of their vehicles. Attendants at a gas station turned down \$50 bribes from motorists wanting to shelter vehicles in the service bays. One attendant watched about 20 vehicles attempt to jam underneath the pump canopy to avoid hail damage.

24

1994: Soaring temperatures led Edmontonians to use 997 megawatts of power per household to light and cool their homes, setting a record for summertime energy consumption. The previous record occurred in 1991 when they used 993.9 per household. Summer use almost matched winter use when residents consumed about 1,000 megawatts daily.

25

1978: An electrical storm started forest fires in Victoria, but also gave Greater Victoria 10 mm of much-needed rain and allowed some logging operations to resume. Logging had been shut down due to the dry weather.

26

1989: A tornado touched down in west Edmonton, sending 2 men to hospital with minor injuries and causing at least \$500,000 damage. The 2 men were injured when the roof of the industrial equipment company where they worked caved in. The storm hit just 4 days before the anniversary of a storm 2 years earlier that left 27 people dead.

27

1989: Four tornadoes near Regina injured 3 people and caused considerable damage to buildings. In the city, torrential downpours fell during the first half of a CFL game between the Saskatchewan Roughriders and the Hamilton Tiger-Cats.

28

1996: Wet, cool weather meant that occupancy at Algonquin Park campsites was well below capacity. Park restaurants and laundromats, however, were doing a booming business; dryers were making huge profits. Apparently, campers were drying their soggy firewood in park dryers! Said one park official, "some people are ignorant of the goals of the outdoor camping experience, and they have to be guided." [Ottawa Citizen]

29

1992: Southern Ontario experienced its coldest July this century. The province failed to record a single temperature above 30°. It was also Ontario's cloudiest July on record, and many precipitation records fell. Toronto had 14 straight weekends of rain. Climatologists blamed the cool, wet weather on El Nino and volcanic ash high in the atmosphere from the 1991 eruption of Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines.

30

1996: A fierce storm with fire, flood, wind, and hail downed live hydro wires, trapping several people in their cars and in a bus in Kanata, ON. Miraculously, no one was injured. They had enough sense to stay in their cars, some for over an hour and a half. During the flood, sections of pavement were torn from the street, and 3 cars were tossed around like toys.

31

First Quarter ●

JULY

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SEPTEMBER

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August

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

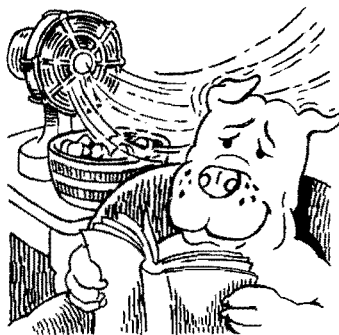
THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

HEAT WAVES

During summer heat waves, drop into a cool store, restaurant, or theatre every so often. At home, cool down by running cold water on wrists, behind the knees, and holding a wet towel on neck or forehead. Also try sitting in front of a fan blowing over a bowl of ice cubes.



1996: A band of severe weather swept across north-central Alberta, dousing campgrounds, smashing windshields, and snapping trees. Mud-slicked grounds made walking and dancing at the Big Valley Jamboree in Camrose even more hazardous than usual. The 300 or so members of the Western Canadian Association for Nude Recreation had to huddle in tents rather than worship the sun.

2

1995: After more than 380 mm of rain fell on Parkman, SK, 2 brothers made the best of a bad thing and went waterskiing on their wheatfield.

3

Civic Holiday

1993: An avalanche killed a woman and seriously injured her husband on Mount Temple near Lake Louise, AB. The Utah couple tumbled 200 m down the mountainside when the avalanche hit. Although they managed to survive the fall without being buried, the woman suffered so many injuries she couldn't climb down, and the man was unable to reach help in time to save her.

9

1884: Farmers along the Windsor to Halifax railway lines used to get the weather forecast by watching passing trains. After receiving a morning dispatch from the central weather office, railway agents affixed large metal discs to the front of engines or the sides of baggage cars. The disc's shape told the farmers about approaching weather: a full moon signalled sunny skies, a crescent moon meant showers, and a star warned of prolonged rain.

10

1988: Another heat wave gripped southern Ontario. This time maximum temperatures exceeded 30° for 9 consecutive days. On this date, thieves stole 10 air conditioners from a Scarborough dealer. "These days," said a police spokesperson, "those things are priceless."

4

1973: Severe thunderstorms raked southeastern Saskatchewan, producing high winds and hail the size of golfballs and even larger. Yorkton had damage of \$2 M. Canada's largest hailstone (10-cm diameter; 290 g) fell from one of these storms near Cadoux.

11

1973: Five consecutive days of wet weather brought 135 mm of rain to Moncton, NB, washing out roads and flooding basements. Water rose waist-high on one road. The floods damaged between 300 to 500 homes.

5

Weather Quiz
You have heard of Operation Desert Storm in 1991 (the UN-coalition effort to liberate Kuwait). What was Operation Typhoon?
(a) US air strikes into North Vietnam in 1965
(b) German attempt to capture Moscow in 1941
(c) code for Canadian operations in the Pacific at the close of WWII
(d) US push for the retaking of Seoul during the Korean War
(e) Chinese military manoeuvres around Taipei in 1996
(See inside front cover for answer)

12

1996: Montreal and western Quebec started to experience their first heat wave of the year. Air-quality levels were poor, and humidex readings approached 40°, prompting Environment Canada to issue a heat and humidity warning. Two days later, an 18-year-old soldier from Ontario collapsed and died from heat stroke while taking part in a gruelling march.

6

1990: A waterspout louched down on Stuart Lake, northwest of Prince George, and travelled toward the Indian village of Tachie. When the swirling column of water approached the community, it began to drop golfball-sized hail. The tornadic winds blew down trees, lifted roofs, and damaged buildings, causing several thousand dollars of damage.

13

1979: A tornado whipped through Woodstock, ON, killing 3 people and injuring 150 others. The storm killed scores of livestock and damaged 600 buildings. A study released 2 years later identified the Woodstock region as a high-risk area for tornadoes, with 2 chances in 1,000 of being hit once a decade. Sarnia and Windsor are the highest risk cities in Ontario.

7

Full Moon ○

1914: Hailstones 6 cm in diameter destroyed crops and damaged livestock during a storm in and near Cupar, SK. One man ended up with his arm in a sling from trying to hang on to a team of horses while being pounded by the ice. He was bruised all over from the falling stones. In some localities, the hail crashed through shingled roofs and shattered stovepipes and ranges.

14

Last Quarter ●

1930: The British airship *R-100* crossed the Atlantic from Cardington, England, and arrived in Montreal. The flight, one of the marvels of the age, took 78 hours and 52 minutes. It seemed that airships would become the modern mode of travel, but later crashes demonstrated they were too vulnerable to the elements. Weather, on arrival: winds SW at 10 km/h, clear skies, temperature 26.7°.

1

1996: One of the worst storms ever to hit Ottawa, with rain totals of 100 to 145 mm in 90 minutes, flooded parts of the city. Damage estimates were at \$25 M. When cars became submerged in underpasses, firefighters had to swim inside to see if anyone was trapped. One rescuer paddled a kayak and rode the bow waves of passing city buses to assist stranded people.

8

1996: Lightning struck a group of campers in Algonquin Park, killing 1 college student and injuring 3 others. All the students were knocked off their feet by a lightning bolt.

15

1996: Toronto city council decreed that motorists who idle their vehicles for more than 3 minutes in a 60-minute period will face a fine of up to \$5,000. The new bylaw provides exemptions for inclement weather, emergency situations, police, fire and ambulance vehicles, and armoured trucks. The restriction is aimed at reducing emissions of specific pollutants that are of concern to health.

16

1934: During a duststorm, a strong gust of wind ripped the roof off a boxcar on a speeding CPR freight train near Calgary. One rod-rider travelling on top of the car was hurled to his death. His companion was seriously injured.

17

1985: Two small twisters blew through Monkton, ON, tearing the roof off the brick 2-storey Oddfellows meeting hall and depositing it on a nearby truck. The tornadoes also knocked down power lines and uprooted trees.

18

1991: The tail end of Hurricane Bob sent high winds blowing through the Atlantic provinces. Winds in southwestern Nova Scotia reached 130 km/h, and rainfall amounts throughout the Maritimes varied from 50 to 100 mm. The storm swept 2 sightseers off a wharf to their deaths.

19

1924: A tornado in Kamsack, SK, picked up a garage and the car inside and carried them over a wood pile before setting them upside-down. The wood pile was undisturbed.

20

1867: The captain and crew of the schooner *Algerine* watched "stupefied with terror" the descent of an immense meteor into Lake Ontario. Estimated at about 6 m in diameter, the meteor let off a large volume of steam and spray when it hit the water.

21

1711: According to *The Reader's Digest's* "The Top 10 of Everything List," the world's second-worst marine disaster prior to the 20th century occurred when a British fleet of 8 ships sank in storms off Egg Island, Labrador. About 2,000 sailors perished.

22

New Moon



1996: Unseasonable weather—a killing frost and a dusting of snow—were evident in many areas of Yukon. Inuvik received 10 cm of snow; Dawson set a new monthly low temperature of -8.4°.

23

1816: During "The Black Summer," snow and frost destroyed crops for the second time in one summer in Elgin County, ON. Grain stores were low, and those who did have grain had no place to make it into flour. The settlers had to rely on greens found in the woods for food.

24

1858: Henry Hind's account at Lake Winnipeg: "The Northern Lights or Aurora Borealis were unusually brilliant, darting and playing about with extraordinary rapidity in all directions... The voyageurs said they portended a coming storm, and their prognostications proved correct."

25

1996: Calgarians used double the average daily consumption of water on this day. The city asked residents to ease up on watering lawns and gardens during the hot weather. Most of Alberta was in the grip of a heat wave—a "sweat-trickler" as it was called. Lethbridge established new record-high temperatures in the 35 to 37° range for 4 out of 5 days.

26

1996: Quebec's premier and finance minister blamed lousy summer weather—cold, rainy, and overcast—not political uncertainty for the dramatic drop in the number of jobs in Quebec, especially in the restaurant sector.

27

1900: A tornado picked up a house in Wapella, SK, and sent it crashing back to earth, killing a father and daughter and injuring the mother. The family was fleeing to the cellar but was unable to reach it before the house was carried off its foundations.

28

1996: Bad weather and rough seas at the site of the ill-fated *Titanic's* watery grave forced 2 cruise ships with 1,700 passengers to return to port in New York. The passengers, including 3 survivors of the fabled ocean-liner, had paid up to \$8,000 to watch salvagers raise a 10-tonne piece of the *Titanic's* hull onto a salvage ship.

29

1996: A storm packing powerful gusty winds up to 100 km/h blew down thousands of trees in Jasper, AB. Damage was heavy in the national park and in campgrounds south of town as trees fell on camper units and homes.

30

First Quarter



1900: A well-authenticated case of globe or ball lightning occurred near Sherbrooke, PQ. One rail passenger wrote that the train was illuminated "more brilliantly than by the most vivid lightning flashes and a blazing ball about a foot in diameter was seen to fall to the earth."

31

AUGUST

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September

OCTOBER

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SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1988: The Weather Network and its French-language equivalent, *MétéoMédia*, became Canada's only channels dedicated to broadcasting weather news. On average, 6.5 million different viewers tune in every week. The average time they spend watching the network's programs each time they tune in has jumped from 3.5 minutes to 8.2 minutes.

1996: Hurricane *Edouard* brought ankle-deep rains and strong winds to the Maritimes. Officials had to cancel ferry sailings and close beaches. But that didn't stop hundreds of wave-watchers from crowding the shoreline to view the crashing surf. At Peggy's Cove at least 5 people got too close and had to be rescued.

1996: High winds delayed arrival of a tugboat and barge sent to rescue a luxury cruise liner stranded for 5 days on a gravel bar in the Arctic Ocean. The *Hanseatic* ran aground about 240 km east of Cambridge Bay, NT. In the meantime, the ship's 115 crew and 153 passengers, mostly German and American, entertained themselves with the ship's duty-free shops, sauna, swimming pool, and other luxuries.

1905: A man was struck on the head by lightning while driving cattle to pasture near Carberry, MB. The lightning travelled down his body and out at his feet, completely tearing off his boots.

1996: A thunderstorm accompanied by hail and vicious straight-line winds reaching 120 km/h toppled 19 three-tonne hydro-transmission towers north of Winnipeg and threatened a massive blackout in the city. Manitoba Hydro was forced to buy power from the US while crews spent several days repairing lines. The violent storm also levelled grain bins and mowed down trees.

1881: At times, smoke from Michigan and Ontario forest fires, though not as black as the "dark" day 100 years ago, allowed through only 10% of the sunlight on a cloudy day over eastern North America. Some businesses and schools closed because of the darkness. Several residents feared the end of the world was imminent.

1899: A tornado blew through Pinafore Park, near St. Thomas, ON, just as theatre players were preparing for a performance. One actor was badly injured, and the rest were taken from the ruins with minor cuts and bruises. Numerous other buildings, such as a sawmill, windmill, and a stable, were also damaged in the storm.

1952: Canadian television made its debut on this day. The stars were Uncle Chichimus (a puppet and his 2 furry friends) and a meteorologist, Percy Saltzman. The puppets lasted a few months; Percy did the weather for 22 years—his place in our history assured, being the first live face to appear on Canadian TV.

1996: A 90-second hailstorm hammered fields of unharvested buckwheat in Gladstone, MB. Before the storm, the crop was described as "absolutely beautiful ... probably the best we've ever had." More than 80% of the crop was destroyed.

1860: A severe northerly gale drove the American brigantine *Argo* onto the west bar of Sable Island, where it sank quickly in the heavy seas. The only items to make it to shore were a capstan-bar and a bucket.

1993: A windstorm in BC's Lower Mainland produced hurricane-force gusts in the Fraser Valley that resulted in more than 43 distress calls to the Coast Guard Rescue Centre in Vancouver. The storm downed trees and power lines along the North Shore, leaving 100,000 residents without power. One man was electrocuted by a fallen power line; another died when a tree fell on him.

Weather Quiz
To avoid being hit by a hurricane you should go to:
(a) Hawaii
(b) New Zealand
(c) the equator
(d) Vancouver Island
(e) North Sea
(See inside front cover for answer)

Full Moon ○

Labour Day

Last Quarter ○

1996: In less than half a month, southern Ontario got nearly twice its normal average rainfall for the month. On this day, rain washed out the first cricket match of the Pakistan-India Sahara Cup challenge series before a world-wide television audience estimated in the hundreds of millions.

1996: *Hortense*, the first hurricane to make landfall in Canada in 21 years, came ashore east of Sheet Harbour, NS. Near Ingonish Beach, a big wave picked up a car and put it on #6 green at Highland Links golf course. The driver decided to leave her vehicle and swim to safety. She grabbed onto a fallen birch tree, where she stayed for 4 hours until being rescued.

1977: A severe storm crossed the Maritimes, bringing heavy rains of 50 mm and wind gusts of 100 km/h. The storm caused heavy losses to fishing equipment and the PEI tobacco crop.

1988: A spectacular storm cut power to 25,000 Vancouver homes after lightning, thunder, hail, and heavy rain hit the Lower Mainland. The storm triggered fires in hydro connections, ripped down telephone wires, slowed traffic, and caused floods in backed-up storm-drainage systems. In North Vancouver, metal covers atop storm drains popped up from the force of the overtaxed drainage system.

1996: Favourable northeast wind conditions were ideal for more than 350,000 monarch butterflies taking off from Point Pelee National Park destined for wintering spots in Mexico. In a few minutes the sky was full of orange-and-black wings. A couple days of south and southwest head winds had forced the butterflies to take refuge on Point Pelee.

1985: An early snowfall hampered an already delayed harvest in parts of Alberta and southern Saskatchewan. Some farmers combined their grain even though it was wet, choosing to loose 20 cents a bushel at the elevator instead of a possible 50 cents later if wet conditions continued.

1583: Sir Humphrey Gilbert, the founding father of Newfoundland, was travelling home to England from Newfoundland aboard the *Squirrel* when a raging storm struck. In the final hours before the ship sank, the captain of another ship spotted Gilbert sitting in the tossing vessel reading a book. He then waved to the captain and cried out nonchalantly, "We are as near to heaven by sea as by land!"

1940: A severe gale accompanied by heavy rain caused flooding in eastern New Brunswick. The storm was considered the worst of its type in many years. In downtown Newcastle, the winds uprooted trees and carried away small buildings. The easterly gale at Chatham reportedly raised the tide 3 m above normal.

20

New Moon ●

1818: Arctic explorer John Ross collected samples of red snow around Baffin Bay. He took these back to England, but astonished biologists couldn't agree on what might have caused the odd colouring. A few decades later their successors determined that blooms of microscopic algae were the reason. Today more than 100 species of algae have been identified in snow.

21

Rosh Hashanah

1859: From Mr. John Haddock's *Narrative of the Hazardous and Exciting Voyage in the Balloon Atlantic*: "Soon after taking off from Watertown, NY, on the second voyage of the Balloon Atlantic, newspaperman John Haddock and aeronaut Professor LaMountain became disoriented when their balloon became lost amongst the clouds ... They spent 4 days wandering through the Canadian wilderness until they reached an Indian encampment, where they were fed and directed homeward."

22

1996: A tornado touched down near Beausejour, MB. A pilot flying overhead radioed the tornado's coordinates. Damage was minimal.

23

Autumnal Equinox 01:37 EDT

1996: Scientists with the Canadian Wildlife Service reported that freezing rains, heavy snowfall, and recurring thaws and freezes in the summer and fall of 1995 had decimated the caribou population on Bathurst Island in the High Arctic. Not a single newborn calf was found. Dead musk-oxen were still standing in deep snow, frozen stiff, leaning against each other like statues knocked over by the wind.

24

1975: Over the 25th and 26th, Montreal's Dorval Airport recorded its highest rainfall in any continuous period of both 12 hours (more than 75 mm) and 24 hours (more than 90 mm). This event accounted for much of the approximately 227-mm total that made this Dorval's rainiest month on record.

25

1989: A prop-jet plane crashed at the Terrace-Kitimat airport in BC while attempting its second approach in heavy fog. All 5 passengers and the 2 crew members died.

26

1983: Extreme cold, with temperatures of -28°, shattered September minimum-temperature records in Yukon.

27

1985: Welcome rains from Hurricane Gloria 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.

28

First Quarter ●

1867: A heavy gale blew into Sarnia, ON, from the northwest, preventing upward-bound vessels from moving into Lake Huron and causing downward boats to seek refuge in town. Several boats sustained damage in the storm, making it necessary to lay over for a few days in Sarnia for repairs.

29

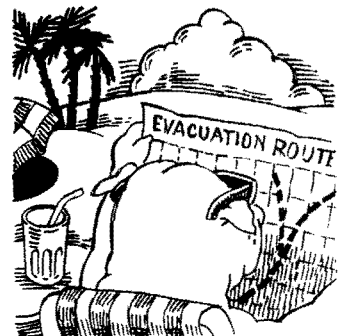
1996: London recorded 314 mm of rain in September, almost 4 times the normal September rainfall and the wettest month in that city since records began at the airport in 1940. Total rainfall for the growing season was 831 mm (normal is 487 mm), washing out the former mark of 735 mm set in 1945 to become the wettest April-September period in 57 years of weather history.

30

Yom Kippur

HURRICANE

When visiting areas prone to tropical storms, familiarize yourself with the nearest hurricane evacuation route, and be prepared to leave unsafe premises.



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October

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SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

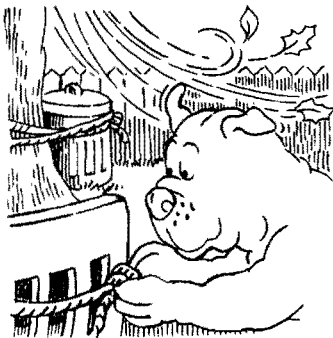
THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

WIND

In any strong wind storm secure everything that might be blown around or torn loose—indoors and outdoors. Flying objects such as garbage cans and lawn furniture can injure people and damage property. Prior to wind storms trim dead or rotting branches and cut down dead trees to reduce the danger of one falling on you or your house.



1851: A storm known as the *Yankee Gale* lashed PEI, leaving behind ruined fishing vessels and the bodies of hundreds of men—mostly college students from New England—along the shore. Bodies were found lashed to the rigging, fastened to stumps of masts, or half-buried in sand. The Islanders opened their homes to survivors, fed and clothed them, built coffins, and buried the dead.

4

1932: The *Boland*, a cargo ship, carrying a load of coal from Port Colborne, ON, through the Welland Canal sank when a strong wind sent water crashing over its deck. Only the lifeboat on the portside could be lowered into the water, as the list on the starboard side was too great. Of the 19 crew on board, 13 survived.

5

Full Moon ○

1867: A drought throughout Lambton County, ON, caused wells to dry up, making it difficult for farmers to water their cattle. In some cases, farmers had to drive their stock great distances to the St. Clair River for water.

11

1962: The remnants of typhoon *Freda* struck the Pacific north-east, bringing rain and near hurricane-force winds to Victoria and Vancouver. At Victoria, winds reached sustained speeds of 90 km/h, with gusts to 145 km/h. The winds caused power blackouts, uprooted trees, and broke storefront windows. Seven people died in the storm.

12

Thanksgiving
Last Quarter ●

1927: A report from Brantford, ON, claimed that during a thunderstorm a flash of lightning began at the top as white light and turned a vivid green about halfway down.

6

1985: An early snowstorm dumped up to 28 cm of snow on the southern Prairies and northwestern Ontario. Farmers, already hit by either too much rain, drought, grasshoppers, or duststorms, looked on helplessly as snow fell on unharvested crops. The last time snow arrived this early in the season was on 25 September 1872, when 18 cm of snow fell on Winnipeg.

7

1996: Most of Labrador was hammered by one of the earliest snowstorms on record, with more than 20 cm of snow over 2 days. High snowfall records were set in Goose Bay and Cartwright. Schools closed in Goose Bay, Wabush, and Labrador City.

14

1996: Parts of Alberta and Saskatchewan were buried under more than 15 cm of snow. In Calgary, city workers used brooms to knock heavy, wet snow off trees bent close to the ground. High winds created white-out conditions on Saskatchewan highways. The dump was especially disturbing to farmers trying to harvest what was supposed to be a record crop.

1

1985: Three people travelling from the French island of Miquelon drowned when their boat capsized south of Newfoundland in gale-force winds.

8

1872: Nineteen people spent 7 months on an ice flow 150 m wide before being rescued. They became separated from their ship, *The Polaris*, while exploring the Arctic. Fortunately, there were 2 Inuit families in the group. They were able to help the other party members survive by showing them how to build snow houses and catch seals.

15

1996: Stormy weather capsized a boat shuttling a family into New York State from Cornwall Island, ON, in the St. Lawrence River. Soon after the group set out, the wind picked up, and it began to rain. When rescued, the family was still seated in the boat, in water up to their necks. The family's grandmother drowned.

2

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.

9

1995: The body count of dead ducks and assorted shorebirds stopped at 97,980 near Lake Pakowki, 90 km southwest of Medicine Hat. This was the second straight year that botulism spores lifted off the muddy bottom of the lake when water temperatures rose in the spring. Spring flooding may also have contributed to the die-off by stirring up the poison.

16

Weather Quiz
Which of the following killer events took the most lives, 243?
(a) Hurricane Andrew
(b) Mississippi floods in 1994
(c) East Coast blizzard in March 1993
(d) Saguenay flood
(e) eruption of Mount St. Helens
(See inside front cover for answer)

3

1938: The forest-fire situation, which had become critical by the end of September, culminated with many fires—the worst in years—along the Montana-Canada border. The fires destroyed valuable timber, crops, and buildings, and killed 21.

10

1996: A marine "weather bomb"—a rapidly intensifying storm—struck Vancouver Island, causing massive power outages and setting adrift more than 50 pleasure boats. Some vessels tossed onto the rocks were worth more than \$1/2 M. Waves rose to 30 m as winds buffeted the waters at 200 km/h. The storm began life as a gentle breeze near Japan on 12 October.

17

1930: A general snowfall occurred across the lower Great Lakes. Hundreds of small buildings along the shores of Lake Ontario collapsed under the weight of the snow. Twenty-five people were forced to flee the Angola Hotel in Buffalo, New York, when bulging walls warned that the roof could no longer sustain the crushing weight of the wet snow left after a sudden snowburst.

18

1976: A severe autumn storm crossed southeastern Newfoundland and the Grand Banks. Wind gusts reached 140 km/h at St. John's. Roofs were lifted off buildings, and cars crushed beneath fallen trees. At Cape Race, 13 of the 15 crew members of the Dutch ship *Gabriella* died when they abandoned ship during high seas.

19

1996: A tiny "surprise" snowstorm created mayhem on the roads and highways around Edmonton. The skiff of snow forced dozens of vehicles into ditches. Because this was the first snowfall of the season, people had to learn how to winter-drive all over again, making conditions even worse.

20

1968: Hurricane *Gladys* tracked south of Nova Scotia with winds up to 120 km/h. Over 42 hours, the Maritimes received more than 50 mm of rain. Sackville registered the most, with 125 mm. The storm forced 6 families in Richibucto, NB, from their homes as heavy rains swelled the Richibucto River to 2.5 m above normal.

21

1873: Early North-West Mounted Police attempting to travel down Pelly River by canoe found the river had frozen over for as far as they could see. Continuing by foot through snowstorms and heavy bush, the men took 2 days to reach Fort Selkirk, the nearest inhabited point, 50 km away.

22

1996: An Environment Canada employee died in a helicopter accident on the Snare River, 175 km north of Yellowknife. The employee was unloading equipment from the sea-helicopter when the ice gave way under the aircraft. Another employee and the pilot escaped from the near-freezing water and used a satellite telephone to call for help.

23

1996: The former BC cruise ship *Prince George* sank off the Aleutian Islands while being towed to China for scrap. Battered by 10-m-high seas and storm-force winds, and listing 35° to port, the *Prince George* sank in 175 m of water. One salvage operator who witnessed the sinking said, "It was a spectacular display. We were just a day and a dollar short of making it to shelter."

24

New Moon ●

1885: Up to 40.6 cm of snow fell on Edmonton in an early-season snowstorm, its greatest ever 1-day snowfall.

25

1985: Wind gusts in Cape St. James, on the southern tip of the Queen Charlotte Islands, peaked at 190 km/h. The Cape St. James terrain is hilly and difficult to build on. Weather-station buildings had to be situated on 3 levels, interconnected by a miniature railway running up the steep incline. All buildings are specially anchored and reinforced because of the frequency of hurricane-force winds.

26

1989: Snow and rain dampened farmers' hopes of salvaging crops in north-eastern Alberta. Some put costly Caterpillar tracks or 4-wheel-drives on their combine harvesters to try to recover deteriorating grain. Others simply wrote off the season.

27

1983: A small twister damaged 45 houses and destroyed 2 other buildings in St. Timothée near Valleyfield, PQ. The storm injured 7 people and destroyed about \$1.5 M in property.

28

1971: In the same year that the Canadian weather service joined the new Canada Department of the Environment, a new headquarters building was opened in north Toronto at 4905 Dufferin Street. The official opening took place on this day.

29

1996: Winds up to 135 km/h left 4 people dead in southern Ontario, sent lake freighters scurrying for cover, closed the Welland Canal, and flooded the Niagara River Parkway. Near Windsor, a piece of windblown debris smashed through a windshield and struck the driver in the throat. The man's car spun out of control and hit a utility pole before resting against a tree.

30

1955: In central Saskatchewan, near Melfort, Halloween ushered in the beginning of one of the worst winters on record, with a total of nearly 200 cm of snow falling in successive snowfalls and blizzards. One pilot-farmer had to make 30, mostly emergency, airplane trips to Prince Albert. By mid-March even the horses could not be used, as roads were covered with 1 to 2 m of snow.

31

Halloween

Daylight Saving Time Ends

First Quarter ●

OCTOBER

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

November

DECEMBER

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

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1991: Winter arrived with a vengeance in northwestern Ontario when it began to snow. The 5-day accumulation reached 30 to 70 cm. Blowing snow added to the misery by slowing transportation to a crawl.

1

1978: Two CN workers were swept to their deaths in the raging waters of the Skeena River near Terrace, BC. The men were investigating a rail washout after a storm and flash flood. The railway tracks under their train gave in as they were trying to recover another train.

2

1996: Across Edmonton, icy roads sent cars into ditches and into each other. The city received up to 20 cm of snow in 48 hours. Just outside Edmonton, Highway 2 south to Calgary was a skating rink. Among the storm casualties were at least 4 people who had their fingers mangled in snowblowers and 5 people who were treated for cardiac problems suffered while shovelling snow.

3

1996: Consecutive severe winters have killed off thousands of caribou on Bathurst Island in the High Arctic. In 1996 there were fewer than 2,000 left, compared to 25,000 in 1961. Biologists fear they will die out. Another harsh Arctic winter could be devastating, especially if freezing rain occurs in the fall, forming the ice layers that make it difficult to forage.

4

1847: "The seasons in Canada are changing very much. Whilst the winters are becoming milder and snow falls less abundantly than in days of yore, the autumn is likewise becoming more changeable and uncertain ... Indian Summer, that most lovely season of the year, is scarcely appreciated, so imperceptible is its approach, and so rapid its flight." [The Hamilton Spectator]

5

1938: Ottawa basked under record-high temperatures of 24°. Families took advantage of the unseasonable warmth by picnicking on the banks of the Rideau Canal. The warm spell also tempted golfers to the course and coaxed flowers into blooming.

6

1885: At 9:22 A.M. 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.

7

1996: More than 160 mm of rain in 36 hours drenched southern Quebec. The rains washed out sections of highway, eroded the roadbed, collapsed bridges, and derailed 2 trains. About 1,000 residents were driven from their homes. Damage estimates exceeded \$50 M.

8

1996: About 26 cm of snow fell before and during the CFL Western playoff between the Edmonton Eskimos and the Winnipeg Blue Bombers. The choice of shoes with cleats was important in the Esk's 68-7 victory. An Eskimo player was penalized for wearing illegal shoes. Players have been known to hammer wood screws into the soles of their shoes to achieve better traction.

9

1988: In its "The Top 10 of Everything List," *The Reader's Digest* records that the world's sixth-worst oil-tanker spill was the *Odyssey*. More than 140,000 tonnes of oil spilled into the Atlantic Ocean near Canada. By comparison, the *Exxon Valdez* grounding in Alaska on 24 March 1989 spilled about 35,000 tonnes.

10

1989: Temperatures dipped to a record low -52° at Ross River, causing problems for many government facilities in Yukon, which had converted from traditional oil and wood heating to propane. The extreme cold turned propane to gel, disabling the heating systems. Nursing stations in Mayo, Pelly Crossing, Ross River, and Faro had to be shut down temporarily.

11

1996: Four Canadian Forces crewmen aboard a rescue helicopter crashed in northern Labrador. The men, pitched into the bone-chilling waters of a remote lake, had to swim to shore, then hike 4 km in wind chills approaching -35° before taking refuge in a cabin. The pilot of a search aircraft saw the flares they fired, and the 4 were rescued about 30 hours after the accident.

12

1992: A fierce autumn storm struck Ontario, bringing heavy rain to the south, snow to the north, and hurricane-force winds along the shores of the lower lakes. Winds uprooted trees, snapped branches, and downed power lines, leaving some areas of Muskoka without electricity for 5 days. In Georgetown, 1 person died when winds blew down a chimney.

13

1996: Blowing snow and black ice created havoc across much of southern Alberta. Highways were closed as freezing rain covered by heavy snow caused trailer-trucks to jack-knife. The fog, which at times reduced visibility to nil, made conditions even worse.

14

Weather Quiz
What kills the most people in North America each year?

15

- (a) earthquakes
(b) avalanches
(c) hang-gliding
(d) hurricanes
(e) bee stings
(See inside front cover for answer)

1996: The first winter storm of the season whipped through the BC Lower Mainland. The weekend storm dumped a whopping 68 cm of snow on Chilliwack, breaking every snowfall record set there since 1879. In Vancouver, about 12 cm of snow fell in higher parts of the city—enough to cause a run on snowshovels. One store's winter stock of 200 sold out in 1 day.

16

1996: Sections of the Trans-Canada between Winnipeg and Kenora were closed as wet snow, rain, and freezing temperatures struck central Canada. Up to 70 cm of snow fell in some places, forcing Kenora-area schools to close. Snow-removal costs in Winnipeg were \$2.5 M. The city sent out an SOS for more snow-clearing equipment to augment its 300 pieces of machinery.

17

1909: The weather was so cold that Sergei Rachmaninov, who was appearing with the Toronto Conservatory Orchestra, had to rush to Holt Renfrew to buy a fur coat. The weather that evening: -5° with 1.5 cm of snow.

18

1996: PEI and Canada were finally linked when the last section—a 53-m span—of the Confederation Bridge was installed at 11:30 P.M., completing the construction phase of the 13-km, \$840-M project. It is one of the longest, continuous multispan bridges in the world. The weather at the moment of linking was overcast with patches of mist and fog, visibility 8 km, wind calm, and temperature 4°.

19

1937: A week of heavy rains (100 mm), combined with the highest tides in 25 years, caused flooding in Newcastle, NB. Rising water in basements extinguished numerous furnace fires. Wood from broken booms and lumber that had been swept away from the wharves clogged the river. Later, debris was scattered on both shores.

20

1996: Winter had hit Edmonton particularly hard to this date. The city had received 67.5 cm of snow, half a normal winter's total, during the first 3 weeks of November. Cars were buried on neighbourhood streets for days. Temperatures dipped below -20° on several occasions, breaking previous daily record lows. Vehicle thefts were at 3,805 compared to 4,882 for all of 1995—a sure indicator of cold weather.

21

Full Moon ○

Last Quarter ●

Remembrance Day

New Moon ●

1996: Researchers at Queen's University have figured out how Arctic fish avoid freezing. Apparently, the fish use an antifreeze protein to limit the size of tiny ice crystals that happen to get into their circulation. The discovery has important applications in everything from storing ice cream and other freezer foods to developing frost-resistant plants.

22

1975: A streaker clad only in a cheesecloth skirt danced for 3 minutes before 33,000 spectators while "O Canada!" played at a Grey Cup game in Calgary. She was taken away at the end of the anthem. The temperature was -10°, with winds of 27 km/h from the south-south-west producing a wind chill of -35° or a wind chill factor of 1850.

23

1996: Dubbed the "Snowdown in Steeltown," the Grey Cup featured ideal Edmonton Eskimo weather: -3° with -11° wind chill, snowing heavily on an already snow-covered surface. However, it was the Argos from Toronto who prevailed. Incredibly, there wasn't a single turnover in these conditions until the last 82 seconds.

24

1996: The Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation, the 18-member club of Pacific trading partners, decided to meet next year in Canada. APEC tradition dictates that the host country celebrate its culture by providing shirts for the leaders to wear for the group picture. Instead, Prime Minister Chretien considered toques and threatened to change the venue from Vancouver to Inuvik so that members could truly experience Canada.

25

1996: As many as 6,000 customers of New Brunswick Power were left in the dark after freezing rain downed power lines, knocked over poles, and blew transformers. Roads were a driver's nightmare, with snow packed on top of hail, sleet, and freezing rain.

26

1996: The temperature in Edmonton reached -3°, quite balmy compared to the -20° readings over the past 18 days. During the early cold spell, travel agents were swamped with calls seeking quick getaways, especially Las Vegas. Christmas sales were brisk as people crowded the malls, particularly on weekends when families spend the day there.

27

1996: Several residents in low-lying areas of Prince George, BC, had to evacuate their homes to escape flooding from the ice-clogged Nechako River. Thousands of beavers, also driven from their homes, were forced to scramble on ice pans, searching for vanishing food caches in the river and wandering the ice-choked banks, where they were vulnerable to wolves, coyotes, lynx, and large birds of prey.

28

First Quarter ●

1963: All 118 people aboard a Trans-Canada Airline jet died instantly when it crashed into a hill-side at Ste. Thérèse-de-Blainville, PQ. It was raining hard when the plane left Dorval Airport. The last report from the crew was at 2,000 m. It might have been a powerful air current or perhaps a faulty instrument in the cockpit. The crash remains a mystery.

29

1989: A Toronto Transit Commission bus was badly damaged when it hit 2 dump trucks. A centimetre of snow deposited by an early snowstorm had melted and turned to ice on city streets. The driver was treated for leg injuries. Fortunately, there were no passengers.

30

FREEZING RAIN

If you feel the car starting to skid, keep looking ahead down the road where you want to go, then steer in that direction. Also you might remember to put your car into neutral. This will enable you to steer your way out of the skid, and get all the tires to grip and back under control.



NOVEMBER

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

JANUARY

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

December

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1996: A wind squall in southern Ontario flipped cars, uprooted trees, and damaged buildings. In Guelph, the storm lifted the roof of a gymnasium, where a church group was playing basketball. In one neighbourhood, residents found a car standing on its front grill, spinning like a top. In Toronto, 120 km/h winds picked up a parked Boeing 727 and rotated it a quarter turn. **1**

1996: An unexpected cold snap turned morning rains into heavy snow, clogging Vancouver's streets and causing a spate of accidents. On Vancouver Island, the 10 cm of snow forced officials to close public schools. Everywhere, motorists abandoned vehicles on roadsides and in ditches, while road-clearing crews scrambled to keep up. **2**

1989: A major storm with strong winds brought heavy snowfall to New Brunswick. Bathurst set a new 24-hour snowfall record for December of 70 cm, breaking the old record of 61 cm set in 1877. Ferry crossings between New Brunswick and PEI were cancelled most of the day as winds gusted to 140 km/h. **3**

1995: An old-fashioned blizzard with 80-km/h winds blew into Alberta and Saskatchewan from the Gulf of Alaska. Snow cover from earlier storms had not developed a crust, and the storm's fury whipped loose snow across rural highways, reducing visibility to near zero. Rural schools closed and tow-truck operators were busy pulling vehicles out of ditches. Most major highways and airports shut down for several hours. **4**

1939: The temperature rose to 19.4° at Calgary and 16.1° in Edmonton, still record highs for December. Irrigation ditches were reopened in Lethbridge, AB, after being closed for several weeks. In Banff, 5 days of rain from the 4th to the 8th disappointed downhill skiers. **5**

Full Moon ○

1992: Christmas-tree growers in Nova Scotia who had waited to cut their trees closer to Christmas were concerned about a shortage of trees for sale. The previous week's snowstorms had caused knee-deep snow in many tree lots, hampering efforts to get the pines out of the woods. **6**

1996: Poor weather conditions resulted in cancellation of the men's World Cup downhill ski race scheduled for Whistler, BC. Too much snow and poor visibility made training runs deteriorate over the previous 3 days. Officials had purchased more than \$10 M in snow-making equipment, but this year the problem was too much natural snow. **7**

1996: A spillover storm from New England dropped a record 41.8 cm of snow on Quebec City. The previous record snowfall for the date, set in 1984, was a meagre 11.4 cm. Heavy, wet snow combined with ice and wind to bring down tree limbs and power lines. Hydro Quebec restored power quickly, which was fortunate, because earlier it had dispatched about 120 workers to assist utilities in New England. **8**

1986: Two people died in car accidents in Metro Toronto when the temperature dropped to -4° after a day of rain turned streets into ice. One spectacular accident occurred when a car spun out of control, crashed through some guard rails, and fell 9 m. The car landed upside-down and was flattened, but its 4 occupants crawled out of the wreckage with only minor injuries. **9**

1986: Mild Pacific air produced unusually balmy weather across Yukon, the Mackenzie District, and northern BC. Several daily records were set when temperatures rose to between 10° and 13°. At Fort Nelson, BC, the heat bothered huskies during the annual dogsled races. **10**

1944: At Toronto, the 1-day snowfall of 48.3 cm was the greatest on record. Funerals were postponed, expectant mothers walked to hospitals, and there were no home deliveries of milk, ice, or fuel. Symphony patrons showed up for a concert in snowsuits and boots instead of furs and jewels. The performers were The Trapp Family Singers, virtually unknown at that time. **11**

1867: A strong northeasterly gale sent the waters of Lake Erie westward, leaving the Niagara River and its tributaries at their lowest ever. The steamer *International*, which draws about 2 m of water, could not effect a landing. The water, at 0.4 m, was so low that passengers had to use ladders to get on and off. **12**

Last Quarter ●

1959: An intense Atlantic storm crossed the Maritimes on the 12th and 13th, bringing 42 hours of rain to stations in New Brunswick. Saint John recorded 105 mm. **13**

1995: The Toronto region received a mixed bag of winter weather. By morning rush hour, 10 to 15 cm of snow had fallen, followed by freezing rain, and later fog. Thousands of commuters slipped, slid, and slogged to and from work on area roads, rails, and sidewalks. **14**

1964: One of the worst "Alberta Clippers" (a winter storm caused when low pressure systems descend the mountains and "clip" briskly southeastward) on record occurred on this day when a system packing heavy snowfall, temperatures as low as -35°, and 90-km/h winds swept across Alberta. Lost livestock numbered 1,000, and 3 people froze to death. **15**

1981: The *El Paso Columbia*, a tanker carrying liquefied natural gas, ran aground at Cape Sable Island when a towline snapped in a North Atlantic storm. The heroic crew of a tug risked sinking their own vessel to rescue the 5 men aboard the tanker when it drifted onto the rocks. Nine days later, 5 tugboats managed to free the 65,000-tonne tanker after several earlier attempts. **16**

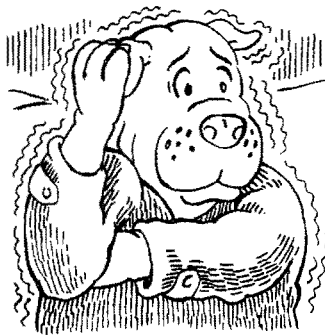
1996: An avalanche deep enough to bury a car swept down a glacier north of Whistler, BC, killing 3 skiers. The victims were members of a group of 11 German heli-skiers; all were wearing miniature radio transmitters. The weather at the time was clear with a light wind and moderate temperatures. About 7 people die in avalanches each year in Canada—most are heli-skiing. **17**

1995: Thousands of Ottawa homeowners climbed onto their roofs to clear away the ice and record winter snows. By the end of the weekend at least 15 people had landed in hospital with roof-clearing injuries, compared to half that number for all of the previous year. One roof-clearing company averaged more than 150 calls a day for their services. **18**

Weather Quiz
What are hypercanes?
(a) transsexual hurricanes
(b) hurricanes whose maximum wind speed exceeds 250 km/h
(c) hurricanes that cross the international date line changing from hurricane to typhoon or vice versa
(d) theoretical, superstrong hurricanes whose winds exceed 1,000 km/h
(e) hurricanes that kill more than 1,000 people or damage property in excess of \$1 billion
(See inside front cover for answer) **19**

Hanukkah

New Moon ●

<p>1996: The ferry <i>John Hamilton Gray</i>, leaving Borden, PE, with 136 people and 53 vehicles aboard, spent 2 nights on a sandbar in the Northumberland Strait. The ferry became grounded after the crew lost control in winds up to 100 km/h. After 2 failed attempts, the ferry and its passengers were refloated on 22 December with the help of 2 tugboats and a coast guard ship.</p>	20	<p>1854: From his observatory on Île-Jésus, 15 km west of Montreal, Dr. Charles Smallwood, an English-born physician with a great interest in meteorology and astronomy, recorded a remarkable drop in temperature from -6.6° at noon on the 21st to -35.0° at 6 A.M. on the 22nd.</p>	21	<p>1996: Bitter cold temperatures across the Prairies, ranging from -28° to -42°, kept taxis and tow-truck drivers boosting the cars of stranded motorists. It was so cold in Edmonton that some emergency vehicles attending a fire in the -33° early morning darkness had to be moved so the water wouldn't freeze them to the road.</p>	22	<p>1996: Following yet another snowstorm, Vancouver residents abandoned their vehicles, littering streets as snow-removal and sanding crews struggled to clear the mess. The snow posed an unusual problem for a car thief when the car's owner followed the tire tracks of his vehicle to the drive-through lane of a nearby fast-food outlet and collared the stranger behind the wheel as he was waiting to order.</p>	23	<p>1993: Over the Christmas holidays, a large, 2-pinnacle iceberg estimated at 1 to 2 million tonnes in mass was sighted drifting eastward across the mouth of Conception Bay, NF—the third iceberg sighting in 2 months. Local residents cannot recall ever seeing icebergs at this time of year before. It probably originated from the northwest coast of Greenland.</p>	24	<p>1939: Winnipeg experienced its second "green" Christmas in history. According to weather records, the city's only other snow-free Christmas this century was in 1913. The thermometer was -5°, tempting golfers and bowlers to the greens, and tennis players to the courts. Apart from kids with new toboggans, and taxi drivers, most people seemed to enjoy the unseasonable warmth.</p>	25	<p>1996: Winter's first snowstorm left drivers across much of southern Ontario "slithering in heavy snow." Roads were treacherous, although Ministry of Transportation officials said they had deployed all available equipment. Fortunately winds were light, minimizing drifting.</p>	26
Winter Solstice 20:56 EST								Christmas Day		Boxing Day First Quarter			
<p>1993: More than 2,000 households in western Nova Scotia were without electricity during a cold snap when temperatures sank to -17° and wind chills to -40°. In one case, power crews had to quickly find alternative electricity for a person using a breathing apparatus. The outages were caused by high winds that gusted to about 57 km/h.</p>	27	<p>1996: Residents of southwestern BC dug out from their "snowstorm of the century." A record snowfall of 41 cm fell on the Vancouver area, while Victoria got 65 cm. Some residents who didn't own a shovel used Frisbees, dustpans, and even a wok, to shovel their way out of their snowbound houses. Canadian Forces soldiers were called out to help clear roads and search for hundreds of stranded motorists along the Fraser Valley.</p>	28	<p>1875: A young woman was almost killed by an avalanche of snow and ice from the roof of the Bank of Montreal building in Ottawa, and a child was almost smothered by snow and ice cascading from another local roof. She was rescued by a passing gentleman. December snowfall in Ottawa was 99 cm; normal December snowfall is 56 cm.</p>	29	<p>1996: Hundreds of Victoria residents were driving around looking at the huge mounds of snow dumped 2 days ago. Since there was no place to park, people left their cars in the middle of the road when they ran into a store. Police received calls about fights between motorists who confronted each other on the 1-lane roads and refused to back down.</p>	30	<p>1996: Over 20 cm of snow whipped by hurricane-force winds caused widespread white-outs in western Newfoundland. Gusts reached 159 km/h, suspended ferry service between Port aux Basques and North Sydney, and caused power outages in parts of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. The ferry's crew at North Sydney passed out party favours and free meals as 140 passengers prepared to celebrate New Year's Eve on the docked vessel.</p>	31				
				New Year's Eve									

COLD SPELL

Mild frostbite should be treated by using body heat to aid in thawing. Hold a bare, warm palm against frostbitten ears or part of the face. Frostbitten fingers can be placed under the clothing, in the armpit; the feet may be wrapped in a blanket or jacket. Never rub frostbite, apply snow or ice to affected areas, or use a hair dryer or hot water to warm up feet and ears.

Quiz appears in calendar grids —
a different day each month.

January — (e) 5 hours later

February — (b) Monday

March — (b) morbidly anxious
about the direction of the wind

April — (c) Mr. Dress-up (Ernie
Coombs)

May — (c) cold

June — (d) highway traffic

July — (e) October

August — (f) German attempt to
capture Moscow in 1941

September — (c) the equator

October — (c) East Coast blizzard
in March 1993

November — (e) bee stings

December — (d) theoretical,
superstrong hurricanes whose
winds exceed 1,000 km/h

WEATHER QUIZ ANSWERS