

DECEMBER

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FEBRUARY

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# January 2000

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|  |   |  |  |   |   | <p>1999: Nine people died and 25 others were injured when an avalanche swept down on a New Year's celebration in an Inuit village. The avalanche crashed into a gym in Kangiqsualujuaq, PQ, a coastal village 1,500 km north of Montreal on Ungava Bay. Villagers immediately began kicking and digging by hand through 3 m of snow in a frantic effort to free dozens of trapped people.</p> <p>New Year's Day</p>   |
| <p>1999: Winter's first big snowstorm in southern Ontario was a near-historic event. In downtown Toronto, the 39 cm of snow came within a whisker of breaking the record for a January snowstorm: 39.9 cm set in 1966. The city declared a 72-hour snow emergency—the first in 16 years—to help speed snow removal by hundreds of city employees and contractors working around the clock.</p> | <p>1934: Severe cold and heavy snowfall—in some cases over 120 cm deep—gripped the Prairies. In Alberta, 500,000 head of sheep and cattle suffered from the brutal winter weather, while in Saskatchewan the severe cold killed several horses. The Saskatchewan government rushed fodder supplies into stricken areas.</p> <p>Perihelion 00:00 EST</p>   | <p>1876: Balmly temperatures prevailed across southern Ontario as evidenced by the unprecedented blooming of a Japan quince (<i>Pyrus japonica</i>), and lilac buds were almost ready to open. No frost had occurred in over 2 weeks. Citizens donned summer coats and straw hats. During the warm spell, shade temperatures peaked at 19°C.</p>                         | <p>1999: For the second day, blizzard conditions forced the cancellation of funeral services for the 9 people killed in an avalanche early New Year's morning in Kangiqsualujuaq, PQ. Community leaders postponed the service when poor visibility made it impossible for grieving family members to fly into the village. The weather also delayed hunting and fishing expeditions needed for the community's survival.</p> | <p>1998: Fear of a flood placed the Calgary Zoo on "Operation Noah" alert when sudden freezing temperatures caused ice jams to form in the Bow River, resulting in rising water levels. The zoo had already moved its caribou from the North American exhibit to an out-of-town facility as a precaution, but the remaining zoo residents stayed put for the time being.</p> <p>New Moon</p>  | <p>1999: It was so cold in the Yukon that propane turned to jelly. In Whitehorse, the thermometer fell to -40°C for 2 days and visibility was about one block due to thick ice fog. In Central Yukon, the temperature was -53°C and falling. Those who were brave enough to venture outside couldn't get far because most vehicles were frozen solid.</p>   | <p>1998: During Ice Storm '98, the Ontario Ministry of Food and Agriculture advised sheep farmers that "Peter Schoedter from Manitoba has successfully used the sleeves from woollen sweaters as pullovers for newborns. It is important that the pullover not cover too much of the tail and rear end of the lamb, so the ewe can recognize the smell of her lambs, thereby reducing the risk of mis-mothering."</p> |
| <p>1999: Winnipeg had its coldest night of the winter so far with a low of -32.8°C. The wind chill was 2100, which means exposed skin will freeze in 3 minutes. The cold snap even kept criminals indoors. "I walk out the door to go to work and I freeze my butt off," said a police inspector, "so I'm sure the weather has something to do with the low crime rate."</p>                   | <p>1997: Unusually high tides and strong winds spilled almost 1 m of water over the streets of Weymouth's business district in Nova Scotia's Annapolis Valley. Emergency Measures officials described the flooding as the worst in the region since the 1976 Groundhog Day storm. Three propane tanks floated away near Harbourville, but firefighters managed to catch the tanks and plug the leaky one.</p> | <p>1918: In Amherstburg, ON, a fierce blizzard with stinging winds of 100 km/h and knee-high snowdrifts made roads and rail tracks impassable. The temperature plunged from near freezing to -30°C in 1 day. In some places, drifted snow reached to the eaves of houses and completely blocked doors. People who ventured outdoors suffered from frostbitten faces.</p> | <p>1987: Heavy snowfalls and strong winds pounded most of the Atlantic coast, forcing the closure of many schools and government offices. Moncton received 52 cm of snow. In Newfoundland, powerful winds gusting to 126 km/h coupled with the heavy snow resulted in white-outs and heavy drifting. Near Channel-Port aux Basques, the "wreckhouse" winds blew 3 tractor-trailers off the highway.</p>                      | <p>1999: A mere 15 cm of snow coming on the heels of a 40-cm dump less than 2 weeks earlier resulted in bedlam in Toronto. Parts of the subway system shut down, leaving commuters stranded during morning rush hour. Some sat in jam-packed commuter trains in full view of their office buildings. Hundreds waited outside stations to board buses amid reports that fist fights had erupted among passengers. Stranded downtown commuters crowded into fully booked hotels.</p> <p>First Quarter</p> | <p>1999: Commuters aboard the Dartmouth, NS, ferry witnessed an eerie but spectacular sight. Arctic sea smoke gave the Halifax Harbour a vaporous look reminiscent of horror movies. For Arctic sea smoke to occur, the moisture just above the relatively warm water has to be rapidly condensed by cold air. The difference in temperature between the water and air affects the amount of sea smoke.</p> | <p>1999: With temperatures dipping to the -30s, a record 10,000 Montrealers called the CAA to start their cars. One tow-truck operator set a personal best with 39 jump-starts. To handle the increased volume, the CAA doubled its phone staff to 120 and put 175 tow trucks on the road. Power demand soared to a record of 31,650 megawatts.</p>   |

1862: The coldest recorded temperature in the greater Vancouver-New Westminster district occurred when the temperature dipped to -26°C. The Fraser Valley was frozen all the way to the sand heads (the edge of the shoals along the Fraser Delta), and ships could not break through the ice.

16

1956: Better late than never! Winter had come early to eastern King's County, PEI; thus a prolonged January thaw offered a welcome respite. Farmers finally harvested a field of turnips, covered for 2 months with snow. They also took advantage of the warmth to finish their fall furrowing.

17

1977: The Arctic cold reached all the way to Florida. People who had fled to Miami and Palm Beach watched in horror as big wet snowflakes floated down from the sky. To the north, 7,000 km away in Whitehorse, people were outside in their shirtsleeves in 9°C temperatures. Hockey games were cancelled because of lack of ice, and bears, thoroughly confused by the unaccustomed warmth, came out of hibernation.

18

1889: Thieves in St. Catharines, ON, made off with a rare sunshine recorder. The brass device, called a Campbell-Stokes sunshine recorder and worth a couple of thousand dollars, had been used in the Niagara region for the past 65 years to measure the amount of sunshine.

19

1999: The big snow of '99 became the big slop of '99 as mild weather and rain moved into southern Ontario. The mayor of Toronto pleaded with residents to clear catch basins, dig out snow around fire hydrants, and to help their neighbours. Meltwater was pouring into basements. Only 10% of the city's residential streets had been cleared. Several people fell while clearing snow off or repairing their roofs.

20

Full Moon ○

1999: According to local exterminators, because of unusually mild and wet weather, rats were infesting homes in Victoria and area. A normal chilly winter keeps the population down; mild weather means fewer rats die, and with females having up to 7 litters a year with 8 to 12 pups per litter there are a lot of rats looking for a warm home.

21

1857: Brutally cold weather throughout the Great Lakes area made railway locomotives useless and railway workers suffer severe frostbite. In St. Mary's, ON, a woman froze to death while riding from Stratford to North Easthope in an ox sleigh. Her husband, who was driving the sleigh, was not aware of the sad occurrence until they arrived home and he lifted his wife from the sleigh as a frozen corpse.

22

1999: The Canadian Coast Guard said that ice surrounding PEI was the heaviest since 1995. Recent high winds had moved the ice in the Northumberland Strait tight against the island's south shore.

23

1978: The crash of the Soviet COSMOS 954 nuclear-powered satellite between Great Slave Lake and Baker Lake, NWT, raised concerns of contamination by radioactive debris released in the earth's atmosphere. Emergency crews consulted Environment Canada's weather charts and forecasts in support of clean-up operations.

24

1999: A huge chunk of ice broke free from a frozen waterfall and killed an ice climber about 90 km north of Lake Louise in Alberta's Rocky Mountains. A 22-year-old woman had been sitting at the base of the waterfall when the ice hurled down on her. Two other climbers who had been ascending the waterfall at the time were unable to dig her out.

25

1997: Eighty mushers competed in the 14th Annual Alberta-International Sled Dog Classic in Canmore. Temperatures during the race ranged from a low of -38° to -17°C. The event, which has attracted up to 10,000 spectators in warmer years, drew barely 2,000 over 2 days. Several mushers suffered minor frostbite. One skier—a combination of cross-country skiing and dog sledding—sustained third-degree frostbite on several fingers.

26

1885: A sudden storm sprang up, trapping 3 iceboats containing 22 crew for 2 days in Northumberland Strait. The storm did not claim any lives, but some of the crew lost fingers and toes to the cold.

27

1978: A 4-day stretch of mild weather, rain, and melting snow produced extreme flooding in the Saint John, NB, area. At Glen Falls, water filled about 160 basements and trapped several families in their homes. It also forced the closing of several streets and schools. On the 26th, Saint John set a new daily record high temperature at 12.3°C, and its all-time January rainfall record after receiving 98.2 mm.

28

Weather Quiz  
Which province is a member of the "60 below club"?\*

29

- 1) Saskatchewan
- 2) British Columbia
- 3) Manitoba
- 4) Newfoundland and Labrador
- 5) Alberta

\*Has registered a temperature below -60°C

1889: The fountain in front of the Legislature in BC's usually balmy capital, Victoria, froze solid when the temperature dipped to -12°C.

30

1993: Three men died and 2 went missing when their 40-m fishing vessel sank 110 km south of Cape Sable Island, NS. Although the dragger sank in calm waters, speculation was that the ship flipped over when it became encased in ice from freezing spray.

31

Last Quarter ●

## JANUARY

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# February 2000

## MARCH

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| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday  | Saturday   |
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|   |   | <p>1868: "Niagara is now to be seen in a winter dress of rare splendour, well worth a long journey to view." With temperatures hovering at -20°C for several days, ice formed below the falls near the Suspension Bridge. It was enormously thick and solid—a good thing because hundreds of sightseers wandered onto the ice to view the magnificent ice-bridge. (<i>Niagara Falls Gazette</i>)</p> <p>1</p> | <p>1999: On the day Wiarton Willie was supposed to check his shadow, you couldn't even see the real thing. A thick blanket of fog had rolled into southern Ontario, wreaking havoc with road and air traffic. At Toronto's Pearson Airport, about 20 flights departed per hour, compared to the usual 80. Provincial police were busy with scores of highway accidents.</p> <p>2</p> <p>Groundhog Day</p>  | <p>1999: In Wiarton, ON, hundreds of mourners filed by a tiny pine coffin holding a stuffed groundhog of the likeness of Wiarton Willie. Groundhog Willie had passed away sometime during the fall or winter. Faxes of condolence came in from around the world, and there were almost a million hits on Willie's web site.</p> <p>3</p>   | <p>1989: Temperatures in Regina stayed below the -30°C mark and were accompanied by a biting wind. Exposed skin froze in less than a minute. Canada Post appealed to homeowners to "warm up a postie." Many residents put signs on their mailboxes to notify carriers that they could come inside for coffee. Still, the appeal was not enough to prevent several cases of frostbite.</p> <p>4</p>            | <p>1968: Flooding occurred in many southern Ontario communities along the Thames and Sydenham rivers. In Wallaceburg, flooding forced hundreds of residents to seek accommodation with relatives or friends, or in emergency shelters. In Oresden, nearly 3 m of water covered part of the main street. A movie theatre in the flooded downtown was showing <i>The Venetian Affair</i>.</p> <p>5</p> <p>New Moon ●</p> |
| <p>1885: A blizzard raged across Nova Scotia from 6 to 8 February, dumping as much as 40 cm of snow over parts of the province, disrupting transportation, and delaying the mail. All trains were late in starting, and only those with snowploughs got through.</p> <p>6</p>   | <p>1934: Ice conditions in the Summerside (PEI) harbour were ideal for ice racing, but officials had to cancel the competition when temperatures dipped to -21°C. The extreme cold would have caused severe hardship for horses, riders, and spectators.</p> <p>7</p>                                       | <p>1954: At about 4:30 a.m., residents of Gleichen, AB, spotted a wide funnel-shaped cloud in the western sky. Suddenly, a gust of wind turned loose and developed into hurricane-force winds that lasted for several hours. A 60-tonne railcar blew down the track and crashed into 2 other cars. Workers saw the car coming and immediately started throwing dirt on the track.</p> <p>8</p>                | <p>1999: Environment Canada technicians installed what is probably the world's most northerly automated weather station on Williams Island, NWT. Military personnel at CFS Alert assisted them as they travelled to the island located near the northern tip of Ellesmere Island. The data will be used to better understand the local meteorology and the impact of snow and ice on the destruction of ozone during polar sunrise.</p> <p>9</p> | <p>1999: Southern BC was experiencing the windiest, wettest, and duller winter in about 2 decades. To date, the region had 12 days with wind gusts of more than 60 km/h. November through January was also the second wettest for that period since 1936. Local ski resorts reported near-record snowpacks. A Vancouver umbrella shop had about 50 wind-damaged umbrellas dropped off for repairs.</p> <p>10</p> | <p>1999: Over BC's north coast, a southerly flow of mild air overran a shallow layer of Arctic air resulting in enormous snowfalls in the Terrace-Kitimat area. The volunteer climate station at Tahtsa Lake West, about 120 km south-southeast of Terrace, broke the Canadian record for the greatest 1-day snowfall: 145 cm. The world's record for 1 day is 193 cm at Silver Lake, Colorado.</p> <p>11</p> | <p>1999: Hundreds of natural snowballs called snowrollers dotted the landscape near St. John's. The cylindrical-shaped mounds occur when warm weather converts snow into a wet, cohesive mass and strong winds blow the mound down a slope until it either levels off or becomes so large that the snowroller stops in its tracks.</p> <p>12</p> <p>First Quarter ○</p>  |
| <p>1993: Heavy rain, mild temperatures, then freezing rain, wind, and fog followed an overnight snowstorm in the Maritimes. Halifax reported a drastic temperature change from -18°C to +6°C occurring in less than 24 hours. Throughout the region, the inclement weather caused blackouts, traffic jams, and flooded basements.</p> <p>13</p> | <p>Weather Quiz</p> <p>Before 1900, which one of the following elements of meteorology would have never been reported in a weather observation?</p> <p>1) relative humidity<br/>2) visibility<br/>3) state of the weather<br/>4) barometric pressure<br/>5) snow depth</p> <p>14</p> <p>Valentine's Day</p> | <p>1876: A violent snowstorm that raged for nearly 18 hours blocked streets in and around Quebec City. Winds blew down 2 chimneys and tore off a portion of the centre wing of the legislature building. Firefighters were called out 11 times to contend with burning chimneys.</p> <p>15</p>  | <p>1959: Newfoundlanders were digging out from 7-m snowdrifts left behind by a wicked blizzard. About 70,000 people were without power most of the day, and highways, streets, and railroads were blocked. Scores of motorists spent the night at homes along the highways after drifts buried their stalled cars. A snow slide at Chain Rock near St. John's harbour trapped occupants for 12 hours and killed 5 people.</p> <p>16</p>          | <p>1997: A group of American hikers became lost north of Vancouver. In an effort to stay warm, they burnt pages from some literature they were carrying; then, one-by-one, cheques and paper currency. Apparently, the money did not burn as well as the cheques. Once all the currency had been burnt the 2 females removed their bras and added them to the fire.</p> <p>17</p>                                | <p>1971: After 25 years of cooperation with the U.S. weather service in building and maintaining 5 joint Arctic weather stations, the Canadian weather service began a phased takeover of all weather service operations in the Canadian Arctic archipelago.</p> <p>18</p>  | <p>1998: Skating rinks in Saskatoon, SK, parks closed today. They had been officially opened for just over a month this winter. It was the earliest closing in years and was due to the mild El Niño weather. To date, Saskatoon had 13 foggy days and Regina experienced 16—also a result of the unusually mild, moist, Pacific air.</p> <p>19</p> <p>Full Moon ○</p>   |

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| <p>1999: Weeks of see-sawing temperatures and unusually high rainfall challenged organizers of Canada's Winter Games in Corner Brook, NF, to make or find snow and ice for the 5 outdoor sports. The local fish plant could provide up to 30 tonnes of snow a day if necessary. Also, more than 100 army reservists were on hand to move snow from nearby wooded areas.</p>           | 20 | <p>1932: Four people were killed when an empty passenger train slammed into a freight train stuck in snow near Tignish, PEI. It was the worst railway accident in the province's history. Victims included an engineer and 3 snow-shovellers working to free the freight train.</p> | 21 | <p>1998: A snow-laden roof came crashing down in a local arena between periods of a junior hockey game in St-Victor, PQ. The cave-in created an enormous wave of air that blew down part of the rink's sheet-metal side panels. Eight people suffered injuries. The players were in the dressing room, and, luckily, most of the 100 spectators were in a nearby restaurant.</p> | 22 | <p>1998: At Winnipeg's Assiniboine Park Zoo, the unseasonably mild weather awakened Hilda, one of the grizzly bears, from hibernation. Awakening normally occurs from the end of February to mid-March. Since 1 December, Winnipeg had 76 days of above-normal temperatures and only 2 days with -30°C temperatures.</p> | 23 | <p>1999: Blowing snow, slippery roads, and poor visibility contributed to treacherous driving conditions across Manitoba and forced RCMP to close the Trans-Canada Highway. Police also advised motorists to stay off rural roads. Cars skidded off roads everywhere; in some cases 6 cars had slid into the same ditch. "It's just like a curling rink," said an RCMP officer.</p> | 24 | <p>1998: Milder temperatures caused by El Niño prompted alders and poplar trees in BC's Lower Mainland to start pollinating 3 weeks earlier than usual, ushering in an earlier and longer hay fever season. BC already has the longest allergy season in Canada.</p> | 25 | <p>1988: During the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary, AB, the American ABC Television Network joked that Miami had decided to bid against Anchorage, Alaska, for the 1994 winter games. The network displayed a graphic comparing the day's high temperature of 18.1°C in Calgary with the 19.4°C maximum reading in Florida.</p> | 26 |
| <p>1997: Several avalanches occurred in the Rocky Mountains, trapping ice climbers, skiers, and snowmobilers. Those rescued from complete burial near Chetwynd, BC, were extraordinarily lucky. Three had beacons, but one did not and was found when someone among the group saw the fingers of his glove moving in the boot print from a rescuer who was helping in the search.</p> | 27 | <p>1959: Eight people died in Listowel, ON, when the roof of an arena, heavily laden with snow, caved in while a hockey game was in progress. By the end of February more than 160 cm of snow had fallen in the Lake Huron community.</p>   | 28 | <p>1964: A deep low centred about 280 km south of Newfoundland packed storm-force winds of 120 km/h and generated waves of 9 m. The tanker <i>Amphialos</i> broke in two off Nova Scotia.</p>  | 29 |  |    |   |    |  |    |  |    |

## FEBRUARY

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# March 2000

## APRIL

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## Sunday

## Monday

## Tuesday

## Wednesday

## Thursday

## Friday

## Saturday

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|  |  |   | <b>1977:</b> Previously, the longest extended forecast in Canada was for 48 hours. Today, Environment Canada issued its first 5-day forecast. <b>1</b>  | <b>1936:</b> Warm temperatures loosened snow in BC's southern mountains triggering 40 slides and depositing up to 8 m on the rail tracks between Farron and Midway. Unstable snow cascaded down mountain slopes, some of which had been stripped clear of timber by slides in preceding years. Railway crews fought a constant battle to keep tracks open. Trains were 2 days late. <b>2</b> | <b>Weather Quiz</b> <b>3</b><br><br>A recent study found that 63% of Canadians are inactive and do not get adequate exercise. Weather conditions were one of the reasons given for the lethargy. People in which province were found to be the least active?<br><br>1) Ontario<br>2) Quebec<br>3) Alberta<br>4) Manitoba<br>5) Newfoundland   | <b>1971:</b> One of the worst blizzards ever in Cornwall, ON, dumped 53 cm of snow in about 30 hours. Industries and schools closed, and buses did not run. Helicopters operated emergency service to local hospitals. Many of the 500 tractor-trailers marooned on Highway 401 had snow to the top of their cabs. Citizens who made it to work received a certificate dubbing them "Champions of the Big Blow." <b>4</b> |
| <b>1996:</b> Formula One power toboggans can reach speeds of 160 km/h on ice. Officials in Winnipeg were on the verge of cancelling the Canadian Power Toboggan Championships because of El Niño's record-high temperatures. But temperatures finally plunged below freezing, and icemakers could flood the Beausejour ice oval. Officials frantically notified racers throughout Canada and the U.S. that the races were on. <b>5</b> | <b>1997:</b> One of the season's worst storms battered eastern Canada. Thirty-six flights were cancelled at Montreal's Dorval Airport. The morning rush-hour was a slippery crawl as 70 km/h-winds and 20 cm of swirling snow swamped commuters. In the Maritimes, inter-provincial bus and air service halted. The snow was even too much for the Poley Mountain ski hill outside Sussex, NB; it closed for the day. <b>6</b><br><br>New Moon ● | <b>1987:</b> Toronto's temperature of 17.9°C was the highest ever recorded in the city so early in the year. Rapidly melting snow swelled creeks and rivers. An ice jam backed up the Credit River west of Toronto, forcing 7 families to evacuate their homes. The water was so deep only emergency vehicles could get through. <b>7</b>                 | <b>1879:</b> An afternoon thunder-storm, with lightning and hail, passed over Erin, ON. Some hailstones measured 4 cm in circumference. Lightning struck a house chimney, scattering bricks in every direction. The bolt passed down the chimney, burst the stovepipes, and blew out the end of the stove. Several people were in the room at the time, but no one was hurt. <b>8</b> | <b>1988:</b> The worst blizzard of the winter deposited record amounts of snow in central Newfoundland. Gander almost doubled its single-day snowfall for 9 March after 38 cm fell on the town. Snow combined with winds gusting up to 87 km/h created monstrous drifts. One man was spotted standing on a ladder trying to shovel out his buried vehicle. <b>9</b>                          | <b>1963:</b> A mini-tornado struck a farmhouse outside of Barrhead, AB. It took the roof off the main house and blew the porch roof onto a nearby fence post. The tornado twisted off the tops of trees that were about 12 cm in diameter. The treetops were found in an adjacent field. <b>10</b>  | <b>1997:</b> On election day in Alberta a winter snowstorm from the Pacific with sub-zero temperatures and drifting snow kept droves of Alberta's 1.6 million eligible voters home. The weather made for slippery roads and led to treacherous driving conditions resulting in more than 165 minor crashes, 17 of them injury cases. <b>11</b>  |
| <b>1992:</b> In Ste. Brigitte de Laval, PQ, helicopters and boats were used to pluck about 100 people from their Enchanted Island homes when an ice jam on the Montmorency River made the water level rise about 3 m over a 4-hour period. <b>12</b>   | <b>1989:</b> A large solar flare caused auroral displays that could be seen as far south as Jamaica. The solar storm, the fourth largest since 1932, also produced a province-wide blackout in Quebec. Solar winds from the sun interact with the magnetic fields around the earth resulting in energy surges that can cause power malfunctions. <b>13</b><br><br>First Quarter ●  | <b>1997:</b> Freezing rain fell across southern Ontario coating the region with a thick glaze, bringing down trees and power lines, causing accidents, and creating flooding on the Lake Erie shore. Ontario Hydro called it the worst freezing-rain storm in 20 years. Power to more than 100,000 customers was cut. Winds peaked at 100 km/h. <b>14</b> | <b>1997:</b> An Arctic air mass collided with a soggy Pacific system from the U.S. Across Vancouver and Victoria, snow buried daffodils and crocuses, and accidents slowed travel everywhere. One 13-car pile-up between Whistler and Squamish closed the highway. BC residents complained that this winter, which began with snow in October, would never end. <b>15</b>             | <b>1854:</b> When the Grand River in Waterloo County rose 1.2 m within 30 minutes, the waters washed away 2 bridges belonging to the Grand Trunk Railway. A torrent of water, ice, and logs had pushed up against the 30-year-old bridges, knocking them down. <b>16</b>   | <b>1878:</b> A storm with thunder that boomed like a cannon struck Halifax. In one north-end church, several ladies became so frightened at the terrifying nature of the storm that they fainted. Lightning entered a house where a family was congregated in the front parlour. It struck a young lady sitting on the music stool and hurled her and the stool across the room. <b>17</b><br><br>St. Patrick's Day | <b>1943:</b> A 3-day blizzard hit Gainsborough, SK, over the weekend, piling snow 3-m deep in many places and generally obstructing highway and rail traffic. Prolonged temperatures below -25°C had worried citizens checking over their coal and wood supplies. <b>18</b>   |

**1997:** Mild chinook winds raised the risk of flooding and avalanches in Banff, Kootenay, and Yoho national parks. The large snowpack, combined with above-normal temperatures and the wet fall weather, could potentially cause spring flooding on the plains. People were advised to make sure their livestock and other valuable property were moved to higher ground.

19

**1845:** A large crowd watched as teams of horses dragged 2 newly constructed vessels from the shipyard of John and James MacMillan a half-mile onto the ice at Covehead, PEI. When the ice melted, the vessels launched automatically.

20

**1998:** Spring arrived like a cold slap in the face dumping upwards of 20 cm of heavy, wet snow in parts of southern Ontario. The snow and high winds made for treacherous travelling conditions, causing numerous accidents. Four people died in traffic collisions. At one point it was so bad on Highway 400 that tow-truck drivers were pulling out other tow trucks.

21

**1894:** The first Stanley Cup game was played before 5,000 fans on natural ice at Montreal's enclosed Victoria Rink. The evening temperature at Montreal was -1°C, down slightly from +1° in the afternoon. Montreal AAA defeated Ottawa Capitals 3 to 1.

22

**1997:** Near Valemount, BC, an avalanche buried a snowmobiler from Edmonton for more than 20 minutes. The experienced snowmobiler said "he was able to breathe under the snow because he kept his hands in front of his face, forming a small air pocket." About 15 other snowmobilers used shovels, mitts, and helmets to dig for the trapped man, who was equipped with a transceiver.

23

**1878:** For the second Sunday in a row, a severe thunderstorm struck Halifax just as evening church services were ending. The flashes of lightning lit up the town as if it were the middle of the day. Thunder roared "as though the bottled up thunder of ages had been uncorked," and "hail poured down with frightful violence."

24

**1989:** A wicked Easter-weekend storm dumped up to 35 cm of snow on Cape Breton, NS, blocking highways and disrupting holiday activities. Newfoundland and Labrador also received 20 to 40 cm of snow.

25

Full Moon 

Spring Equinox 02:35 EST

**1997:** A mudslide along CN Rail's main line in the Fraser Canyon caused an eastbound freight train to plunge into a huge hole and erupt in flames. Two trainmen died. About 50 m of track had been wiped out by the slide. Storage cars filled with sulphur, prompting fears the chemical would ignite and release clouds of poison.

26

**1987:** Whitehorse set a new monthly sunshine record of 205.1 hours for March, surpassing the previous record of 195.1 hours in 1974.

27

**1986:** Farmers in southern Alberta watched helplessly as persistent strong winds stripped their fields of topsoil. Conditions were especially bad near Lethbridge, where clouds of soil filled the air and reduced visibility to a couple of kilometres in places. The violent gusts toppled trees in the city, and several panes of glass fell out of a downtown office tower, blocking rush-hour traffic.

28

**1996:** Up to 30 cm of snow fell in southern Manitoba on the 29th and 30th, making it the largest storm in late March since 1964. Winnipeg had nearly exhausted its \$11.7 million snow-removal budget for the year. The Canadian Wheat Board, worried about flooding, moved quickly to get grain out of the Red River Valley. The soggy conditions also undermined rail beds.

29

**1987:** Pack ice blown in from the Atlantic covered about three-quarters of Halifax Harbour, forcing its closure. It was the first time in living memory that a shutdown had occurred, in a city that prides itself on having the world's best ice-free port.

30

**1989:** Harvesting and shipment of daffodils were at least 3 weeks behind schedule as cool damp weather continued in Victoria. It was the dullest March on record with only 87.4 hours of sunshine (compared to the normal 144 hours). It also rained for a record 24 days, breaking the previous monthly record of 23 set in 1950.

31

Last Quarter 

**MARCH**

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April 2000

MAY

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## Sunday

## Monday

## Tuesday

## Wednesday

## Thursday

## Friday

## Saturday

**2**  
**1997:** During a blizzard, a tractor-trailer struck a car that had skidded off the Trans-Canada Highway near Pense, SK. The impact threw a passenger in the car, a Hong Kong exchange student, into a deep pool of icy slush. Paramedics held the still-conscious boy's head above the frigid water for almost 2 hours while firefighters waited for a tow truck large enough to lift the semi off the boy.

**1876:** At Rivière-du-Loup, PQ, millions of flies fell during a snowshower. Unable to fly, the insects walked over the snowcover, which extended over several hectares. They resembled mosquitoes but were considerably larger. Residents sent a bottle of the flies to Laval University for study.

**4**  
**1998:** About 1,600 homes in the Burin Peninsula of Newfoundland were still without power following a severe ice storm 48 hours earlier. The ice measured 2.5 cm thick, heavy enough to bring down power lines and to splinter about 120 power poles as if they were matchsticks. Ice also damaged trees and caused a half-dozen traffic mishaps.

**1929:** A 7-hour thunderstorm raged over Oshawa, ON. The storm claimed 4 lives—2 people drowned after their car disappeared in a sinkhole, and, in separate accidents, 2 railway employees perished when their engines overturned in washouts east of Oshawa. All train traffic and other communication with the outside were cut off for days.

**1968:** In Hartland, NB, an ice jam caused flooding of homes and businesses. Rescuers used boats to evacuate several families, and the McCain's Food Processing Plant stopped production when the water intake became blocked by ice during the flood.

**1998:** Residents of Lakehurst, ON, spent the day cleaning up debris following yesterday's small tornado and violent thunderstorm that swept across the Kawartha lakes. Eyewitnesses recounted seeing three 4-m aluminum boats weighing 110-kg each lifted about 10 m off the ground and swirled in the wind like pieces of paper. The winds lasted only 15 seconds, although the rains and flooding continued much longer.

**1998:** Many people welcomed the rain today in Kitchener-Waterloo, ON. Rainfall of 25 mm or more meant that customers who had purchased windows from a door and window store in March would receive a full refund. The manager had learned from Environment Canada that only once in 27 years on this date had rainfall equalled or exceeded 25 mm. Did they get a refund? No, only 3.8 mm of rain fell.

## Daylight Savings Time Begins

**New Moon** ●

**1998:** Record rain unleashed flash flooding in Newfoundland turning streets in St. John's into rivers. The waters swamped many basements and backyards. Commuters had to wade through knee-high water after officials closed several roads. Elsewhere, tonnes of rubble washed off a hill, littering streets. More than 50 mm of rain fell during the storm.

**10** 1996: Warton Willie was under protective custody after receiving several death threats. It seems some winter-weary folk were angry that the early spring Willie promised had not arrived. Willie's handler said that he was getting as many as 20 phone calls a day about the weather and the incorrect prediction. Several callers screamed in the phone before hanging up, "That damn groundhog should be shot."

**11**  
**1998: A Good Friday storm created a messy scene in Halifax as a snowstorm and strong cold winds sent cars slipping and sliding. The MacKay Bridge was particularly icy; its approaches being too slippery even to stand on. When an out-of-control car smashed into a police van parked outside a mall, the unoccupied van shot down the street, careening off cars and poles.**

**1912:** A terrible ice storm at Mattice, ON, along the Grand Trunk Railway (CNR) weakened the wooden trestle over the Mississauga River. When a construction firm's train got halfway across, it dropped about 12 m. The crew was okay, and no cars toppled into the river.

**1855:** A diary entry on this day from a farmer's daybook in central Nova Scotia read: "This day a severe snowstorm ... Snow foot deep and cold. No farming done up to date ... Hay scarce and selling at 5 pounds per ton; flour 3 pounds per barrel ... hard times indeed."

**1904:** A resident from Lethbridge, AB, described the local climate as: "... healthy and livable. As an evidence of the purity of the air I may state that I have seen the carcasses of dead horses and cattle that have been 3 years on the prairie, with a large portion of the hide still on the frame, as the flesh seems to dry up rather than putrefy."

**1974:** A severe thunderstorm hit Sebringville, ON. One family was playing cards in their 15-m-long mobile home when the winds sprang up. "I looked up and saw a barn go by, and then we went with it," said one occupant. The winds lifted the trailer off its foundation, ripped it apart in the air, and flung it against a tree.

First Quarter 

1985: Winds gusting to 113 km/h along Quebec's lower north shore caused structural damage to buildings and several light planes. Five people drowned when a fishing boat capsized near Havre St-Pierre in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

16

1536: Jacques Cartier spent the bitterly cold winter of 1535-36 by the River St. Charles near present-day Quebec. "From the middle of November, until the 18th of April, we were continuously shut up in ice ... the snow was 4 feet deep and more, so that it was above the bulwarks of our ship ... all our drink was frozen in casks."

17

1991: Unfavourable ice conditions delayed crab fishing by about 2 weeks north of Prince Edward Island. Ferry activities between Les Iles de la Madeleine and East Point, PEI, required icebreaker escorts. The shrimp season started off the coast of Newfoundland, but the shrimp boats had to navigate around wide ice packs.

18

1996: This day marked a record in Winnipeg for the longest consecutive number of days with snow on the ground: 156. The previous record was 153 days in 1955-56. In all, southern Manitoba had about one-and-a-half times the usual amount of snow this winter. Snowflakes the size of cottonball puffs fell in the city.

19

1997: Water filled the downtown of Trail, BC, after nearby creeks overflowed their banks. Thousands of volunteers, troops, and firefighters filled sandbags and dug culverts all day. Said one resident: "It's pretty spectacular. It's not really just water that's running. It's this chocolate pudding-like slt." Officials evacuated thousands of residents when a gas leak occurred.

20

1997: In Fort McMurray, AB, the Clearwater River overflowed its banks, washing away farms, industrial plants, and a mobile-home park. Although residents were warned of the pending massive ice breakup, the flood took many people by surprise. About 250 residents fled their homes; others arrived at work to find their businesses cut off by silty, smelly water. The Canadian Tire store sold out of rubber boots and hip waders in minutes.

21

1997: Floods across North America forced intense competition for sandbags. With a total of 33 floods and slides so far this April, the BC government decided to double their stockpile of sandbags to 800,000. Current snowpack conditions there meant that a sudden downpour, mudslide, or blocked culvert could easily trigger a flood.

22

Palm Sunday

Full Moon 

Weather Quiz  
What is occult precipitation?

23

- 1) dew
- 2) mist from fog
- 3) moisture from automobile exhaust
- 4) hoar frost that melts
- 5) water that enters the earth's atmosphere from space

Easter Sunday

1996: Residents of the area ravaged by January's ice storm got a break when Revenue Canada said that they could file in May without penalty.

30

1990: A 9-year-old child died while playing near the swift-flowing waters of the Walker Brook in New Brunswick. The tiny stream is a killer when it swells during the spring thaw. Over the past 50 years, 5 children have drowned there.

24

1998: Hot-line calls at the Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre jumped 35% after January's ice storm ravaged eastern Ontario. The centre's animal intake program rose about 20% in the 3 months after the storm, mostly from orphaned baby squirrels and injured birds.

25

1986: Gale-force winds capsized the 11-m fishing boat *Flying O* near Savary Island, BC, in Georgia Strait. Divers managed to pull a woman from the boat, but she did not survive. A gale warning had been issued 6 hours before the incident.

26

1984: Southeastern Saskatchewan and southern Manitoba experienced the worst blizzard in recent memory. The Brandon area received 40 cm of snow with winds gusting to 115 km/h—conditions that forced officials to close most highways. In the Morden-Carman area, freezing rain brought down 3,000 power poles and damaged countless trees. However, the storm did much to alleviate the low soil moisture.

27

1990: A storm dropped 15 cm of snow in 48 hours on Saskatoon, SK. The snow made roads treacherous and caused a 29-car pile-up on the Idylwyld Freeway near the 20th Street exit. The blizzard also closed the Victoria Bridge for several hours.

28

1875: A spectacular lightning storm with much "freakish lightning" struck Hamilton, ON. The crashes of lightning were so violent that houses shook at every flash. Lightning struck the police station. It also set a coal building on fire, burning to death 6 horses.

29

Last Quarter





APRIL

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# May 2000

JUNE

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Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

**1997:** High winds gusting in excess of 110 km/h wreaked havoc across southern Ontario. The Burlington Skyway had to be closed during rush hour, creating traffic headaches for commuters. At Woodbine Racetrack, officials cancelled the racing card because they feared riders would be blown off their mounts or horses blown off the track.

1

**1930:** Several citizens in southern Ontario reported seeing 2 large balls of red lightning travelling slowly across the eastern sky. In St. Thomas, a bolt of lightning hit a teenager as he was milking a cow. The force threw him against a stable wall, fracturing his hip. The pail of milk was also thrown into a stall; it landed right side up with scarcely a drop spilled.

2

**1998:** A windstorm turned the air in Edmonton brown with dust and caused havoc as tree limbs came crashing down, shingles blew off houses, and signs toppled. An elderly woman was pushing her walker up a wheelchair ramp when a gust of wind knocked her over. She was run over and fatally injured by her driver, who inadvertently stepped on the gas instead of the brake.

3

**1826:** A rapid spring thaw caused the Red River to rise nearly 3 m in 24 hours flooding dozens of shanties along its banks. Settlers scrambled onto their roofs until daylight when they could be spotted and rescued by their neighbours. The flood carried away houses, barns, carriages, and fencing. Hardly a house or building of any kind was left standing in the colony.

4

**1832:** From the journal of Methodist Minister William Wilson of Bonavista, NF: "The past winter was certainly the most severe that I have ever experienced ... since last November the frost has been intense and the thermometer having fallen frequently from 15 to 18 degrees (F) below zero ... the whole coast is completely blocked up with ice. The cries of distress, bordering on actual starvation, are truly appalling."

5

**1933:** Heavy rains and melting snow caused flooding throughout New Brunswick and eastern Quebec. Near Edmundston, NB, rising waters undermined a section of CNR tracks, causing a freight train to derail and taking one life. The Oromocto Flats were so inundated that a ferry had to operate over the submerged highway.

6

**1985:** At midnight, a huge surge of water and ice flowed down the West Channel near Hay River, NWT. Within 15 minutes, more than 1 m of water covered the roads. Everything happened so quickly that there was no time to sound a warning siren. One citizen retrieved several people from rooftops by canoe when he realized other means of rescue were not possible.

7

**1998:** A wildfire broke out about noon on a grassy hillside in Calgary. Not even a flash grass fire just metres from a golf green at the Elks Golf and Country Club could stop ardent golfers from playing through. As firefighters battled the flames, golfers continued undeterred. At one point, golfers moved a hole off a threatened green and onto the fairway.

8

**1991:** Warm temperatures as high as 20°C prevailed for 2 months over the Canadian Northwest. The ice-jammed Porcupine River, flowing west through northern Yukon, rose almost 10 m above its normal level at Old Crow, inundating the village and airport and cutting off power and communications. In the Mackenzie Valley, a thunderstorm with hail passed over Fort Simpson.

9

**1989:** A "dirt blizzard" blew across much of southern Saskatchewan. Winds gusting over 90 km/h whipped newly seeded fields into endless grey clouds of dust, reducing visibility to zero on many highways. The swirling winds toppled trees, damaged buildings, and grounded light planes. One RCMP officer said that "when tumbleweeds started coming in the twenties and thirties, they looked like a herd of bounding antelope."

10

**1998:** Montreal hired 200 mostly unemployed people to help clean up damage in city parks from last January's devastating ice storm. The so-called tree troopers took on a big job—about 80% of Mount Royal's 200,000 trees were damaged by the heavy ice rains.

11

**1882:** The PEI Museum and Heritage Foundation described it as one of the worst winters in living memory. In eastern King's County, there was so much snow that people were still using sleighs to get around. The winter snowfall total amounted to 526 cm, about 155% of normal.

12

**1971:** A blinding dust storm, whipped by winds of up to 113 km/h, roared through Rosthern, SK, and district leaving in its wake considerable damage to buildings, fences, trees, and motor vehicles. The high winds fanned stubble fires, which had been started during the day, spreading fire to several farm locations. Housewives found dust in their cupboards and clothing for days after.

13

**1925:** Ice jams on the Yukon River caused flooding in Dawson City—the worst floods ever in Yukon. The south end of the city was under 1.5 m of water, and some cabins were afloat. At the height of the flood, a steady stream of goods and chattels, and cordwood and logs flowed down the river. When a dead horse floated by, anxiety grew for island farmers south of Dawson.

14

**1998:** Near Steinbach, MB, up to 200 mm of rain fell in 36 hours. The pro at one golf course said he had not seen that much water on the course in 20 years. The rainstorm ravaged southern Manitoba. Rain washed away early seedlings and made the fields impassable for up to a week. The community of Ste. Anne ran out of "road closed" signs.

15

**1876:** At Rondeau, ON, a violent flash of lightning exploded at the schoolhouse. Nearly a dozen children were knocked down while playing in the yard, and one boy was killed. Though several girls were in the playground none of them was hurt.

16

**1998:** An intense 5-minute storm dumped hail the size of tennis balls on car lots and homes in the Dryden and Fort Frances, ON, areas, ensuring busy times for autobody shops, insurance adjusters, and roofing contractors. One new-car dealer said that every vehicle in his lot sustained damage; some had the back and front windows smashed.

17

**1931:** Two days ago in northern Saskatchewan gale-force winds tossed powdered soil into the air. Today, it started to rain again. There was so much dust in the air that "brown rain" beat down from the skies.

18

**1860:** A devastating tornado and hailstorm struck near Aurora, ON. Along a path nearly 1 km wide, the twister killed cattle and sheep, demolished homes, and tore up fences, trees, and orchards. It also sucked up half the water from Lake Wilcox.

19

**1940:** Some farmers in Markham, ON, were clearing trees uprooted by high winds. While some men trimmed branches, others removed huge clods of earth that clung to tree roots and large tools. In one incident, as the weight was lifted from a large shovel, the tree sprang back into an upright position hurling a "swan-diving" worker some 10 m through the air.

20

**1960:** The worst spring storm in over 30 years broke over Fort St. John, BC. The storm forced parents of a class of 38 grade ones to ride them piggyback from the church to the hall next door for their first communion. They were afraid that when the youngsters emerged in their fluffy dresses, veils, ribbons, and bow ties the blustery winds would blow them over.

21

**Weather Quiz**

What is keraunopathology?

- 1) the study of deaths caused by lightning
- 2) autopsy of bodies encased in glaciers
- 3) the nature of diseases caused by global warming
- 4) the science of the origin of deaths from tornadic winds
- 5) the repair of defects with tissue from another part of the patient

Victoria Day

22

**1953:** When a twister sliced across southern Ontario, a crew from an appliance store arrived at a home near Woodstock to install a new gas range, but they couldn't find the house to put it in. In another nearly demolished house, a glass chandelier on 3 delicate chains hung undamaged in the hall, and an unscratched china cabinet stood next to a demolished grand piano.

23

**1929:** A fierce gale blew into Brownlee, SK, toppling outhouses, sheds and granaries and scattering machinery, water tanks, and windmills. It was impossible for a person to see 1 metre ahead. So intense was the blowing soil, the sky over Moose Jaw turned from day into night.

24

**1896:** A vicious wind-storm in Windsor, ON, denuded 2 grand pear trees planted by the Jesuits 200 years ago. The wind also tore into icehouses, scattering ice everywhere. One family preparing for bed felt their house move. They prayed until the storm passed, then went outside where they discovered that their home had been pushed more than 3 m from its foundation.

25

**1997:** The 600,000-tonne Hibernia drilling platform, travelling at about 3 km an hour, was expected to reach its mooring in approximately 3 days. Heavy winds—one of the most serious hazards of the tow-out operation—worked to Hibernia's advantage, pushing the \$5.8 billion floating oil facility further ahead of schedule on its trek along the edge of the Grand Banks.

26

Last Quarter 

**1998:** Vancouver's International Airport recorded the city's wettest 24 hours for May in 50 years. The new record was 44.2 mm, breaking the previous 24-hour record of 34.3 mm set in May 1940. So far, 109 mm of rain had fallen this month. Even strawberry growers, usually pleased by moist weather, were saying "enough is enough."

27

**1845:** A major fire began in Quebec City, at the time composed largely of wooden buildings. Fanned by gale-force westerly winds, the flames spread quickly, engulfing 1,500 homes and entire streets. More than 20 people perished.

28

**1998:** Frost devastated this year's blueberry crop in the Saguenay-Lac-St-Jean area of Quebec. The 150 berry producers in one of Canada's prime blueberry regions predicted the disaster when the temperature fell below freezing. Growers estimated 80% of the bushes would have no blueberries, representing \$25 million in lost sales.

29

**1990:** A heavy rainfall set a new record for the greatest precipitation in 24 hours during May at Charlottetown, PEI, and Greenwood, NS. Totals were 70.4 and 60.6 mm, respectively.

30

**1998:** While 2,000 cyclists participated in Montreal's 14th annual Tour de l'Île, a storm accompanied by lightning, rain, strong winds, and cool temperatures (around 12°C) struck the city. Wags renamed the race the Tour de l'Eau (the Water Ride). When many competitors began to shake and their lips turned blue, others named the race the Tour de Chill.

31

| MAY |    |    |    |    |    |    |
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# June 2000

| JULY |    |    |    |    |    |    |
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|---|---|---|--|---|--|--|
|   |   |   |  | <div>1853: A cargo ship, the <i>Amazon</i>, became stranded on a sandbar protruding from Sable Island. The captain and crew landed safely on shore after dark. When they returned to the ship the next day, they found pirates, who had arrived on 2 schooners from Nova Scotia, looting it.</div> <div>1</div>   | <div>1998: A series of tornadoes raced through southern Ontario, leaving a patchwork of destruction and a handful of storm-related injuries. At Norwich, a tornado destroyed the parish hall and sheared off the steeple of the Anglican Church. One family's above-ground pool rolled down the street, and a couch ended up on the roof of a house.</div> <div>2</div> <div>New Moon ●</div>  | <div>1990: Northwest of Bobcaygeon, ON, a suspected tornado (there was no confirmed sighting or radar image) levelled a 2-storey barn, snapping 30-cm beams in half and scattering debris up to 30 m from the site. Amazingly, a 1928 Chevrolet antique automobile stored in the barn escaped damage, although beams fell on 3 sides of the car.</div> <div>3</div>  |
| <div>1989: Oozens of people in southern Quebec reported seeing diffuse glows, aurora-like spikes, and sparkling lights in the sky prior to a series of small tremors, followed by a 6.5-magnitude earthquake. In a few cases, fireballs a few metres across and lasting up to 12 minutes popped right out of the ground near startled observers.</div> <div>4</div>         | <div>1816: A major snowstorm occurred at Quebec City halting all road traffic. A widespread killing frost followed on the 10th and 11th that wiped out virtually all plantings in Ontario, Quebec, and New England. Ten days later temperatures climbed to the high 90s (°F) then fell below freezing again, a pattern that persisted during the "year without summer."</div> <div>5</div> <div>World Environment Day</div> | <div>1960: A wind blustering at 112 km/h destroyed a barn and levelled several other buildings in and around Clover Bar, east of Edmonton, during a 10-minute rainstorm. The farmer said the storm did him a favour since he was planning to tear down the barn anyway. It had been standing since about 1915 and had not housed animals since the winter.</div> <div>6</div> | <div>1964: A north wind blowing over 100 km/h created waves on Waterton Lake, AB, smashing boats against the pier. Main roads into the townsite were washed out, and 150 residents were evacuated to a local hotel. Flooding and bridge washouts closed most highways across the Belly River. The flood threatened a nearby Hutterite colony and killed more than 200 head of cattle and 300 sheep.</div> <div>7</div> | <div>1913: A farmer near Pangman, SK, described a spectacular wind- and hailstorm: "The cabin had been lifted upside down ... I rushed to where my stable and horses had been, they were gone ... After a week of riding I found my horses ... found the door and oatboxes from the stable, 3/4 of a mile away. My rifle, a 22 Savage repeater, was filled with paint."</div> <div>8</div> <div>First Quarter ☾</div> | <div>Weather Quiz</div> <div>9</div> <div>People who spend a lot of time outdoors know an early morning dew or frost is usually a sign of:</div> <div>1) a sunny day ahead<br/>2) a rainy day ahead<br/>3) a windy, cloudy day ahead<br/>4) a thunderstorm very likely<br/>5) fog by late afternoon</div>  | <div>1834: From a Hudson's Bay Company journal at Thunder Bay: "The rain poured down in torrents for the most part of the day. The inside of the Fort is so overflowed that a canoe might swim through the square ..."</div> <div>10</div>   |
| <div>1973: An intense wind- and rainstorm raced across the Ottawa Valley. When the wind felled a mammoth tree next to her driveway and demolished her car, a woman from North Gower, ON, remembered what her late husband had always told her: "When there is a big storm always move the car so if any of those big trees come down, they'll miss it."</div> <div>11</div> | <div>1990: A man in Grande Prairie, AB, managed to save himself from drowning by clinging to the branches of a willow tree for 20 minutes. The rampaging flood washed away his car. Passersby rescued him.</div> <div>12</div>  | <div>1958: High winds, accompanied by torrential rain and hail, swept across the area southwest of Arcola, SK. The storm blew down buildings, damaged up to 90% of the district's fall rye crop, and killed hundreds of chickens. But for the first time in 8 years, the empty sloughs were filled.</div> <div>13</div>   | <div>1919: A tornado struck Winnipeg, causing over \$1 million in property damage. The Children's Hospital and Strathcona School lost their roofs as a result of the twister.</div> <div>14</div>  | <div>1975: Rain began to fall in Waterton Park, AB, and continued until the 21st, dumping 180 mm. The rain, together with the mountain snowpack it melted, caused flooding along creeks and lakes. Roadways and telephone lines were washed out, and the townsite's campground suffered extensive damage.</div> <div>15</div>   | <div>1998: Charlottetown's <i>Guardian</i> newspaper described it as a "Charlie Brown cloud or in this case a Charlie Town cloud." The cloud drenched Queen's County but left the rest of the province virtually untouched. In Charlottetown, a lady stepping out of her stalled car found the water was up to her knees. The flood blocked roads, filled basements, and stalled vehicles in monster puddles that were more like lakes.</div> <div>16</div> <div>Full Moon ○</div> | <div>1929: A woman from Watrous, SK, was born on this day in the midst of a tornado. Fortunately, the delivery was in a room at the rear of the hospital as all the windows in the front had blown out. The woman's uncle-physician was attending her mother and apparently "had a difficult time making her stay in bed as it was shaking and vibrating as were the walls of the hospital."</div> <div>17</div> |

**1998:** A freak thunder-storm with torrential rains flooded basements in dozens of homes in Moncton, NB. Water levels ranged from a few centimetres to knee-deep. One resident didn't realize there was a problem until he went for a Popsicle in the basement freezer and stepped into a deep pool of water. Some homeowners blamed city officials for the flooding and asked the city to cover their insurance deductibles.

18

Father's Day

**1959:** A tropical storm packing wind gusts to 110 km/h blew into Nova Scotia. The resulting high waves capsized several fishing boats. Thirty-three lives were reported lost in what was described as the worst storm disaster ever to hit the Gulf of St. Lawrence fishing fleet. Haggard fishermen straggled into ports with tales of courage and terror. Some survivors had lashed themselves to masts.

19

**1983:** A violent down-burst of wind struck a mobile-home community near Selkirk, MB. Residents cleaning up the debris were also disturbed by intruders picking up souvenirs and taking pictures. One elderly woman peered into the window of a mobile home that had flipped on its side and remarked, "The sink's upside down." Said one resident, "I should start a T-shirt stand—I survived the Pine Ridge Trailer Park storm."

20

Summer Solstice 21:48 EDT

**1985:** Upon returning home late after a storm struck Hope Bay, ON, a farmer found that the roof of his dwelling had been blown off. Two of his children who had been sleeping upstairs were still in bed, but were now in the garden. He discovered his wife and other children in the milk house, where they had fled for protection.

21

**1891:** A tornado in Kildonan, MB, ripped off the top storey of a house and threw the sleeping family to the ground. Logs from the building were carried across the Red River. The storm also uprooted several large trees.

22

**1908:** A newspaper in Wellesley, ON, printed this account of severe weather: "... most terrific storm in the history of Wellesley passed over the village ... The row of beautiful massive willows along the face of the mill pond, known as lover's lane, was completely ruined, the trees being blown over or broken like pipe stems."

23

**1923:** Fire caused by a lightning bolt consumed a whisky warehouse at Corbyville, ON. It completely destroyed the building and its contents, including 375,000 litres of whisky. Alcohol released by the bursting barrels and drums poured into sewers connected with other buildings and for a time menaced the entire plant.

24

St. Jean-Baptiste Day

Last Quarter ☾

**1998:** Over the past week, 330 mm of rain drenched the International Peace Garden on the Manitoba-North Dakota border. The soaking waterlogged several thousand flowers in low-lying areas. Earlier in the year, frost had forced crews to replace several thousand flowers. Day trips to the popular tourist attraction were down by about 300 vehicles from the previous year because of the inclement weather.

25

**1930:** The car containing BC's lieutenant-governor and his small entourage left the road and went down a forested incline at Strathnaver, BC. A sudden rain had caused a freshet across the road. The skilled driver swung the wheel around and let the big automobile head down the incline, where it came to a stop in the deep mud near a creek. No one was hurt.

26

**1996:** In one of the most uncomfortable days ever in Winnipeg, high humidity with humidex values of 45° set off hundreds of smoke detectors and alarms. The fire department responded to 400 false alarms—an average day sees 60 alarms. It was so humid that several people called the weather office asking if it had rained.

27

**1803:** The *Lady Hobart* sailing northwest of Newfoundland struck an iceberg taller than the masthead and about 1 km wide. The crew went missing for several days. Rescuers presumed the men had drowned until they discovered them a week later marooned on shore in Conception Bay.

28

**1984:** A farmer in Didsbury, AB, was in an open field, comforting his dog during a thunderstorm, when lightning hit him between the shoulder blades. The dog died instantly. The farmer's plastic baseball cap melted on his head, and though his parka was intact, his shirt was torn between the shoulders. His blue jeans were shredded. Underneath, only the waistband of his shorts remained.

29

**1783:** Fires in north-western Ontario, described as widespread holocausts by the Hudson's Bay Company, darkened the skies for 2 months.

30

JUNE

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July 2000

AUGUST

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|  |   |   |  |  |   | <p>1985: An experienced parasailor died in a freak accident on a small lake about 100 km southeast of Calgary. Although the winds were calm at the time, a "mini-twister" no wider than 15 m suddenly appeared and enveloped the victim. The twister carried him to a field a half-kilometre away. He struck a barbed wire fence before landing and died on impact.</p> <p>Canada Day<br/>New Moon ●</p> |
| <p>1935: During a thunderstorm, lightning came down the chimney and spread through a home near Pangman, SK. The blast broke all the windows in the house and tore a door from its hinges. The lightning struck 3 people, knocking them unconscious; all of them suffered shock. The mother had her shoes blown off and 2 toes burned off.</p>              | <p>1856: Hail the size of butter-nuts came down in Lachute, PQ, with such force it penetrated roof shingles. One frightened woman ran outside where hail pelted her, leaving her face black and blue.</p> <p>Aphelion 20:00 EDT</p>   | <p>1998: Several days of rain left the grounds of the Calgary Stampede in mud and puddles. Constant drizzle forced fair-goers to move indoors to visit exhibits and displays. It even rained at the weather forecasters' Stampede breakfast—an annual event hosted by Environment Canada. The breakfast was a washout; a half month's accumulation of rain fell in 1 day.</p>                     | <p>1955: A violent windstorm propelled 2 empty boxcars on the CNR line at Stephenfield, MB, through an open switch and then 50 km to Sperling, where they derailed. Residents estimated the speed of the freewheeling cars was 65 km/h.</p>  | <p>1997: More than 7,000 lightning strikes flashed in Greater Vancouver and southern Vancouver Island during a thunderstorm. Lightning hit 30-m-high sequoia trees in Victoria causing them to explode and scatter huge chunks of wood into the ground for more than a block. Boaters spotted several waterspouts off the south coast.</p> | <p>1998: A pilot and his passenger-friend died when they crashed into the Milton Limestone Quarry on the Niagara Escarpment during fog and rain. The 77-year-old pilot had a licence to fly by sight references, which meant staying below the clouds in conditions with poor visibility. He should have turned around or landed north of the bad weather.</p>                                      | <p>1989: Smoking may have saved the life of a farmer from Glenavon, near Regina. When he ran out of cigarettes, he loaded his 2-year-old twins into the car and drove to town for a fresh pack. When he returned, his house-trailer and entire farm lay in ruins. The tornado also killed 200 chickens and injured a horse and steer so badly they had to be shot.</p> <p>First Quarter ●</p>            |
| <p>1846: A man from Cornwall, ON, dug a hole in his garden intending to plant an apple tree. Before he got around to finishing the task, a tornado carried an apple tree from Massena, New York, and dropped it into the hole. Further, the considerate wind blew all the earth, previously piled up, into the hole, thereby firmly planting the tree!</p> | <p>1998: A man and his 2 children near Charlestown, NB, suffered minor injuries after a confirmed F2 tornado swept them and their mobile home more than 30 m away. The trailer first slid sideways off its blocks, then came to a rest. More blasts of wind picked it up. During one flip, the cast-iron wood stove became airborne and struck the owner in the head.</p> | <p>1998: Afternoon humidity readings were excessively high across the Prairies. At the Saskatoon Exhibition, most complaints from people were about heat headaches and blisters from moisture in footwear. Some ride operators on the midway resorted to hosing down customers as they spun by. Operators were also running out of ice, and people often took breaks in air-cooled buildings.</p> | <p>1947: Without warning, in the midst of a severe thunderstorm, a twister struck Walpole Island in Lake St. Clair, ON. A father and his 4-year-old son had just gone to bed when the full fury of the storm slammed into their home. The tornado lifted the house into the air and dropped it upside-down. The mattress on which they had been sleeping landed on top of them, and the remainder of the building on top of that. The boy and his father survived.</p> | <p>1973: On Friday, the 13th, a 15-minute tornado ripped through Brighton, ON. The force of the storm was such that one woman described seeing a watermelon leap off a vegetable stand, hang suspended about 7 m in the air, and then shoot off down Main Street.</p>  | <p>1997: A severe thunder-and hailstorm tore between London and Kitchener, ON. The sudden driving rain caused several roads to wash out in New Hamburg and Punkeydoodles Corners. A weather observer near Shakespeare recorded more than 200 mm of rain in 4 hours. One resident said her husband went to the front door and saw 36 Canada geese swim by. "We're surrounded by water," he said.</p> | <p>1922: Two people near Prescott, ON, were seated in a tent during a fierce lightning storm when a woman remarked that maybe they should move to their garage for greater safety. As soon as the words were out of her mouth, the garage was blown down and its contents smashed. The tent passed through the storm undamaged.</p>  |

**1998:** Two people survived but 2 died while kayaking near Pond Inlet on Baffin Island. The couples from Toronto were caught in 4-m waves and high winds while rounding a treacherous point called Mt. Herodier on Bylot Island, known for its winds. Severe winds from Greenland often catch inexperienced kayakers off guard around the rugged inlets.

16

Full Moon ○

**1998:** Lightning struck dozens of transformers in Nova Scotia, causing massive power outages. At a home in Dominion, lightning created a hole in the roof the size of a basketball and blew a section of the chimney into a neighbour's yard. It also engulfed the entire upstairs in flames. Although the house was on fire, the daughters didn't want to leave for fear of being struck by lightning.

17

**Weather Quiz**  
Climatologists found, at least in eastern North America, that rain is more likely to occur on:

- 1) Monday
- 2) Wednesday
- 3) Thursday
- 4) Friday
- 5) Saturday

18

**1937:** A storm packing tornadic winds hit the Saskatoon Exhibition's midway, sending the crowd scurrying for shelter. The winds damaged several shows and twisted 5 of the 8 overhead illumination towers. Midway barkers turned from ballyhooing their shows to giving terse instructions to the crowd warning people not to jam and to leave the tents as quickly as possible.

19

**1921:** A cyclonic storm destroyed the Mission Church near Plamondon, AB. The convent, located next to the church, had 137 broken windows. An eyewitness said all he could see outside were flying chickens and lumber. A 14-year-old boy clung to a post to avoid being swept into a nearby lake. The winds did toss merchandise from several stores into the lake.

20

**1997:** At Oak Bay, near Victoria, tornado-like winds toppled a 25-m Garry oak tree. Otherwise, the weather was fine. Environment Canada described the event as a cold air funnel. If the ocean temperature is warmer than the air above, it can cause instability, resulting in small columns of air spinning at speeds of 200 km/h for short distances, especially after a cold front moves through.

21

**1920:** A full-blown tornado caused extensive property damage near Alameda, SK. At one farm, a buggy went over the top of the house. The wind also hoisted the hired man and delivered him dazed but unharmed in the middle of a field. At another place, winds completely stripped 16 horses of their hair and airlifted a 900-kg stallion about a kilometre. It was found uninjured with a piece of manger still attached to the halter.

22

**1868:** Lightning in Summerside, PEI, hit the steel hoops of a ladies skeleton skirt. The local newspaper reported: "Hoops might render your appearance attractive but when they attract lightning there is not so much fun in the matter."

23

**1918:** A deadly tornado killed 3 children when it tore through Vermilion, AB. When the storm struck, 79 pigs were being driven to a slaughterhouse. In the ensuing panic, the pigs all beat a hasty retreat for safer places.

30 New Moon ●

**1997:** Near Lyleton, MB, a severe storm caused a farmer to lose 500 hectares of what was promising to be one of his best crops in years. "The hailstones were just so big and there were so many," said the farmer, "[that] you could have driven a Ski-Doo across our yard."

24

Last Quarter ○

**1976:** A Georgetown, ON, couple took shelter from the rain in their MGB sports car when it suddenly started to rock back and forth. The twister tore off the car roof and blew away a guitar. It also lifted the car 2 m into the air.

31

**1969:** An afternoon rain- and windstorm, one of the worst in Calgary's history, drenched the city. It wrecked hundreds of signs, uprooted trees, and overturned trailers. Gusts up to 115 km/h blew down power lines, plunging some sections into darkness well into the evening. Piles of hailstones gave the landscape a wintry look.

25

**1978:** There were a few times over the years that the cash bingo in Mildmay, ON, came close to being cancelled, usually because of faults in the public address system. But each time a remedy was found, and the games went on. However, on this occasion, operators cancelled the bingo because hurricane-force winds caused an electrical power failure.

26

**1989:** Near Edmonton, a farmer heard what sounded like a noisy combine. When he turned to look, he saw a white cloud swirling behind him. He could feel the wind tugging at the back of his hair. The twister picked up spruce trees that were 7 m high. The farmer ran through the mud to his truck and drove to a greenhouse, literally outrunning the tornado.

27

**1935:** A tornado swept through the northern outskirts of Regina. The only casualty was an invalid woman who suffered severe shock and loss of her voice when the tiny twister lifted her into the air as she lay on a cot in a bell tent in her yard. Later, she was able to describe what had happened only through hand-motions. The bell tent was badly ripped but was not carried far.

28

**1997:** After being flattened by a huge dump of soggy snow on 21 May, the Golfdome in Edmonton was finally inflated by several high-powered fans pumping almost 20,000 cubic metres of air. Until the dome could be repaired, it lay on the ground and became a pond for hundreds of birds.

29

JULY

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# August 2000

SEPTEMBER

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|   |  | <p>1996: Warm weather along Nova Scotia's eastern beaches attracted several sharks. According to the International Shark Attack File, sharks attack between 50 and 75 people every year, far fewer than the number attacked by elephants, bees, or crocodiles, or who are hit by lightning.</p> <p>1</p>   | <p>1991: Severe thunderstorms caused extensive power outages in the Maritimes. Lightning struck several houses in the region, destroyed a barn on PEI, knocked out the traffic radio for Halifax Harbour, and killed 19 cattle at Millville, NB. Hail and strong winds also damaged cars, windows, and gardens throughout the region.</p> <p>2</p>   | <p>1888: Near Perth, ON, a lightning bolt struck and killed a man sitting on a barrel near an open door. A curious fact is that the penknife taken later from his pocket had been so strongly magnetized that it attracted steel.</p> <p>3</p> | <p>1969: A 70-km-wide hailstorm in and around Edmonton produced some of the largest hail ever observed in Alberta. The storm gave the Alberta Hail Studies Project a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to study hail-fall on a scale never seen before. A request for hail samples brought in nearly 300 oddly shaped hailstones. It took 4 days and 5 vehicles to collect all the samples.</p> <p>4</p>             | <p>1981: A tornado hit Kronau, SK, southeast of Regina, about mid-afternoon. One resident saw a small steel granary lift straight up into the air and shoot across the sky as if it had been "shot from Cape Canaveral." In less than 6 seconds, the tornado levelled 4 steel granaries, a storage building, and a garage-workshop.</p> <p>5</p>   |
| <p>1998: The forest fire in and around Salmon Arm, BC, was so hot that it burned the forest floor down to bare rock in places. Gusty winds pushed the fire at an incredible speed of 5 km/h towards Salmon Arm, torching at least 20 rural homes on the way. Temperatures within the fire probably surpassed 1,000°C, turning thickly barked trees into blackened skeletons.</p> <p>6</p> | <p>1949: In a blistering heat wave, unofficial temperatures reached 47°C in downtown Winnipeg. The heat was so bad that the police department permitted officers in cruisers and on motorcycles to take off their tunics, but not patrolmen on the street. Over 7,000 people flocked to city pools during the weekend, which was considerably more than the 30 or 40 people who braved the 40°C heat on the golf courses.</p> <p>7</p> | <p>1977: A tornado ripped a 9-km path of destruction through Mississauga, ON. Winds of more than 125-km/hr touched down repeatedly, tearing roofs from houses and toppling trees. One resident asked her neighbour, "Where's your roof?" Came the reply, "It's all over the neighbourhood." She had slept through the storm and was unaware of the situation until a neighbour phoned to ask if she was okay.</p> <p>8</p> | <p>1944: The worst tornado since the 1912 Regina cyclone struck Kamsack, SK. Although 291 dwellings of the 402 in town were wrecked and more than 100 business places destroyed, no one died. The winds lifted the railway express clerk from the station platform onto the tracks in front of a coming locomotive. Stunned, she crawled and squirmed back to the platform, only to be tossed back onto the track the engine had just passed.</p> <p>9</p> | <p>1976: Northwesterly winds off Baffin Island cooled by the mountains in the area brought 15 cm of snow to Broughton Island and Cape Hooper. Snow, even in Canada's north, is rare at this time of year.</p> <p>10</p>                        | <p>1980: The owner of the Lighthouse Pizza in Port Oover, ON, was serving a customer when a tornado struck. The serviettes popped out of the containers and were pressed against the screen windows. Several ice cream cones were driven into a nearby chain-link fence. Grease from a recessed deep fryer flew out and splattered the walls and floor. At this point, customers ducked for safety.</p> <p>11</p> | <p>1998: Orought conditions prevailed across Prince Edward Island. Cornwall's town council asked residents to put away their hoses and lawn sprinklers, despite parched lawns. All sports fields were off limits at least until there was enough rain for the brittle grass to grow. Children's soccer league programs were cancelled, and schools were trying to save the grass before it died and the fields required reseeding.</p> <p>12</p> |
| <p>First Quarter ☾</p>  | <p>Civic Holiday</p>   |  |  |  |   |  |
| <p>1924: A playful snowball fight among passengers occurred on the station platform at Temagami, ON, when the train stopped for 10 minutes. The platform was covered with a mixture of snow and ice pellets from a freak summer snowstorm.</p> <p>13</p>  | <p>1982: French, a golden retriever, knew what was coming when black clouds started boiling over the skies of Prince Albert, SK. He began yelping at the door and went wild. The ensuing hailstorm smashed several windows in the farmhouse and drove glass into the walls. French's owner credited him with saving the family. By raising the alarm, the dog gave them time to take shelter.</p> <p>14</p>                            | <p>Weather Quiz</p> <p>In past decades, people who lived in tornado alley built storm cellars for protection against tornadoes. What were these cellars called?</p> <p>15</p> <p>1) cyclone caves<br/>2) storm burrows<br/>3) soil busters<br/>4) scare holes<br/>5) "Toto" cellars</p>  | <p>1997: A line of severe thunderstorms hit the Lake Erie shoreline just before 9 a.m. with damaging winds, heavy rain, and frequent lightning. The storm struck the beer tent at Ontario's Leamington Tomato Festival. It simply picked up the tent and tore the fabric, which was rated to withstand winds of 105 km/h, into 3 or 4 pieces.</p> <p>16</p>  | <p>1998: In Edmonton, winds possibly gusting to 90 km/h knocked down a poplar tree killing a golfer as she sat in a cart between the 17th and 18th holes. The storm was so isolated that it only hit part of the golf course.</p> <p>17</p>    | <p>1973: A tornado clearly visible for many kilometres outside of Weyburn, SK, tore apart a 2-car garage. The wind also ripped up about 2 kilometres of heavy-gauge wire fence. Some farm animals felt the force of the winds, too. Although none were killed, 9 cattle were rolled around. One was left blind, 2 had their horns torn off, and 2 developed pneumonia and required veterinary care.</p> <p>18</p> | <p>1998: Provincial authorities had to kill 2 more black bears in Kamloops, BC, bringing the number shot in city limits this summer to 34—the same number killed all of last year. More bears than usual were coming out of the hills seeking food after a long, hot spell. Province-wide, there are more than 220,000 black bears, of which conservation officers normally shoot about 1,000 every year.</p> <p>19</p>                          |
|   |  | <p>Full Moon ○</p>   |  |  |   |  |

1998: Engineers launched 2 robotic aircraft called "aerosondes" from Bell Island, NF. It was a first for navigating a pilot-less aircraft across the Atlantic. Carrying just 40 litres of gasoline, they covered the 3,220 km in 24 hours flying at about 1,500 m altitude. The aerosondes are equipped to take meteorological observations such as wind speed and direction, temperature, humidity, and air pressure.

20

1970: Residents in Sudbury, ON, cleaned up the debris left by yesterday's tornado, which killed 10 people and injured 200. The vortex hurled a 93-kg man about like a rubber ball. Said the welding foreman, who was nursing a swollen face with black eyes, "I've been in fights in my time, but this was something else."

21

1711: Thick river fog and high winds on the St. Lawrence thwarted British Admiral Sir Hovenden Walker's assault on Quebec. Collisions in the fog wrecked 8 of 15 warships and drowned 884 men.

22

1989: Across Saskatchewan, rapid temperature fluctuations spawned a series of severe weather events from waterspouts to winds. A hailstorm in Hvas left behind "bumper-deep" hail piles that remained for up to 19 hours. Crop losses were extensive.

23

1998: Environment Canada and the Canadian Space Agency launched a giant 25-storey-high research balloon near Saskatoon, SK. It was the first Canadian-launched giant research balloon in about 15 years and carried packages of instruments to a height of nearly 40 km in the atmosphere, passing through the ozone layer in the earth's stratosphere. The instruments recorded the thickness of the ozone layer and measured CFCs and other ozone-depleting substances.

24

1998: A hoard of lemmings drove a resident of Cambridge Bay, NWT, from her home. Biologists said the warmer-than-normal temperatures this year were ideal for lemmings. The woman had set traps and patched holes in the walls when she discovered the creatures, but to no avail. After leaving the house for a week, she returned to discover that the lemmings hadn't left.

25

1883: A mighty volcanic eruption in Krakatoa, Indonesia, from the 26th to the 28th caused brilliant coloured sunrises and sunsets, unusually coloured suns and moons, and dustfall around the world, especially in western Canada, in the following months and years. The eruption destroyed most of the island and was heard up to 5,000 km away.

26

1974: A 12-year-old Vancouver boy saw a whirlwind from a block away. He tried to take a closer look but seconds later was clutching a sturdy tree for fear he would be blown away. "I hung on and could see shingles being ripped off my neighbour's house," he remembered. "I got scared and started running home, and the thing nearly knocked me off my feet."

27

1918: A farmer from Zeneta, SK, knew the approaching storm was going to be a bad one when he saw the walls of his barn sway. When he bent over to pick up the reins from his team of horses, the barn fell and knocked him unconscious. When he came to, he was lying in a lake 300 m away.

28

1998: Bad weather and rough seas at the site of the ill-fated *Titanic* forced 2 cruise ships with 1,700 passengers to return to port. The passengers, including 3 survivors of the fabled ocean-liner, had paid up to \$9,000 to watch salvagers raise a 10-tonne piece of the *Titanic's* hull onto a salvage ship. Technical foul-ups prevented the steel piece from being reeled in.

29

1998: Members of Hello's Nudist Club near Tofield, AB, were enjoying the summer-long heat wave, going 24 hours without clothes. The only downer was the mosquitoes. Besides sunscreen, the worshippers used gallons of bug repellent.

30

1954: The remnants of Hurricane *Carol* swept into southern Quebec from the northeastern U.S. In Quebec City, winds gusting up to 120 km/h killed 2 people and tore 50 yachts from their moorings, causing \$1 million worth of damage.

31

Last Quarter 

New Moon 



AUGUST

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# September 2000

OCTOBER

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Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

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|---|---|--|---|--|---|---|
|   |   |  |   |  | <p>1950: A funnel cloud travelled from Rycroft to Eaglesham, AB, causing extensive damage to crops, farm property, and machinery. At one farm, the tornado tore a door out of a young girl's hand. It then flew through the air shearing off several trees as if it were "a sharp blade of a knife."</p>  | <p>1998: The runaway Canadian weather balloon finally landed in Finland, 9,000 km from home. Scientists had launched the 25-storey helium-filled balloon outside of Saskatoon, SK, to measure ozone levels over Canada. But things went awry, and the unmanned balloon wafted across Canada and over the Atlantic, forcing controllers to reroute international commercial air traffic.</p> |
| <p>1998: Hurricane <i>Danielle</i> tracked south of Newfoundland passing by an automatic weather buoy anchored south of the Burin Peninsula. Winds reached maximum sustained speeds of 105 km/h with gusts to 140 km/h. Shortly afterwards, the wind gauge on the buoy blew away. Maximum wave heights (from trough to crest of the wave) exceeded 25 m.</p>                            | <p>1878: A horrific thunderstorm passed over Kingston, ON, and district. The lightning and sheets of rain went on for hours and frightened residents and inmates alike. All across the region, hay stacks, fences, and other property floated away in "waters deep enough to float a lake steamer."</p>                                 | <p>1881: Witnesses in London, ON, reported that by 4 p.m. "it was as dark as midnight, being quite impossible to see a yard ahead." Some fanatics declared that the world was ending, and others were certain the darkness was due to an approaching comet. The majority believed that forest fires were responsible. And they were right! The air was choked with smoke from fires in Michigan.</p>         | <p>1996: It had been more than 40 days since a soaking rain had occurred along the west coast of Newfoundland's northern peninsula. Residents were asked to pray for rain as water supplies were becoming dangerously low. They were also asked to restrict water for cooking. The reservoir at Daniel's Harbour was empty.</p> | <p>1998: Strong winds suddenly slammed into Vancouver Island's west coast, overturning at least 2 vessels, uprooting trees, and knocking out power. Three people suffered hypothermia after surging, wind-whipped waves flipped their sailboat near Tofino. The hovercraft responding to the rescue damaged its propeller when it was hit by debris whipped up by the high winds. The winds also knocked out power in parts of the Lower Mainland.</p> | <p>1998: Hot summer weather ruined the wild berry crop in Alberta and B.C., causing a wave of hungry black bears to forage for food a lot closer to urban settings. They were on porches, in alleyways behind restaurants, and in landfills. Fish and wildlife officers set up traps near beehives. One bear stopped golfers in mid-swing on a Calgary golf course.</p> | <p>1998: Overcast skies and heavy rain (43 mm yesterday and another 3 mm today) contributed to a big drop in attendance at the Fredericton Exhibition, although rain swelled crowds for the indoor performance of Fernandez the hypnotist and the Alligator show.</p>   |
| <p>1982: A small tornado damaged a farm residence near Wilmot, PEI. Two girls rushed to the basement for cover when the house started to shake. Their mother, who came home after the storm, said her frightened daughters thought it was the end of the world. After viewing the havoc left by the twister, the mother said to the girls, "Okay, now what <i>really</i> happened?"</p> | <p>1978: A severe thunderstorm did enormous damage east of Oshawa, ON. Vicious winds blew down trees and TV aerials. The wind carried a metal granary, anchored in cement, over a field and fence and then rolled it another 150 m. An identical granary, 3 m away, was unmoved. The storm also ripped a gas pump off its moorings.</p> | <p>1998: Balmy weather created carnage on central Manitoba highways near Narcisse. Snakes sunning themselves on busy highways were being flattened by the thousands of motorists driving to see the famous snake pits. Drivers ended up squashing more than 3,000 snakes under their car tires. A resident asked the province to temporarily reduce the speed limit in the area, but he was turned down.</p> | <p>1721: The schooner <i>Hannah</i> ran into rough weather while rounding the southern tip of Nova Scotia. Strong currents and drift caused the schooner to run aground on the Tusket Islands, and within a short time, the <i>Hannah</i> broke into pieces. No lives were lost.</p>  | <p>1998: Teams of wind-surfers landed in England after travelling from St. John's. They had been participants in a 3,000 km, 8-day race from North America to Europe, billed as the longest windsurfing race ever. Towering swells, winds up to 75 km/h, and a tight schedule had made life difficult for the 16 competitors, confining them—when they were not racing—to the Russian Icebreaker that had accompanied them.</p>                        | <p>1989: A 12-year-old boy, the sole survivor of a boating accident near Lac La Biche, AB, swam and walked for 14 hours in near-freezing temperatures before being found. Heavy winds had capsized the boat. The boy knew that his feet were getting dangerously cold so he began walking along the shoreline in shallow water to keep them warm.</p>                   | <p>1998: A big cougar was discovered wandering inside a downtown building in Victoria. An employee managed to trap the 3-year-old, malnourished cat. It was the sixth cougar sighting in Victoria in the past 3 days. The extremely dry summer had made it difficult for animals to find enough food in the wild.</p>   |
|   | <p>Labour Day</p>   | <p>First Quarter ☾</p>   |   | <p>Full Moon ☾</p>   |   |   |

**17** 1879: A terrific rain- and windstorm accompanied by thunder and lightning passed over Montreal. The strong wind caused extensive damage to property. In one case, the storm lifted a shed and slammed it down, demolishing it in the process. Twenty workers were inside the shed at the time, along with several horses and wagons. Strangely enough, only 2 of the men were injured slightly.

**18** 1975: An intense storm centre over southern Manitoba brought enormous rainfall to the province. Riding Mountain National Park received more precipitation in a single day than any station on the Prairies ever had before, at 217.2 mm. Flooding was described as the worst in living memory.

**19** 1846: A wicked storm, accompanied by a very high tide, became known in Newfoundland as the Great Gale of 1846. In St. John's, winds blew down the new Native Hall, moved the St. Thomas Church off its foundation, and destroyed King's Bridge and Job's Bridge. Eleven boats and 46 men were lost at sea.

**20** Weather Quiz  
Averaged over all of Canada, what is the driest season?

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

Last Quarter 

**21** 1938: After 4 days, over 100 mm of rain had fallen in parts of Quebec. Road department officials closed all highways to the U.S., and the railway cancelled a dozen or more trains heading to New York City and Boston. Montreal streets became deserted creeks. Several minor accidents were attributed to the storm, including an injured policeman struck by a motorist who was blinded by the driving rain.

**22** 1984: Heavy snows occurred on the first day of autumn across Alberta and Saskatchewan. Northeast of Jasper, 35 cm of snow fell, weighing down tree branches and power lines. The snowfall boosted much-needed soil moisture.

Autumnal Equinox 13:27 EDT

**23** 1980: An electrical storm caused power outages in sections of St. John's, and shut down the airport's instrument landing system.

**24** 1997: More than 40,000 ducks were poisoned at Pakowki Lake, a huge slough located 80 km southeast of Medicine Hat, AB. The botulism bacteria is believed to be dormant in the soil or water and activated by oxygen depletion. Lengthy bouts of warm, dry weather, a shallow lake, and a large amount of vegetation were the prime ingredients for an outbreak.

**25** 1950: Smoke from forest fires caused the sun and moon to turn blue over eastern Canada and the northeastern portion of the U.S.

**26** 1969: Thirteen people in the Road Runner Drive-In Restaurant south of Ingersoll, ON, escaped serious injury when a tornado blew in and demolished the building. Sections of roof were later found almost 2 km away. One patron said, "We began to get suspicious when the doors began opening and closing by themselves." Winds carried the restaurant's picnic tables across a highway into an open field.

**27** 1983: Extreme cold with temperatures as low as -28°C shattered minimum temperature records in the Yukon for September.

New Moon 

**28** 1874: Hot, dry summer weather in the Lennoxville region of Quebec left wells and rivers bone dry and vulnerable to the risk of fires. When a fire broke out in town, it became impossible to contain. Fanned by strong southerly winds, burning shingles were carried far and wide, starting fresh fires everywhere. Fires set ablaze churches, factories, schools, and hundreds of homes.

**29** 1998: The UN's World Meteorological Organization announced that the Antarctic ozone layer was improving. The buildup of man-made gases that has been chewing up the ozone layer for 25 years is levelling off. Ozone-depleting chemicals in the lower atmosphere peaked in 1994 and are now disappearing. The ozone shield should thicken in the next decade, though it won't return to 1980 levels for a half-century or more.

**30** 1920: Eda Owens took over from her husband as the official weather observer in Edmonton. Her job was to receive reports from 142 weather stations across the province and the North. Eda, who couldn't resist giving out forecasts if asked—though headquarters did not encourage this—became Edmonton's weather lady in local and national news reports. Dignitaries from all over the world visited her office.

Rosh Hashanah

## SEPTEMBER

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## October 2000

## NOVEMBER

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|---|--|---|---|---|--|---|
| <p><b>1922:</b> Drenching rains caused a large landslide at Elcho Harbour near Ocean Falls, BC. The heavy mound of earth buried several houses, including a bunkhouse where 5 men died. It also pushed one residence into Dean Channel. The house was found floating, its occupants alive inside.</p> <p><b>1</b></p>   | <p><b>1998:</b> A Labrador helicopter of 413 Transport and Rescue Squadron crashed while returning from a mission in Gaspé, PQ, killing all 6 of the crew. There were strong winds and turbulence at the time. The Weather Service Centre at Greenwood, NS, assisted the National Defence investigation team in assessing the role that weather might have played in the accident.</p> <p><b>2</b></p>   | <p><b>1909:</b> The crew of the little Newfoundland coasting schooner <i>Cedella</i> sighted 4 great moving columns of water in the atmosphere, rotating violently and sending up dense clouds of spray. One waterspout—let alone 4—is a rare occurrence in northern waters. At one point, the largest waterspout came within a kilometre of the vessel, scaring the crew.</p> <p><b>3</b></p>  | <p><b>1998:</b> More than 2,250 kg of explosives levelled Calgary's Bow Valley Hospital Centre complex, containing 7 buildings. There had been concern that a cloud ceiling lower than 300 m would cause sound waves from the blast to ricochet back to the ground and break nearby windows, but the ceiling remained above 300 m. Officials submitted details on the explosion to the <i>Guinness Book of World Records</i> for the most buildings imploded at one time.</p> <p><b>4</b></p> | <p><b>1964:</b> A resident of Tobermory, ON, returned home to find the steel roof of his large barn scattered all over the yard. The hay in the barn had not been disturbed. He also found several 2x4's driven into the ground. In the house, all kitchen cupboard doors were open, and the toilet bowl had no water. All evidence pointed to a tornado and hailstorm.</p> <p><b>5</b></p> <p>First Quarter ☾</p>        | <p><b>1893:</b> A gale grounded the schooner <i>David Stewart</i> on the west side of Point Pelee, ON. Five men, a small boy, and a woman were clinging to the rigging, but alive. On another vessel, 3 km out, there was no sign of life. It was impossible to rescue anyone, as a terrible sea was running.</p> <p><b>6</b></p>              | <p><b>1993:</b> Australia's rugby union overcame frost and low windchill to defeat the Canada B team, 40 to 3 in Calgary. Only 4 days after having to cope with 37°C heat in Los Angeles, the Australian Wallabies experienced temperatures around 2°C and light snow in Alberta. Locals were calling the visitors "all-weather wallabies." Large icicles hung from the metal benches where 400 spectators sat.</p> <p><b>7</b></p> |
| <p><b>1871:</b> In St. Thomas, ON, it was so dark that horses had trouble seeing where they were going. According to legend, hundreds of kilometres away in Chicago, Mrs. O'Leary's cow kicked over a kerosene lantern. The city was ablaze for more than 27 hours. Some 17,000 buildings were destroyed. News did not travel fast in the countryside so people wondered for weeks what had caused the uncanny blackness.</p> <p><b>8</b></p> | <p><b>1867:</b> The Great Labrador Gale was one of the worst storms recorded on the Labrador coast. Thirty-seven lives and 27 vessels were lost. The famous Captain William Jackman rescued 27 people, mostly women, from certain death aboard the <i>Sea Clipper</i>. Twenty-seven times he waded into the icy gulf waters and carried each and every one of them to safety on his back.</p> <p><b>9</b></p> <p>Thanksgiving<br/>Yom Kippur</p> | <p><b>1998:</b> One of the worst fall snowstorms on record dumped 25 to 70 cm of snow in southern and central Saskatchewan on the 10th and 11th. In Saskatoon, up to 3,000 of the city's 90,000 trees in public parks and boulevards were damaged. Ten days later, the temperature soared to 24°C in southern Saskatchewan. Golfers put away their shovels and dug out their clubs again.</p> <p><b>10</b></p>  | <p><b>1942:</b> The <i>St. Roch</i>, under Sergeant Henry A. Larsen, completed the Northwest Passage, arriving at Halifax 2 years after leaving Vancouver on 23 June 1940. The weather on arrival was identical to the day of departure: 10°C, overcast skies, and a trace of rain.</p> <p><b>11</b></p>  | <p><b>1984:</b> Gale winds from the remnants of Typhoon <i>Ogden</i> pounded northwestern Vancouver Island, the Queen Charlottes, and parts of the North Coast. Winds at Cape St. James reached hurricane force at 120 km/h with gusts to 165 km/h. Waves as high as 10 m capsized 8 fishing boats and drowned 5 men.</p> <p><b>12</b></p>  | <p><b>1998:</b> At least 5 head of cattle drowned after a rainstorm dumped 120 mm of rain in southwestern Nova Scotia along St. Mary's Bay. Farmers used the marshland for cattle grazing. This time, they had to carry hay to the animals by boat. The storms also left roads under a metre of water.</p> <p><b>13</b></p> <p>Full Moon ☾</p> | <p><b>1893:</b> A violent windstorm struck Ottawa and district. Barns, sheds, trees, fences, and walls were blown down for miles around. The winds tore the boathouse at the Ottawa Rowing Club from its moorings and deposited it on the opposite side of the river. Winds also bowled over the chimney on the extension to City Hall.</p> <p><b>14</b></p>  |
| <p><b>1878:</b> For 2 hours, lightning lit the skies in western Ontario. Lightning also struck and destroyed poles on the Montreal Telegraph Line, 5 of which were shivered from the top down. Several barns and fields suffered strikes and were burned, together with stables, outbuildings, crops, and machinery. The rain fell in torrents causing the streets of Teeswater to turn into good-sized creeks.</p> <p><b>15</b></p>          | <p><b>1961:</b> Flash floods ripped through the remote Indian fishing villages of Aiyansh and Greenville, BC. The heavy rains, coupled with snow-melting warm winds, caused an estimated 6-m surge in the Nass River. Floodwaters left more than 15 cm of silt in some schools. A logging company ferried 2 tonnes of blankets and clothing donated by citizens of Terrace.</p> <p><b>16</b></p>   | <p><b>1998:</b> It was an important day for Canada's national weather radar project. Contractors installed a pedestal for a satellite dish and radome tower at Bethune, SK—the first installation of the multi-year, \$33-million Doppler radar project. Like conventional radar, Doppler measures the type, amount, and rate of precipitation, but also the speed at which the precipitation moves. It also detects wind shifts, gust fronts, and storm patterns.</p> <p><b>17</b></p> | <p><b>1615:</b> From <i>The Voyages and Explorations of Samuel De Champlain, 1604–1616</i>: "A great deal of snow fell which lasted a very short time, with a high wind that inconvenienced us very much; nevertheless we did so much that we arrived at the shore of the place of the Entouhonorons, and the place where our canoes were hidden, which we found all whole."</p> <p><b>18</b></p>   | <p><b>1940:</b> A train plunged off a flood-weakened bridge across Lorne Creek, near Terrace, BC, burying the engine in the soft silt. Four people were missing and presumed drowned. Two weeks later, the body of one passenger was found 25 km away from the accident, caught in the branches of a tree 1.5 m above ground. A month later the engine was recovered, but no more bodies were found.</p> <p><b>19</b></p> | <p><b>Weather Quiz</b></p> <p>What weather disaster kills more people than it injuries?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) tornado</li> <li>2) hurricane</li> <li>3) avalanche</li> <li>4) tsunami</li> <li>5) waterspout</li> </ol> <p><b>20</b></p> <p>Last Quarter ☾</p>   | <p><b>1938:</b> Hector Glacier northwest of Lake Louise, AB, crashed to the floor of the valley, burying it in ice about 2 km wide and 4 km long. The force of the wind created by the avalanche felled an entire forest on the opposite side of the valley. The unusually long and warm summer weather may have heated the rocks and undermined the glacier, causing it to slide.</p> <p><b>21</b></p>                             |

**22**  
**1998:** Thousands of spiders enveloped trees, buildings, and vehicles in the Blackburn area near Prince George, BC. They ranged in size from tiny young spiders to those almost as big as a loonie. They were in homes everywhere. The mild winter of 1997 meant that many spiders had survived, and the extra warmth in 1998 gave them a chance to reproduce at an unusual rate.

**1998: Wet weather in the Maritimes had potato farmers in PEI worried about the harvest.**

The rain turned soil into a sea of mud, making it difficult for farmers to get onto their fields. Half of the 1998 crop was still in the ground, and the potential was there to lose most of it if the rains didn't cease. The rains did stop for 5 days, and harvest conditions improved.

**1933: Ottawa's heaviest October snowfall, 21.5 cm, downed trees and utility poles. It also doubled the travelling time between Ottawa and Toronto. The snowmelt helped replenish water levels of the Ottawa, Gatineau, and Rideau rivers, increasing river flows, to the relief of mill and power plant operators.**

**1998: Recovery**  
operations for Swissair  
Flight 111 continued  
during much of October.  
The oil barge *Sea Sorceress* worked  
13 days and was interrupted several  
times by bad weather—rough seas,  
strong winds, fog, and mist. To this  
date, all the major parts of the air-  
plane, including 3 engines, the  
fuselage, and the landing gear—  
or over 60% of the main compo-  
nents—had been found.

**1856: The *Henrietta*** bound for England with lumber from Quebec ran aground on the outer bar at West River, near East Point, NS. A perilous rescue saved 10 of the 14 crew members. The ship later broke up during a fall storm.

**1998:** According to the *Old Farmers Almanac*, Calgary was supposed to have had a dump of snow by now. Yet, it had been so warm (23°C) that some small grass fires ignited. Said the *Almanac*'s editor, "Sometimes you're right, and sometimes you're wrong."

**1998: On this day,** police across BC's Lower Mainland geared up for Halloween by adding staff and praying for rain. With Halloween falling on Saturday, police were anticipating more problems than usual. Rain means fewer people outside, leading to fewer potential emergencies or disasters. The fact that many people wear masks makes it easier for robbers to do holdups. And yes, it rained on Halloween—6 mm.

**New Moon** ●

**1870: A Nor'easter struck Cape Breton Island around 1:30 a.m. Accompanied by drenching rain and overflowing tide, the storm inflicted extensive damage to property and shipping. Strong winds and high seas swept away wharves and bridges, smashed vessels, shifted foundations, uprooted trees, tore roofs from buildings, and carried away fences. Some people lost both house and barn and were destitute that winter.**

**1917:** Hearing the door of an outbuilding slamming in the wind, a farmer from Clinton, PEI, ventured out to fasten it. As he finished the job, the entire building came down on him breaking his leg. He might have died had not a terrific gust blew up immediately and lifted the debris.

**1996: A violent wind-storm, likely a tornado, struck after midnight in Harrow, ON. In addition to other damage, the storm destroyed experiments inside Agriculture Canada's greenhouses where scientists were developing new strains of white beans and soybeans. A metal cart sticking out of a glass pane near the peak of one greenhouse testified to the storm's force.**

## Halloween

## Daylight Savings Time Ends

## OCTOBER

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## November 2000

## DECEMBER

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## Sunday

## Monday

## Tuesday

## Wednesday

## Thursday

## Friday

## Saturday

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|  |  |   | <p>1998: Victoria's <i>Times Colonist</i> began publishing weather forecasts 100 years ago. The first forecast called for "moderate to fresh westerly winds, generally fair, not much change in temperature." The high for the previous day was 52°F, the low 46°F, or 11 and 8 on today's Celsius scale—almost identical to the highs and lows 100 years later.</p>                             | <p>1945: One of the wildest wind- and rainstorms in Prince Rupert's history slammed into the northwest BC coast. The heavy rain came after several days of snow in the mountains. There were over 30 slides and washouts. The worst washout occurred at Salvus when a train with 141 American soldiers got caught between 2 rockslides for 2 days. Some 250 men were sent to clear the tracks.</p>                                 | <p>1877: The <i>Rondeau News</i> reported the following account of a fish shower near Harwich, ON: "I filled the pail (with fresh fish)... and having deposited my burden returned to collect the remainder ... As to whether these now famous fishes fell 6 feet or 6,000, I know not. One thing I know, that they were scattered for about three-quarters of a mile." In the previous 2 days, rainfall totalled more than 15 mm.</p>                           | <p>1978: As a motorist waited to enter a carwash in Regina, strong gale-force winds blew down the wall of a neighbouring building scattering cinder blocks everywhere. Despite extensive damage to the car, the driver escaped uninjured. Wind gusts in Regina exceeded 110 km/h.</p> <p>First Quarter ☾</p> |
| <p>1998: A small tornado touched down on top of a mall in Coquitlam, BC, damaging the roof and knocking over signs. Some pedestrians were forced to run for cover. The tornado's track extended about 3 or 4 city blocks. At its maximum intensity, the base of the funnel was 8 m in diameter.</p>  | <p>1990: An early snowfall of 17 cm in New Brunswick made it impossible to harvest the remaining 1,700 acres of potatoes. The Grand Falls region was the most severely affected area. Frost had set in early here and hampered the previous week's harvesting activities.</p>  | <p>1978: Four men died when a twin-engine plane crashed near Swan Hills, AB, during a snowstorm. Minutes earlier another small plane had crashed only 100 m away. All 4 aboard the first aircraft survived. Ice on the planes contributed to the accidents.</p>   | <p>1876: At Fredericton, the 2-day rainfall amounted to 125 mm. The intense downpour produced a washout on the New Brunswick Railway near Lawrence Station. The morning train to Saint John from Fredericton fell 5 m down an embankment, smashing several passenger and freight cars. One passenger was thrown out but escaped with only slight injuries.</p>                                   | <p>1998: About 12 barrels of oil (2 cubic metres) spilled into the ocean from the Hibernia offshore platform located 315 km southeast of St. John's. It was the most ever spilled at the site. Previous spills totalled less than half a cubic metre. Weather conditions largely determine when and how a spill will be contained and cleaned up. Fortunately, on this occasion winds were light and the seas relatively calm.</p> | <p>1983: A tornadic waterspout may have caused a marine accident in Miller Channel, a body of water between Flores Island and Vancouver Island's west coast. A 12-m wooden fishing boat ironically named <i>Storm Prince</i> capsized when it encountered swirling water and winds of at least 110 km/h. The 10 people thrown into the water were unable to grab their life jackets in time; 2 drowned.</p> <p>Remembrance Day<br/>Full Moon ☾</p>               | <p>1996: Large free-floating ice chunks ground the Fort Providence ferry to a sudden and unexpected halt, severing ground access to Yellowknife and several other communities for 6 days.</p>  |
| <p>1987: Three people died when a storm raged across the Maritimes leaving thousands without lights and electricity. Moncton, NB, was hit hardest with 12 cm of snow and winds of 70 km/h. In Saint John, NB, freezing rain closed schools and caused dozens of minor traffic accidents. PEI suffered power outages when winds gusted to 100 km/h.</p> | <p>1997: The season's most important pre-Olympic event for the Canadian men's alpine ski team was a washout at the Whistler, BC, ski resort. There was no natural snow and rains washed away any machine snow. Last season, the Whistler race was cancelled because it had snowed for 4 days straight. And in 1995, the International Ski Federation had rescheduled the world championships, sacrificing the Whistler meet.</p> | <p>1997: Metro Halifax's first snowfall (about 6 cm) caught a lot of motorists off guard. Sackville, NS, RCMP commented, "We're going nuts; we've got accidents all over the place." Tow-truck drivers had triple the usual number of calls for a snowy night in Halifax. But the Ski Martock owner was happy: "I've been in the business 21 years, and this is the second earliest opening in Atlantic Canada ever."</p> | <p>1998: Foggy weather and the risk of avalanches stymied efforts to recover the body of Michel Trudeau, who was swept into an icy mountain lake in BC on a skiing mishap. In a freak accident, the son of former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau drowned after an avalanche pushed him from a trail on Outlook Mountain into the middle of Kokanee Lake. His 3 companions survived the slide.</p> | <p>1626: "During the time you cannot see the earth; and our French people have even told me that they have drawn a sleigh in May. The length of time the snow lasts is such, you would hardly think wheat and barley could grow very well here; I have, however, seen crops of them just as fine as in France." (Letter from Jesuit Father Charles Lalemant to his brother in France.)</p>   | <p>1998: The dazzling Leonid meteor showers predicted to be more than 1,000 meteors per hour didn't materialize. Instead, meteors pelted the earth at a rate of 50 to 200 meteors per hour. Stargazers in southern Ontario had to contend with overcast skies. On BC's lower mainland, meteor watchers battled cloud and mist early on, but later had mostly clear skies. Alberta and New Brunswick had favourable viewing conditions.</p> <p>Last Quarter ☾</p> | <p>1931: The hourly average wind speed at Cape Hopes Advance (Quaqtaq) on Quebec's Ungava Peninsula peaked at 201 km/h—an all-time Canadian wind speed record.</p>   |

1998: A 10-cm snowfall in Thunder Bay, ON, led to 9 accidents when people used their fingers to clear the heavy wet snow from snowblower blades. Injuries ranged from loss of fingertips to loss of 3 fingers. Because the damage was from a snowblower, it was not a nice clean cut.

19

1998: The executive director of Winnipeg's Christmas Cheer Board blamed the weather—beautiful and no snow—for a short-fall in monies collected in 1998. As of today, the charity had collected \$39,000 compared with \$120,000 to \$140,000 to this date in a normal winter. The board delivers about 23,000 hampers to over 50,000 people.

20

1880: An extreme cold spell gripped eastern Canada. With one exception, this month was the coldest since the establishment of the Toronto Observatory in 1841. Between Quebec City and Montreal, 128 boats were frozen in the St. Lawrence River. On the upper lakes, several hundred vessels were locked in ice. Storms that preceded and accompanied the cold resulted in scores of wrecks.

21

1998: The second Grey Cup held in Winnipeg was played in weather dramatically different than the first game. In 1991, the temperature at kick-off was -17.5°C, the coldest in Grey Cup history. This year the weather was about as perfect as you could wish for a Grey Cup. The temperature at game time climbed to a record high for Winnipeg of 9.7°C. The normal for this date is -3.1°C.

22

#### Weather Quiz

Which day of the year is most likely to have an Atlantic hurricane?

- 1) 20 August
- 2) 15 September
- 3) 1 October
- 4) 31 October
- 5) 11 November

23

1998: A second wind-storm in less than 24 hours struck Vancouver Island. With winds in excess of 90 km/h, BC Ferries cancelled 2 sailings from 4 terminals. Hotels in Sidney were fully booked with passengers. Strong winds of 85 km/h are not uncommon in Vancouver, but they rarely come from the southeast. The storm knocked out power to more than 175,000 homes in the Lower Mainland.

24

1998: Regina temperatures climbed to an unbelievable 14.1°C, surpassing the previous record of 12.8°C set in 1962. The balmy, snow-free weather did not please towing companies, but CAA Saskatchewan was happy: "This is one business that when you do less work, you make more money." In Winnipeg, people had picnics in Kildonan Park. The St. Charles Country Club reopened 9 golf holes that had closed on 7 November.

New Moon ●

1667: "After the fog and rain and mud of the two past days, the weather today has been more agreeable. We are sure, however, that the farmers are grateful for the rain that has fallen, and no doubt would have been glad of a continuance for a day or two longer, in order that their exhausted wells might be fully replenished before winter sets in." (*Quebec City Gazette*)

26

1633: From Father le Jeune's writings to his Superior, Father Jacquinot, in France: "The winter which had already appeared in the distance from time to time, completely besieged us, for on that and the following day the snow fell so heavily that it deprived us of the sight of the earth for five months." (R.G. Thwaites, ed, *The Jesuit Relations and Allied Documents*, Vol 5, 1632-1633)

27

1998: Mild temperatures across southern Ontario had people of all ages abandoning Christmas preparations and thoughts. They were more concerned about in-line skates and skateboards than Christmas shopping. In the parks around London, children fed hungry ducks. Other people jogged, cycled, or in-line skated, some wearing nothing but shorts and T-shirts. The day's high was 14°C—1 degree short of the record set in 1941.

28

1997: Residents southwest of Calgary took extra precautions after cougars stalked and killed domestic pets and livestock in the past weeks. Last winter, the deep snow had made it easier for cougars to catch deer. But things were more difficult in 1997. With less snow, the cougars moved closer to homes. Other residents reported horses, sheep, and llamas killed by cougars.

29

1998: Warm weather hurt commercial fishing on Lake Manitoba. A few people tried to put their nets through the scraps of ice that were bobbing around on edges of the lake, but ended up losing them because of a south wind. One fisher lost 37 nets at \$100 a net. November is often the best time of the season for pickerel fishing.

30

## 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 |    |    |  |

## December 2000

## 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 |    |    |    |   |   |

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

**1996:** Heavy fog and poor visibility, not snow conditions, forced cancellation of the training run for the men's downhill and super-giant slalom races at Whistler, BC. Poor weather had resulted in the Whistler races being cancelled the last 2 years. World Cup downhills were staged successfully at Whistler for many years before the event was moved from late February to early December.

3

**1996:** Except for California, most of North America basked in warm weather. In the eastern Arctic, record high temperatures such as the 3.1°C in Iqaluit had residents walking around with parkas flapping open, complaining that it was too warm. Down south, Sudbury, ON, residents mowed their lawns, raked leaves, and even worked their flowerbeds and gardens. And putting up Christmas lights had never been easier.

4

**1992:** A storm in Nova Scotia dropped 26 cm of snow in Sydney and produced winds gusting to 117 km/h at St. Paul Island. The storm knocked out power and forced the closing of highways and the cancellation of ferry services. In Newfoundland, the storm caused near-blizzard conditions along the west coast and the northern peninsula.

5

**1867:** "In one of the most violent wind storms ... a very high kitchen chimney was blown down, and carried with it a great portion of the roof and the entire ceiling of the kitchen. Fortunately there was only one person, the cook, in the kitchen at the time ..." (*The Daily Spectator*, Hamilton, ON)

6

**1996:** Seven people died when a commuter plane plunged into the icy St. Lawrence River near Baie-Comeau, PQ, trapping half the passengers inside as the tide rose around them. The 3 survivors clung to the fuselage in 4 m of chilling water, shivering for at least an hour before being rescued by a private helicopter. Gusting winds and snow may have played a role in the crash.

7

**1988:** A major wildfire burned through thousands of hectares of prime timber near Hinton, AB. The blaze started accidentally during a winter burn to dispose of debris. Winds suddenly picked up out of the mountain valleys and whipped the flames out of control. Gusts reached 150 km/h, driving the fire across the top of the trees. Two hundred men and more than a dozen bulldozers fought the fire.

1

**1994:** A 4-year-old boy playing in a snowbank in his backyard in St. John's was buried when a tractor operator dumped snow over the fence. Numerous volunteers dug by hand for over an hour and located the child under more than a metre of snow. He was conscious but not alert when pulled out. The boy survived the ordeal after a stay in the hospital.

8

**1985:** Floods, resulting from high water levels and strong winds, drove scores of people from their homes on Lake Erie. One man came home to find his lakeside cottage dangling over a cliff, poised to fall into the lake. In another incident, neighbours found an 83-year-old woman standing waist deep in water on a picnic table after her cottage flooded.

2

**1998:** The warm December weather in southern Ontario caused mosquitoes that normally hibernate at this time of year to become active. Fortunately, they were not the kind that bites humans but serve only as food for birds.

9

First Quarter ☾

**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 13°C. At Fort Nelson, BC, the heat bothered huskies during annual dogsled races.

10

**1944:** A severe storm swept southern Ontario. At Toronto, the 1-day snowfall of 48.3 cm was the greatest on record. A total of 57.2 cm fell over 2 days. Twenty-one people perished—13 in the Toronto area from overexertion. Trucks and vans became ambulances transporting patients, including expectant mothers, to hospitals. A girl in Weston went to church on skis to be married.

11

**1998:** All but 2 of Ontario's 80 downhill ski areas remained closed, almost a month after the traditional mid-November start of the ski season. Many resorts had invested millions in snowmaking equipment to offset increasingly warmer temperatures, but it's useless without at least 2 or 3 continuous days of cold weather, between -3° and -5°C. Resort owners said the industry lost about \$10 million.

12

**1998:** The temperature at Regina rose to 6.2°C, not the usual high of -8.4°C. The warmer weather was a blessing for farmers. Livestock can graze outdoors, and weight-gain is better because the animals use less food energy keeping warm. Transporting the harvest to grain elevators is also easier. On the other hand, a cold snap kills pests like the rusty grain beetle, reducing the need for pesticides.

13

**1998:** Morden, MB, was Canada's hot spot at 12.8°C. At Winnipeg's Assiniboine Park Zoo, tropical animals such as monkeys and gibbons were frolicking outdoors, not hiding indoors. Even bears delayed their winter sleeps to enjoy the weather. The ice carvers considered setting up fans to cool the 3-m-high Santa, elephant, and lion sculptures but feared that the motors would heat the pavement and do further damage.

14

**1998:** To coax shoppers into at least thinking about buying winter sporting equipment and clothing, 2 Kitchener-Waterloo, ON, retailers trucked snow from arenas to dump outside their premises. A shoe outlet also dumped a couple of truckloads of ice-sheet shavings outside to promote winter footwear. There was a 2-hour wait for tee-off at the Grand Valley Golf and Country Club in Cambridge.

15

**1998:** After one of the warmest years on record, late-forming ice floes in Hudson Bay forced the polar bears to postpone their yearly trek north until now. The polar bear population of about 1,200 moves north to hunt and live on the Arctic ice in the winter, but the bears must wait until ice forms on Hudson Bay, usually about mid-November.

16

Full Moon ○

**1997:** A water-skier from Prince George, BC, braved 0°C temperatures under bright sun with just a bit of a breeze to take a short run up and down the Nechako River. The boy skipped school to carry on a family tradition started in 1980, when warm December weather prompted the boy's father to suggest water skiing in December.

17

**1997:** "Thundersnow" fell in Calgary, AB, bringing traffic chaos to the morning rush hour. There were over 200 collisions, including a couple of accidents involving more than 20 vehicles. By noon, up to 15 cm of snow had fallen in the city. Staff at the Fox Hollow Golf Course said the storm ended the longest golf season in its history.

18

**1997:** Seventeen separate forest fires broke out in southern and central Alberta—the first winter forest fires here in a decade. Strong chinook winds blowing at 80 to 100 km/h whipped the grass-fires across the tinder-dry ranchland, scorching several buildings and 1,000 kilometres of fence, burning to death hundreds of livestock, and leaving hundreds of hectares a blackened wasteland.

19

**1998:** Winter finally blew into Toronto. Only 4 cm of snow had fallen in the city this winter—the second-lowest total to date in 155 years of records. According to the Federation of Canadian Naturists, the lack of snow discouraged their (nudist) members from pursuing their activities. Enthusiasts usually enjoyed rolling naked in the snow, then running into a sauna to warm up.

20

**1977:** Hurricane-force winds drove massive waves onto the coast of southeastern Newfoundland. Waves surged over the breakwater and shattered shanties and wharves in the towns of Flat Rock, Pouch Cove, and Quidi Vidi Village. The surging waves lifted boulders off the beach and scattered them along roads. A floating oil drum was deposited on top of a 25-m cliff.

21

**1989:** With the outside temperature falling to -22°C, a Toronto woman gave birth, unexpectedly, inside the family car when she and her husband were unable to make it to the hospital in time. They decided to call the baby Celica after the car in which the child was born.

22

**1998:** Thick fog and freezing rain grounded thousands of holiday travellers across southern Ontario. An Air Canada Boeing 767 from Montreal skidded on ice and slid off the runway at Toronto's Pearson Airport. When customers at a Hamilton donut shop had to wait for a generator to kick in before getting their morning coffee, fistfights almost broke out in the drive-through.

23

Last Quarter ☾

**1993:** A storm brought 30 to 50 cm of snow to most of Newfoundland, except over southeastern areas where 30 to 40 mm of rain fell. The next day, another storm dumped an additional 20 to 30 cm of snow over the island.

24

**1998:** On Christmas Eve, a storm centre brushed the Atlantic shoreline leaving 10 cm of light fluffy snow in Halifax. With virtually no wind, the snow stayed on the trees enhancing lighting. Christmas day dawned sunny and remained so all day. And with temperatures climbing to a comfortable -2.5°C, it was hard to imagine more perfect Christmas weather anywhere.

25

**1989:** Saskatoon, SK, recorded a 46-degree temperature switch from a record -41.9°C on the 20th to a near-record high of 4.1°C on the 26th. Farmers grew concerned for their winter wheat crops when up to 8 cm of snow melted from the fields, exposing the earth in some spots.

26

Weather Quiz

What is a friagnen?

27

- 1) Russian term for hockey "free agents"
- 2) solution used to seed clouds in hurricanes
- 3) new substance said to be depleting the Earth's ozone layer
- 4) lingering high pressure area that soon becomes a cesspool of chemicals
- 5) cold snap in Brazil

**1997:** The annual Christmas bird count in Yellowknife was a huge success. Due to the mild weather, birders saw a record 13 species rather than the usual 7 or 8, as well as all-time high counts of individual birds. The 477 willow ptarmigan sighted this year eclipsed the previous mark of 374. Unfortunately, a bird hunter shot one of the bird counters. She was unhurt.

28

**1998:** Frank and Edna, the wayward Sandhill cranes featured in the movie *Fly Away Home* were reluctant to do just that, still hanging around Kingston, ON, instead of making the 800-km trek from Lake Ontario to their wintering grounds in Virginia. Since leaving Port Perry, ON, 2 weeks ago, they were sighted in Peterborough, Belleville, and Picton where they were reported gorging on zebra mussels.

29

**1993:** A major storm struck the Maritimes on its way to Newfoundland, dumping up to 44 cm of snow in the Halifax-Dartmouth area. Blizzard conditions were widespread with winds gusting in excess of 100 km/h. East Point, PEI, reported a wind of 128 km/h gusting to 189 km/h. All forms of transportation were delayed or cancelled.

30

31

Christmas Day  
New Moon ●

Boxing Day



# WEATHER QUIZ ANSWERS

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| January – 5)   | Alberta                                       |
| February – 2)  | visibility                                    |
| March – 5)     | Newfoundland                                  |
| April – 1)     | dew   |
| May – 1)       | the study of<br>deaths caused<br>by lightning |
| June – 1)      | a sunny day<br>ahead                          |
| July – 5)      | Saturday                                      |
| August – 4)    | scare holes                                   |
| September – 2) | spring  |
| October – 3)   | avalanche                                     |
| November – 2)  | 15 September                                  |
| December – 5)  | cold snap in<br>Brazil                        |