

DECEMBER

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# January 2001

FEBRUARY

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Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

**1878:** Montreal, PQ, weather was described as "genial." A crowd gathered in the harbour for a regatta. About 600 people boarded a steamboat for a pleasure trip to Boucherville, PQ. A reporter, noting the enthusiasm for the boat race, remarked that in summer this event would "scarcely merit a paragraph in the most obscure journal." On 4 January, 40 cm of snow fell, and the temperature dipped to -21.1°C.

New Year's Day

**1998:** In the Edmonton, AB, suburb of Fort Saskatchewan, there is a bylaw making it illegal to leave the key in the ignition of your vehicle. About 35 vehicles stolen in the city during this first week of January had been left running and unattended, representing nearly one-third of stolen vehicles.

**2000:** With 3 weeks to go and only 9 cm of snow on the ground, organizers of Winnipeg's Le Festival du Voyager decided to make snow for the first time in the Manitoba festival's 31-year history. Normally, the city needs about 300 truckloads of snow to do the job. But this winter the city had only found 48 truckloads. The festival borrowed a snowmaking machine to make up the difference.

**1837:** From a letter in a Dunnville, ON, history book: Last night the thermometer in my bedroom was at 5°F (-15°C) ... I breathed upon a hammer with the intention of thawing it. When my tongue touched the steel, it stuck so tight it pulled the skin off. Several poultry have frozen to death; others have their toes frozen, which completely prevents them from doing any damage among the seeds in spring.

First Quarter ☾

**Weather Quiz (answers, inside back cover)**  
A geographer from Yale University described the most desirable climate as having an average winter temperature around 3.3°C and a summer average not far from 16°C. Based on those criteria, which of the following cities has an ideal climate?  
1) Victoria, BC  
2) Penticton, BC  
3) Medicine Hat, AB  
4) Halifax, NS  
5) St. John's, NF

Full Moon ☾

**1999:** Panicked residents in Toronto, ON, faced with leaking or collapsing roofs from January's record snowfall, bombarded roofing contractors for help. Warmer temperatures had caused massive loads of snow to begin thawing and turned them into heavy loads that strained roofs and overflowed eavestroughs.

Last Quarter ☾

**2000:** In London, ON, a half-century weather record melted under a high of 11.7°C. It was so warm that some sap ran in maple trees—a full 7 weeks earlier than producers can recall from previous years. A winter butterfly emerged from its cocoon, startling residents.

**1878:** A severe windstorm struck Saint John, NB, knocking down several chimneys in the downtown. The winds blew lumber off the wharves and broke glass in buildings. Outside town, the storm blew away fences, trees, and signboards. In one incident, a 2-storey-high barn collapsed. A horse inside the building escaped uninjured when the owner succeeded in lifting up a portion of one side.

**1997:** Flooding in Truro, NS, caused massive traffic problems as the Salmon River overflowed its banks, cutting off 2 roads connecting the town with neighbouring Bible Hill. Some motorists unwilling to take the 10-km detour braved metre-deep water that had collected beneath a railway overpass.

**2000:** A Grande Prairie, AB, autoparts store promised a refund to anyone buying tires between 1 October and 23 November 1999 if more than 30 cm of snow fell in December. By month's end, a paltry 14.8 cm had fallen. Five of the last 20 Decembers had a total above 30 cm; in 58 years of records 24 Decembers had had 30 cm or more snow. A special weather insurance policy covers the promotion.

Perihelion 04:00 EST

**2000:** A winter thunder and lightning show is unusual in Canada. On this night, a loud, booming thunderstorm could be heard clear across Nova Scotia. Some houses in Halifax shook and windows rattled. Many callers to the weather office said the noise frightened their children. The lightning and racket also sent dogs and cats scurrying to corners or under beds.

**1998:** The "ice storm of the century" prompted the postponement of the Rolling Stones concert at Olympic Stadium. Police in Montreal, PQ, had made the request because they were concerned about thousands of Stones fans travelling along icy roads and sidewalks to the concert. Officials also found a tear in the flexible roof at Olympic Stadium caused by the buildup of ice.

**1991:** In Saskatchewan, the temperature dipped below zero for 26 straight days and counting, forcing even the toughest westerners indoors. The temperature, which sometimes fell as low as -39°C, was responsible for severe frostbite, broken water mains, and frozen cars. The normal high for this time of year is -12°C; the normal low is -23°C.

**1916:** Weather was indirectly responsible for one of the worst railway accidents in Canadian history. Across southern Manitoba, snow blocked roads and slowed trains. In the Brandon rail yards, traffic nearly halted when ice fog enveloped all the locomotives. Suddenly, a locomotive emerged out of the fog and rammed into the caboose of a snow train crowded with workers. The crash killed 19.

**1987:** A blinding snow-storm stranded countless motorists across southern Ontario during evening rush hour. Winds whipping 15 cm of snow over Metro Toronto reduced visibility to zero. Many stranded commuters had to spend the night in downtown hotels. Pizza Pizza could not honour its guarantee to deliver within 30 minutes or pick up the tab.

**2000:** A Halifax, NS, man was fined for refusing to pay the \$3 toll on the Cobequid Pass Highway. He claimed he was protesting against poor snow removal—there was so much snow he couldn't tell the road from the shoulder. An Environment Canada representative testified that the nearest reporting station indicated only 1 cm of snow on the date and 2 cm the previous day but said that conditions in the area can vary significantly.

**2000:** A huge diesel tanker crashed through an ice-and-snow road that crosses the Mackenzie River, NWT. The truck driver missed or ignored warning signs that the weight limit for the crossing was 4,000 kg—much less than his rig's 40,000-kg load. After the accident, the driver walked to the ferry crossing a few kilometres away in temperatures hovering at -35°C.

**2000:** The Geological Survey of Canada received calls from people in Ontario and Quebec reporting earth tremors. A seismologist ruled out an earthquake, explaining that the sudden deep freeze after weeks of mild, wet weather had triggered earth contractions strong enough to shake houses. With little or no snow to insulate the ground, the cold penetrates more deeply and quickly. One woman said that it felt as if dynamite had gone off.

**2000:** A wild, weird storm slammed into Atlantic Canada. The blizzard, the second in 5 days, dumped up to 54 cm of snow in places. But it was water—not white stuff—that caused most problems. In Charlottetown, PEI, hurricane-force winds and the highest tides of the season caused harbour water to surge ashore, prompting city work crews to build snowbanks to hold back the rising seawater.

21

**2000:** The largest wave to strike Newfoundland since the 1929 tsunami in the Burin Peninsula smashed into the south coast today. The freak wave was 15 to 18 metres high and travelled at 90 to 110 km/h. No lives were lost, but the storm caused in excess of \$500,000 damage to private, commercial, municipal, and federal property in the Channel Head area.

22

**2000:** A bizarre result of the severe winter storm that struck the Maritimes 2 days ago was the discovery that 2 cottages at Tatamagouche Bay, NS, had been lifted from their foundations, turned around, and deposited hundreds of metres down the beach. One cottage owner said, "We had bottles on a shelf over the kitchen cabinets. None of the bottles had fallen off the shelf. They were still sitting there."

23

**2000:** Mayor Mel Lastman of Toronto, ON, offered PEI help to dig out of its snowfall, 1 year after Islanders had helped Toronto dig out from under its worst snowstorm in 130 years. Mel faxed Premier Pat Binns with the offer. "Now in your time of distress, our city stands ready to help should you need it." He declared PEI Day in Toronto. The premier politely declined the offer.

24

Chinese New Year

New Moon ●

**1905:** The fiercest nor'easter storm in 20 years raged across New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. From 18 to 45 cm of snow blocked the roads and railway, preventing milk delivery and travel. Along Water Street in Digby, NS, at high tide, the spray reached buildings on the west side, and heavy coatings of ice destroyed many ornamental trees. The storm forced businesses everywhere to close.

25

**1971:** A storm that lasted 5 days and dumped 62 cm of snow on London, ON, was the city's worst blizzard in decades. Three people died. On Highway 401, hundreds of gallons of milk had to be dumped. And when a trailer carrying 8,000 gallons of raw whisky overturned, police had to be called to guard it. Service centres were so crowded children slept on storeroom shelves.

26

**1996:** Two elderly sisters froze to death on Ontario's windswept Lake Simcoe after escaping from a car that broke through the ice. The women were heading home from bingo when they became stranded on the lake. Rescuers searched frantically for them in zero visibility and -30°C windchill.

27

**1966:** Outdoor construction in Winnipeg, MB, was at least 3 weeks behind because of the cold. One construction manager said that over a dozen of his men had been treated for frozen fingers or cheeks in the past month. One fellow was so worried about freezing that he pulled a fire alarm in order to get some help. The judge was not impressed, sentencing him to a \$100 fine and costs or 2 months in jail.

28

**2000:** A man was sitting in his home at Barr Haven near Ottawa, ON, when something hit his roof with a loud bang. The next day he found a basketball-shaped iceball outside the dining room window. It weighed about 5 kg. Embedded in it were tiny shingle stones and tar. The ice likely dropped when an airplane landed at the nearby Ottawa International Airport.

29

**1893:** From a diary of a Vancouver, BC, resident: "It was certainly cold ... business was practically suspended except for the plumbers because pipes were bursting everywhere. There was a shortage of coal and other fuel, and many people suffered severely since most of the houses were not built for such weather. The Fraser River was frozen over solid to its mouth."

30

**2000:** September 1999 until the end of January 2000 was the driest period in southern Alberta in the past 115 years. January temperatures were near normal, but December was 8°C above average. So far this winter, Calgary had received only 12 cm of snow with most of it falling during 1 week in January.

31

## JANUARY

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# February 2001

## MARCH

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## Sunday

## Monday

## Tuesday

## Wednesday

## Thursday

## Friday

## Saturday

				<p><b>1999:</b> A thin layer of ice formed on Winnipeg streets, leading to dozens of car accidents in the Manitoba capital. The injured, including those with concussions and fractures, had to wait a long time for paramedics—several of whom were nursing their own injuries. Even a weatherman was late for work, taking 55 minutes instead of the usual 15. Manitoba Public Insurance processed 850 claims over 8 hours—the busiest day of the winter.</p> <p>First Quarter ☾</p>	<p><b>Weather Quiz</b></p> <p>Which of the following names is <i>not</i> an authentic name of a groundhog used for predicting weather on Groundhog Day?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) General Beauregard Lee (Atlanta)</li> <li>2) Balzac Billy (Alberta)</li> <li>3) Buckeye Chuck (Ohio)</li> <li>4) The Cajun Groundhog (Louisiana)</li> <li>5) Halifax Hal (Nova Scotia)</li> </ol> <p>Groundhog Day</p>	<p><b>1969:</b> A 28-day stretch of -18°C or lower nighttime temperatures ended in Alberta. In Grande Prairie, the average minimum temperature for January was -47.2°C. Officials had to cancel dozens of hockey games and close schools. Even postal workers and garbage collectors stayed home. Exhaust from buildings and vehicles left running day and night helped cast a blanket of ice fog on the city. Not one building permit was issued by city hall that month.</p>
<p><b>2000:</b> The Nunavut Territory Hockey Association reported that the number of hockey players registered with the association had dropped by more than 50% from last year. It blamed global warming for the decline. In Rankin Inlet, for example, hockey didn't start until the end of December. Three years ago, flooded ice would have been ready by the end of November.</p>	<p><b>1999:</b> People working in the small Spanish-built tollbooths on New Brunswick's user-pay highway complained about the unheated, non-insulated structures. Some politicians wondered why a New Brunswick company with an understanding of the local climate could not have been found to build the "cabanas." Officials promised to do something to make the booths warmer. (A year later the premier cancelled highway tolls.)</p>	<p><b>2000:</b> Apparently, 1999 was a bumper year for Canadian crop circles—those strange patterns that seem to mysteriously appear in farmers' fields. Circles Phenomenon Research Canada stated that 20 circular and geometric figures occurred in 6 provinces, a 33% increase over 1998. Some of the largest and most impressive formations showed up in Saskatchewan. The longest crop circle, almost 100 metres, appeared near Hagersville, ON.</p>	<p><b>2000:</b> A father and his 2 children from South Africa living in Prince Rupert, BC, suffer from porphyria, a rare genetic disease that leaves the body acutely vulnerable to light and heat. They are seeking permanent residency in Canada. In hot, sunny South Africa they had to stay indoors all day. In cool, cloudy, and damp Prince Rupert—the least sunny place in Canada—the children are always able to play outside. "It has been heaven," said the girls' mother.</p>	<p><b>1959:</b> Across Nova Scotia, a deep freeze with temperatures dipping to -22°C, accompanied by 55-km/h gales, halted outside work and closed several schools. At 2 Cape Breton coal mines, not enough miners showed up for work because they had to stay home and stoke the fires or leave the water running in order to keep water pipes from freezing. Homeowners swamped plumbing and heating companies with calls to thaw frozen pipes and revive broken furnaces.</p> <p>Full Moon ☾</p>	<p><b>1934:</b> A butcher from Ridgetown, ON, opened his shop one morning when the temperature outdoors was -29.4°C. He stepped inside his big icebox and found it was decidedly more comfortable there than in the shop itself, which was near-freezing. Except for the few times when customers came in for something, the proprietor and his friends spent the rest of the day in comparative comfort among the butcher's supply of steaks and chops.</p>	<p><b>1998:</b> In the midst of the warmest February on record, Windsor, ON, saved more than \$1.25 million on its snow-removal budget thanks to an El Niño winter. Customers started visiting garden nurseries; golf clubs reported dozens of calls from anxious golfers; and retailers specializing in inline skates started stocking shelves 6 weeks early. The visitor centre at Point Pelee National Park was crowded with birders and walkers. People observed birds seldom seen here in winter, such as redbird blackbirds, robins, and phoebes.</p>
<p><b>1883:</b> A Mounted Police constable on patrol near Cardston, AB, wrote in his diary: "Got a couple of miles away when it started to storm ... I could not see 20 yards ahead. I dug a hole in a snow bank and laid down to take a nap but the mouth drifted shut and I had hard work kicking out, so I took the blanket and lay on the level and let snow drift over me till morning when it cleared up a little and I could see Chief Mountain. [From the Historical Society of Alberta]"</p>	<p><b>1999:</b> Despite the record snowfall of 118 cm that buried Toronto, ON, the city still had to truck in snow for its winter carnival. About 750 tonnes of snow was brought to Mel Lastman Square for the children's fantasy snow playground. Fresh snow was also trucked in for a ski centre in the city.</p>	<p><b>1999:</b> Across southern Alberta strong winds whipped up massive grass fires across the dry, wind-swept prairie. In Fort Macleod, residents watered down houses and evacuated equipment and livestock out of harm's way during the fire's peak. Armies of volunteer fire fighters, Hutterites, and scores of other farmers and ranchers used tractors, earthmovers, and watertank trucks to battle the flames. In some places, 1-metre-deep drifts stopped the fire.</p>	<p><b>2000:</b> Two teenagers from L'Ange-Gardien, PQ, were walking along the Lemoine River unaware of a dangerous overhang of snow, 35 metres above them. When an avalanche buried them in 60 cm of snow, a neighbour's Labrador retriever, Stub, dug out one mitt and whined frantically to attract the rescuers' attention. It was too late for the boy, who was found standing, his hands raised above his head. The girl survived with some hypothermia and minor injuries.</p> <p>Valentine's Day Last Quarter ☾</p>	<p><b>1998:</b> Emissions from a chemical plant in Fort Saskatchewan, AB, drifted into Edmonton, prompting public complaints about smelly air. Winds were very light. The hazy air contained minute amounts of sulphur dioxide, hydrogen sulphide, and carbon monoxide in a temperature inversion, in which colder air is trapped near the ground while warmer air stays above the cold air.</p>	<p><b>2000:</b> In Montreal, 60 cm of snow in 5 days forced the cancellation of Operation Snail, a protest planned by Quebec truckers angry about fuel prices and poor working conditions. The truckers had planned to drive their rigs at the minimum highway speed limits to put pressure on their clients and on the provincial government. The snowfall raised concerns about safety, and because traffic would be slowed in any case, the protest didn't make sense.</p>	<p><b>2000:</b> Mike Harris attacked the federal job grants scandal at Human Resources Canada by pointing out that even Wiarton Willie got a \$50,000 grant. Although people in Wiarton were upset over what they saw as an unwarranted attack on their biggest tourist attraction, Premier Harris did not apologize for singling out Ontario's favourite weather-forecasting groundhog as unworthy of a federal grant. And, he said, there is no such thing as bad publicity.</p>

**1999:** Mild winter temperatures and lack of deep snow had a positive effect on New Brunswick's wildlife. The deer population increased. As a rule, deep snow hides food and makes it difficult for deer to escape from predators. In the 1960s and 1970s, harsh winters with deep snow cover caused deer populations to plummet. Mild winters in the 1980s, however, saw populations soar to between 26,000 and 30,000.

18

**1961:** Along the British Columbia coast, February was already the wettest on record and well on its way to establishing more weather records for rain and gloom. Since the first of February, more than 196.1 mm of rain had fallen in Vancouver and 588.8 mm at Seymour Falls. At Vancouver, rain occurred every day this month except one, shattering the previous record of 22 days.

Heritage Day  
Family Day (Alberta)

19

**1979:** For the first time on record, all 5 Great Lakes froze over at the same time. They were more than 90% frozen, forming windrows as high as 3 metres. Tugs and icebreakers had a tough time keeping navigation lanes open, and all water transport ceased. Some people tried to travel the 100 km across Lake Michigan by snowmobile. The U.S. and Canadian Coast Guards asked people to stay off the ice due to thin patches, difficult rescue conditions, and ice fog.

20

**1999:** Another windstorm in coastal British Columbia cancelled ferry crossings. Many visitors couldn't get off the island, and some Greater Victoria residents couldn't get home. One ferry captain said he couldn't remember another year with such strong winds. With 14 gale-force winds, it was the stormiest winter on record since 1943. Since November, BC Ferries reported 80 weather-related cancellations on major routes, compared with just 20 for the prior 12 months.

21

**1917:** The Yukonia Hotel went up in flames in Dawson City, YK. The temperature was -36.7°C. In the Yukon's early days, fighting fire was difficult at any time. In winter, snow and cold enhanced the risk and complicated the task. Since the buildings abutted one another, there was not much chance of stopping the flames. Every time a gambling hall burned down, enterprising miners would run the remains through a rocker to pick up gold dust dropped by excited miners at the gaming tables. [Yukon Government Archives]

22

**1999:** About 1,600 homes and businesses lost power in southwestern Newfoundland after an overnight ice storm. People in Corner Brook woke up to a buildup of ice that was 7 cm thick in some places. Most of the blackouts were scattered along the Port au Port Peninsula. It was several days before crews could fully restore service.

23

New Moon 

**1918:** Shortly after the steamer *Florizel* left St. John's, NF, the weather worsened. When, after 9 hours of steaming southward, the captain felt sure they had cleared Cape Race, he changed course westward and crashed full speed upon the rocks near Cappahayden, about 70 km south of St. John's. The ship ripped apart, and 94 people died. Apparently, the chief engineer, unknown to the captain, reduced the engine speed to try to delay their arrival at Halifax, NS, forcing them to spend the night there.

24

**1999:** A Saudi Arabian-registered cargo ship ran into a storm at the mouth of the Bay of Fundy. Huge 2-metre rolls of cardboard broke free inside the hold and crushed other cargo: at least 30 luxury sedans, 1 school bus, and tonnes of cans of corn (labelled in Arabic and English as Libby's Golden Sweet Kernel Corn). An eyewitness remarked, "I don't think crushers that crush cars could do as good a job as was done on the cars."

25

**1999:** January's record snowfall in southern Ontario cost Norfolk farmers more than \$1 million. The weight of the heavy snow damaged at least 52 greenhouses and 8 barns and sheds. Most farmers did not have insurance coverage against snow load.

26

**2000:** A "false" spring in Montreal, PQ, with 11°C temperatures, shattered records for the day. Montrealers sunned themselves and enjoyed April in February. At Sherbrooke, PQ, the temperature soared to a record-breaking 15°C. In Ottawa, ON, it was the warmest February day ever when temperatures climbed to 12°C; it was warmer in the nation's capital than in other hot spots such as Reno and Jerusalem.

27

**1999:** Lightning struck the government's Challenger jet while it was landing at Vancouver Airport. There was a flash, a crackle, and sparks from the galley area, but apparently no danger. Aboard was Finance Minister Paul Martin, who was on the second-to-last leg of his post-budget tour before hightailing it back to Ottawa for Question Period.

28

## FEBRUARY

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## March 2001

## APRIL

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1976: One of the worst freezing rainstorms in 25 years began over southwestern Ontario. Portions of the province were without power or phone service for 2 weeks. About a quarter of the peach and cherry crops were lost to ice damage. Fallen trees, hydro and telephone poles, and downed lines blocked roads. In London, Ontario Hydro brought in 400 extra workers and 200 vehicles. 1	1999: At Sexsmith/Wiebe, AB, the volunteer climate observer couldn't take her afternoon weather readings because she had unexpected visitors: "If I don't get the weather checked before dark I'll be too chicken to go out and check it because there are 3 moose in my yard." 2	1999: Yet another wind- and rainstorm blasted Greater Victoria, cancelling some morning ferry sailings and sparking power outages. Many fed-up residents were booking trips to Mexico and other sunny destinations. At the waterfront, huge waves crashed across Beach Drive, causing some joggers and motorists to turn around or cross the road. Seagulls huddled on the ground waiting for the winds to abate. 3
					First Quarter ☾	
1953: When lowering clouds prevented rescuers from reaching 4 copper prospectors in northern British Columbia, the miners had to spend 7 icy days on a wind-swept glacier. A pilot had left the 4 claim-stakers on the glacier after landing his small seaplane. The men eventually reached timber and set up a second camp for 3 more nights. The sky broke on the 7th day, and a rescue aircraft arrived. 4	1840: During a thunderstorm at Yarmouth, NS, lightning struck the chimney of a house. It then travelled inside to the lower floor where it did considerable damage to the building and furniture. All the occupants were rendered unconscious, and it was some time before they recovered. 5	1999: More than 15 cm of snow fell throughout southern Ontario causing whiteouts and slippery driving conditions. In London, pedestrians struggled to sidestep the spray of slush from passing vehicles. Hardware stores were happy when customers cleared out shelves of salt and shovels, making room for spring stock. Florist shops also experienced a steady flow of business as people tried to cheer up a rather dreary day. 6	1966: At Ucluelet, BC, what was believed to be a tornado drove a metal spike through a window of the school, lodging the spike into the blackboard. Class was in session but no one was injured; though some students were showered with glass. 7	1971: Montrealers awoke to another punishing dose of blustery winds, drifting snow, and frigid temperatures. A man drowned when his small bulldozer plunged off a Montreal harbour into the St. Lawrence River. His death brought to 28 the number directly attributed to blizzards in the city over the past 6 days. Drifting snow curtailed traffic along the Trans-Canada Highway and the autoroutes. Some schools closed for 6 days. 8	1901: The steamer <i>Stanley</i> was free at last off Prince Edward Island. For a month, it had been caught in ice that held it so tightly it squeezed the winter ferry clear out of the frozen water. 9	1998: Heavy rains soaked the Maritimes. At Amherst, NS, the 35 mm of rain, driven by strong southerly winds gusting up to 94 km/h, leaked into the regional hospital's emergency department, forcing staff to dodge flowing water. In the nearby community of Oxford, the Philip River overflowed into the town. The local baseball field was under more than a metre of water, with only the roofs of the dugouts showing. 10
					Full Moon ○	
2000: Unusually warm temperatures shortened the snowmobile season in northwestern Ontario in what was probably the shortest season on record. Most of the ice was less than 12 cm thick—the minimum thickness recommended for travel. Of the 42 snowmobile deaths in Ontario in the 1998–99 season, 8 occurred in northwestern Ontario. All were caused from falling through the ice. 11	2000: There was good weather for the 10th annual International Sled Dog Meet in Prince Edward Island. Organizers started the races in the morning, ahead of a forecasted freezing-rain storm. The event was finished and the dogs were back in their pens before the rain hit. 12	1999: Car-wash owners in Winnipeg, MB, were delighted with the recent weather. Whenever mild spring temperatures follow a snowfall, hundreds of motorists head to the automatic car wash to get rid of all the salt and dirt encrusted on their cars. On a good day, if the weather is right, between 600 and 700 vehicles pass through. 13	2000: A snow and ice storm hindered crews cleaning up a train derailment near Timagami, ON, where a highly corrosive chemical had spilled into a nearby beaver pond. Twenty-nine cars, 25 of them filled with sulphuric acid, toppled 10 metres down an embankment and into a marshy area. At this time of year, the track in northern Ontario heaves as the frost comes out of the ground, prompting a "go-slow" order to prevent derailment. 14	1943: Manitoba was in the grip of its worst blizzard in years. More than 30 cm of snow was whipped into huge drifts nearly 3 metres high. There was a milk shortage in Winnipeg as impassable roads prevented deliveries to city dairies. One person died, apparently from a heart attack, while shovelling snow from around his stalled car. At Brandon, an early morning fire destroyed an old church. 15	2000: The street in Dawson was more slush than snow as 15 dogsled teams set out for Eagle, AK, on the Percy DeWolfe Mail Race. Temperatures hovered around 0°C (–20°C with no wind is perfect). A German crew was there to film the event for an episode of <i>Husky, Don't Cry</i> . They were using Dawson for some of its footage instead of Whitehorse, YK, as originally planned, because the Klondike capital still had snow. 16	2000: Near Dieppe, NB, a woman's mid-sized sedan plunged into a swollen creek during a St. Patrick's Day storm in the Maritimes. Fortunately, a veteran firefighter happened to notice the woman's head sticking out of the window. The man, along with another passerby, formed a human chain so they could lean over to the car and pull the woman and her family to safety. 17
					Last Quarter ☾	St. Patrick's Day

## Weather Quiz

After Galileo invented the thermometer in 1612, scientists, for the next 200 years, experimented with different liquids in the thermometer. What was the most popular type of liquid used?

- 1) alcohol
- 2) mercury
- 3) wine
- 4) salt water
- 5) sulphuric acid

# 18

**2000:** A dragger based in Liverpool, England, sank in bad weather about 240 km east of Goose Bay, NF. There were blizzard conditions with winds of 55 km/h at the time, and the temperature was -12°C with a windchill of -30°C. A nearby ship got to the dragger just in time to save the men. Some of the crew had to spend a few moments in the frigid ocean before being rescued. Their ship might have struck some submerged ice.

# 19

**2000:** Thousands of harp seal pups off the north shore of Prince Edward Island were orphaned by a freak combination of thin ice and a late-winter storm. Many of the young seals, some only a few days old, became separated from their mothers while still nursing. A combination of a mild winter that produced little ice and a violent storm that ripped apart the seal whelping ground made the traditional seal hunt nearly impossible.

# 20

Spring Equinox 08:31 EST

**1876:** A metre or more of snow had fallen in Montreal, PQ, making travel for pedestrians tedious and uncomfortable. Trains were delayed, and those that did arrive had to be preceded by a snow-plough. Mail carriers in parts of the city resorted to snowshoes. Even so their progress was slow, since the snow was soft and unusually deep.

# 21

**1998:** Montreal employed more than 1,200 pieces of equipment, including 600 trucks, around the clock to clear away 30 to 40 cm of snow that fell on the 22nd and 23rd. One of the problems was that many dump-truck operators, thinking winter was over, had removed the panels from their dump buckets, which keep snow from spilling out as the trucks are filled.

# 22

**2000:** Snow grounded Calgary's air ambulance and wreaked havoc on commuters. A flight from Ottawa loaded with reporters accompanying the prime minister had to be diverted to Edmonton to refuel because it didn't have enough fuel to keep circling Calgary until a window opened in the weather. The wet snow was just what Alberta farmers and skiers ordered.

World Meteorology Day

**2000:** A stretch of the Trans-Canada Highway about 50 km east of Dryden, ON, became a landing strip when bad weather forced a pilot to land his single-engine plane along the highway. Without enough fuel to make it back to Dryden, the pilot landed near a truck stop, where he refuelled and continued on his way once the weather improved.

# 24

New Moon ●

**2000:** Three men from Dubreuilville, ON, were hailed as heroes for rescuing an exhausted moose that had plunged through the ice of the frigid Magpie River. The river was frozen solid for about 25 metres from shore, but the ice was thin enough beyond that point to break through. The men's 2-hour rescue efforts attracted about 100 spectators.

# 25

**1961:** The PEI government declared a state of emergency after another snowstorm—the fifth that month—battered the province. Helicopters made mercy flights for stranded Islanders; 10-metre drifts reached power lines.

# 26

**1875:** A late-winter storm dumped about 10 cm of snow and heavy rain on Nanaimo, BC, followed by a terrific gale. Several buildings were raised about 1 metre from their supports and hurled to the ground.

# 27

**2000:** Violent winds gusting as high as 106 km/h ripped through Quebec City. A large building's roof blew off and landed on a car parked at an adjacent parking lot. A man died after being hit in the head by a piece of chimney that blew off his house. He had noticed his plastic winter car shelter was about to blow away and had climbed on his roof to tighten the shelter's fixtures.

# 28

**2000:** Residents from a nursing home in Edmonton, AB, routinely surf the Internet. Sites that provide weather information from around the world are very popular with the seniors. One woman resident proudly declared: "Look at me. I'm on the Internet at 103 years old. Wow!"

# 29

**1982:** The same kind of furious wind that lifted the lid off a Kingsville, ON, potting soil business 20 years ago returned to raise the roof on the old building. And like its predecessor, the wind—possibly a tornado—caused no injuries but scared everyone nearby. It lasted long enough for Champ, a normally fierce guard dog, to refuse to leave his doghouse until his owner arrived home.

# 30

**1997:** A fierce windstorm battered the south coast of the BC mainland and Vancouver Island. Up to 55,000 homes were left without electricity during the storm, and Stanley Park and the Lions Gate Bridge were closed to traffic overnight. In the park, winds toppled several dozen large trees—mainly hemlock, fir, and broad-leaved maples. The root ball of one fallen tree heaved the tracks of the miniature train, putting the ride out of service.

# 31

MARCH

1 2 3  
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# April 2001

MAY

1 2 3 4 5  
6 7 8 9 10 11 12  
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27 28 29 30 31

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

**1**  
1999: Several national and world dignitaries came to Iqaluit to celebrate the birth of Nunavut, Canada's newest territory. Fireworks lit up the midnight sky, and the weather was seasonable with temperatures at -24°C and a windchill of -40°C. Temperatures earlier in the week rose above freezing, causing igloos constructed for community activities to cave in.

Daylight Savings Time Begins  
First Quarter ☾

**2**  
1998: Warm temperatures and heavy rains created a menacing spring thaw in eastern Ontario. Some homes had everything—docks, picnic tables, jungle gyms—under water. Residents fled by boat or canoe. More than 1,000 soldiers, veterans of the 1997 Red River flood, fought raging rivers. In Lanark County, floods submerged or washed away 11 roads and 5 bridges. The maple syrup area was a disaster for the second time this year following January's crippling ice storm.

**3**  
1898: A slide on the Chilkoot Pass, AK, buried 100 Klondike stamperers under 9 metres of snow. At least 60 prospectors perished. From a notation in an old photo album posted on the Gold Rush website: "Shorty Fisher's dog Jack lived 8 days under a snowpile ... Volunteers dug to rescue the living and retrieve the dead. Jack was among the living, and by the time the picture was taken on April 30, he was back in the harness, hauling supplies to the gold fields."

**4**  
1995: A surprising snowstorm that created whiteout conditions and black ice caused a series of spectacular chain-reaction collisions on Highway 400 at Barrie, ON. Within a span of 4 minutes, more than 70 crumpled vehicles lay scattered across north and south lanes of the highway, just 300 metres apart. Four people, including a baby, were killed; 35 were hospitalized.

**5**  
1999: An intense winter storm hit Newfoundland. St. John's was hardest hit with a record snowfall of 69 cm. Winds peaked at 90 km/h, causing blizzard conditions for most of the day. Some drifts were almost to the rim of a basketball hoop. The rubberized bubble at the Greenbelt Tennis Club burst, flattened by the snow. Just days ago there were flowers budding in gardens and children playing baseball in bright sunshine.

**6**  
1999: When Hollywood came to Calgary, AB, to film the movie *Snow Day*, starring Chevy Chase, the production company thought the Great White North would have some snow. However, not a single snowflake fell in Calgary in March, so the crew unloaded 450 dump-truck loads of snow. They laid white tarps over carefully placed hay bales to boost the snow height, then added the transplanted snow.

**7**  
1985: Winds gusting to 110 km/h across southern Ontario toppled trees and ripped down power lines, leaving thousands of homes from Windsor to Belleville in darkness. The high winds combined with heavy pack ice at the mouth of the Welland Canal halted shipping traffic. At Niagara Falls, 7 people were stranded in an elevator running up the side of the Skylon Tower when the cables were twisted in the wind.

Full Moon ☾

**8**  
1997: The world's longest oil pipeline system, which moves about 80% of Canada's crude oil production, was stopped cold about 11:30 p.m. after a blizzard and ice storm brought down power lines across Manitoba, North Dakota, and Minnesota. Since the shutdown was caused by severe weather, the company was not liable.

Palm Sunday  
Passover Begins

**9**  
2000: Montrealers awoke to a belated April Fool's joke, but few were laughing about the record, 1-day snowfall for April of 37 cm. Since 1 April, Montreal's snow contracts with 2 dozen outside firms had ended for the season. Consequently, the Quebec city decided to let the sun and temperatures melt most of the snow on its 2,000 km of streets and 3,500 km of sidewalks. Good news for motorists parked illegally on the streets—police said they would not issue tickets that week.

**10**  
1867: Following several fine-weather days, Ottawa streets began to dry up, enabling workers to clean the crossings. The good weather in the nation's capital tempted many ladies "to air a large quantity of dry goods on the streets ... a number of very fine specimens of dress and fancy articles had suffered greatly from mud. The more cautious did not attempt the crossings at all."

**11**  
1968: An early season tornado struck Watson, SK. The twister drove a stick 5 cm in diameter completely through a solid, 1/2-metre-thick door. The tornado picked up a car shed and carried it 20 metres before dashing it to the ground; yet it ignored a pile of lumber at the side of the shed. Five years ago a tornado had destroyed a car shed in the same yard.

**12**  
1865: Strong winds from a suspected tornado tore off the roofs from 2 freight sheds of the Grand Trunk Railway in Montreal, PQ. The spire of the Anglican Cathedral vibrated like an inverted pendulum. Crowds remained in the neighbourhood expecting to see the church tumble. In outlying areas, fences, chimneys, and rickety barns were destroyed. Two men had a narrow escape when a portion of a roof came down a few centimetres from their heads.

**13**  
1873: Ice-infested rivers caused major flooding in and around Montreal, PQ. Water in the St. Patrick's neighbourhood was more than 1 metre deep, forcing some residents to move to the upper storeys of their homes. Winds and high water drove ice ridges into 7-metre ramparts. A venturesome man crossed from La Prairie and stated that the ice was broken up but was jammed together so hard it was safe to walk on it.

Good Friday

**14**  
1974: A farmer and 11 of his relatives were playing cards in a 20-metre-long mobile home near Sebringville, ON, when a vicious storm blew in. The farmer said, "I looked up and saw a barn go by, and then we went with it." The card-players received minor injuries when the wind lifted the \$12,000 trailer off its foundation, ripped it apart in the air, then flung it against a tree.

**15**  
2000: The bishop of Whitehorse and another prominent Roman Catholic from Yukon died in a plane crash when the Cessna 172 the bishop was piloting crashed into frozen Fox Lake, about 140 km west of Whitehorse. The pair got caught in a blinding snow squall. The plane's landing gear was only partially engaged. Some believe ice buildup associated with the sudden snowstorm may have contributed to the accident.

Easter  
Last Quarter ☾

**16**  
1972: Kamloops, BC, felt the effects of a devastating flood when the North Thompson River breached the dyke north of town, inundating Oak Hills. One resident had just moved into his 2-week-old home only to lose \$3,000 worth of goods, including a basement freezer full of pork, moose meat, and 20 chickens, and irreplaceable personal belongings such as photographs. Amazingly, a new 3.5 x 4.0-metre rug survived the ordeal because it was so tightly rolled up.

**17**  
1967: A tornado slashed an ugly path of destruction from the village of Hensall through to Dublin, ON, claiming the life of a farmer. More than 100 pupils crouched on the floor while suction from the twister moved classroom desks and chairs in their school. The roof of the Waterloo Rod and Gun Club flew 120 metres straight up, then seemed to chase 2 men. The insides of a piano were ripped out and scattered across a field—the piano's shell stayed in the building.

**18**  
1855: A series of tornadoes swept southern Ontario from Collingwood to Niagara-on-the-Lake. One tornado levelled the Niagara Car Works and demolished the shipyard and carpenter and blacksmith shops. Another twister lifted a passenger railcar off its tracks. It also crushed a saloon, trapping a few patrons. Eyewitnesses said that winds lifted the saloon into the air, turned it around several times, and then slammed it to the ground.

**19**  
2000: A massive straw fire near Winkler, MB, created a tornado that sucked up a pickup truck and tossed it 50 metres away, like a toy, killing the driver. The fire consumed 100,000 bales of flax straw and could be seen 100 km away. The sky was so red that it was a night of perpetual dawn. Large fire funnels are rare. The fire consumes oxygen and fresh, colder air rushes in to fill the vacuum, forming a vortex much like a tornado.

**20**  
2000: A potent spring storm system out of the American Midwest moved across southern Ontario, bringing moderate to heavy rain to water-starved areas. Windsor received a record rainfall for April of nearly 100 mm. At Toronto Island, winds reached 80 km/h from an easterly direction. A 2.5-year-old boy was walking with his mother when the wind ripped him from her grasp into the path of an oncoming car, seriously injuring him.

**21**  
2000: Gusty winds fanned flames across tinder-box regions of northern and central Alberta. In Edmonton, fire crews had to extinguish 23 wildfires. Unlike most residents, fire fighters were hoping for a good soaking of rain. In one fire just outside Edmonton, a barn ignited and several cars were damaged. The city imposed a ban on open fires.

**1996:** About 250 people north of Winnipeg, MB, remained out of their homes after the Red River jumped its banks, submerging roads and rushing into basements. Huge blocks of ice pushed over the banks of the rising waters, crushing some cottages on Lake Winnipeg. A marine museum at Selkirk was severely damaged. It was the first time since 1979 that the province declared a provincial flood disaster.

22

**2000:** About a half-dozen icebergs menaced 3 oilrigs on the Grand Banks, off Newfoundland. It was the first time in 10 years that icebergs—some of them the size of small apartment buildings—threatened drilling operations. Water cannons mounted on supply ships were used to blast the icebergs, but those shooting the iceberg couldn't see it because of the thick fog. The Grand Banks is one of the foggiest places in the world.

23

#### Weather Quiz

24

Lightning occurs in many different shapes and sizes. Which of the following shapes does lightning never take?

- 1) ball
- 2) straight line
- 3) zigzag line
- 4) noncontinuous line
- 5) forked line

**2000:** New Brunswick residents bundled up in winter coats, scarves, and gloves and grumbled about the weather. Many people were not convinced that spring had arrived 5 weeks ago. Cold temperatures, rain, freezing rain, snow, and overcast skies had been the order of the day throughout most of April. Balmy March temperatures had spoiled people. Actually, April temperatures were close to normal.

25

**2000:** Hundreds of garter snakes emerged from dens about 80 km north of Winnipeg, MB, making a repeat of last spring—when thousands of snakes died—unlikely. As many as 70,000 red-sided garter snakes hibernated in pits here until last winter, when an unknown number perished. Wildlife biologists hypothesized that many of the snakes had not gone deep enough underground and had frozen.

26

**2000:** A freak windstorm hit northern and central Alberta, driving huge chunks of ice onto lakefront property around Lac Ste. Anne, near Edmonton. Cottage owners scrambled to save piers, boats, and retaining walls from huge sheets of ice. Some ice sheets were 1/2 metre thick, up to 10 sq. metres in area, and rose 4 metres into the air. Night watchmen were posted at the beach in case the ice started moving again.

27

**1999:** A snowstorm with 100-km/h winds delayed the opening of the lobster season in Prince Edward Island. Gusts reached 90 km/h, with a report of a 112 km/h-gust on the Confederation Bridge. The bridge was closed to all truck and high-sided vehicle traffic. Anxious lobstermen swamped the PEI Fishermen's Association with calls. They did not want to be setting traps in what were forecast to be extremely hazardous conditions.

28

Earth Day

New Moon



**1999:** An aircraft carrying scientists and hurricane hunters from the U.S. touched down at Halifax on a public awareness mission with the Canadian Hurricane Centre in Dartmouth, NS. The flight crew of 6 from the U.S. Air Force Hurricane Hunter Hercules flies through the so-called eye wall of a hurricane and drops instruments into the middle of it that relay critical information to forecasters. It's often so bumpy that the observers in the plane cannot read the gauges.

29

**1997:** An unseasonable snowstorm dumped 12 to 15 cm of snow on the Maritimes and Newfoundland, disrupting schools, causing widespread power outages, and exasperating everyone who thought winter was over. High winds, gusting to 98 km/h, whipped up the snow. More than 21 cm of snow fell on St. John's, NF, followed during the day by freezing rain. Snowploughs were barely able to keep up.

30

First Quarter







APRIL						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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29	30					

# May 2001

JUNE								
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<p><b>1998:</b> Vancouver, BC, broke a 22-year record when thermometers registered 22.4°C. Warmer-than-normal temperatures, little air movement, and intense pollution exacerbated a severe air quality problem. Environment and health officials asked residents to avoid driving when possible and curtail mowing lawns and barbecuing. Experts in Washington State also blamed the poor air on a huge dust cloud from western China.</p>	<p><b>1670:</b> On the founding of the Hudson's Bay Company on this day, a company official stated: "Though the latitude is nearer the sun than London, it is excessively cold for 9 months and the other 3 months very hot." That rather negative account of Canada's climate was deemed to serve the company by dissuading people from coming here to settle, and encroaching upon the HBC trade monopoly.</p>	<p><b>1909:</b> A destructive fire swept the countryside near Mara, BC, on the 3rd and 4th. Smouldering bush fires had been smoking for days and were fanned into life by a gusty wind from the south. The fire burned 3 bridges enroute and consumed buildings, implements, and livestock. Citizens were left with nothing but the scanty clothes on their backs and were forced to sleep in the fields. Burning rail ties slowed the trains' progress.</p>	<p><b>1997:</b> Floodwaters began splashing at the doors of some buildings in Fort Albany, ON, on James Bay. Ice jams on the Albany River caused the water to back up, forcing the evacuation by airplane and helicopter of 200 people, mostly women and children, to Moosonee, 100 km down the coast.</p>	<p><b>1998:</b> The mild winter combined with a hot and dry spring turned Alberta into a tinderbox. The fire situation was so desperate that Alberta Environment imposed a province-wide ban on all fires. A massive forest fire threatened the residents of Swan Hills. To make sure everyone got away safely, police asked a local gas station owner to open his pumps at 3 a.m. There were over 200 cars lined up from the pumps to the highway.</p>
<p><b>1920:</b> Ideal weather favoured the 250th anniversary celebrations of the Hudson's Bay Company at various fur trading posts. As one Native chief remarked, "God looked favourably upon the Hudson's Bay Company and the Indians." Such a coincidence was remarkable, as it rained almost every day in Edmonton up to the time of the pageant celebrations and commenced again the day after.</p>	<p><b>1999:</b> In Edmonton, AB, high winds of up to 74 km/h tore off a roof and blew power lines together causing them to short circuit. Because it was graduation day, many schoolgirls had had their hair done for the celebration. The wind forced a huge run on hair spray and pins to keep everything in place.</p>	<p><b>1999:</b> The Yukon River ice began to move sometime before the fire alarm went off at 10 a.m., but no one knew exactly when, making it impossible to declare an official time and award the prize from the \$2,200 ice pool fund. But a winner was declared when an eyewitness claimed he had seen the river begin to move when he was out "dyke-walking." More confirmation, 2 RCMP had stopped him, wondering if he was up to mischief.</p>	<p><b>1878:</b> A thunderstorm, said to be Belleville, ON's, worst in several years, brought torrents of rain along with thunder and lightning. The deluge flooded the Wellington Hotel at the corner of Bayfield and Dunlop Streets; the cellar had almost 2 metres of water, in which the barrels of spirits were floating. A bakery in the vicinity lost barrels of flour and sugar.</p>	<p><b>1922:</b> From <i>The Globe</i>: "Victims of Winnipeg's tornado lost everything except their lives. The Lauderville family is literally penniless. Everything, even to the little money saved, has been blown far and wide and there is not enough left of their home to start a decent kitchen fire. Kitchen utensils belonging to the family have been found 2 miles from their home."</p>	<p><b>1999:</b> Two teachers and 11 students in Regina, SK, breathed a sign of relief when the weather cleared. Two days of wet weather saw a total of 27 mm of rain and snow. The group was preparing to spend the night camped on the roof of the high school as part of the school's efforts to raise \$15,000 for the Terry Fox Foundation.</p>	<p><b>1999:</b> Some of the best farmland in Canada in Manitoba's Souris Valley was under water for at least 2 months as heavy rain extended the flood season and postponed seeding. The Pembina River was ready to crest for a second time.</p>
	<p>Full Moon </p>					
<p><b>1993:</b> Three mudslides closed the Yellowhead Highway in places between Prince George, BC, and Edmonton, AB, from the 13th to the 16th. Trees, boulders, and mud were up to 2 metres deep along the highway. Conditions were ideal for flash flooding, avalanches, and mudslides: a ripe deep snowpack, abundant sunshine, record temperatures, and 8 consecutive days with freezing levels above 3,000 metres 24 hours a day.</p>	<p><b>1999:</b> People blamed high winds and a mountain of road salt for health problems and property damage to businesses on Cherry St. in Toronto, ON. Officials requested that a towing company close its doors because workers complained that the blowing salt caused their eyes to burn. The salt dust even ate the lettering off a new truck. The dust came from a 31-metre-high pile of coarse salt used on city roads during the winter.</p>	<p><b>1999:</b> "In Newfoundland, 2 days of fine weather is welcomed. The second day is considered a gift—a reward for all our perseverance throughout the long dark winter. Three days of fine weather and people start frowning. By the fourth nice day, the general nervousness has increased visibly. By Day 5, nobody can hide their anxiety. On Day 6, people stay indoors with their curtains drawn and the weather channel banned from their television screens." [<i>The Telegram</i>]</p>	<p><b>1965:</b> Repair crews in Alberta worked around the clock to restore telephone and electrical services following a severe storm. In some areas, winds reached record velocity, gusting to 160 km/h. Power outages around Delburne resulted in extensive loss of baby chicks and turkeys. Hot water bottles placed in baskets and boxes replaced incubators and brooders on many farms. Farmers brought their deep freezers into curling rinks.</p>	<p><b>1967:</b> Twister-like winds hit parts of Metro Toronto, stirring up dust and scattering debris. When the wind stirred up dust from a vacant lot, a woman grabbed her baby from a stroller, which then became airborne. As she lay on the ground clutching her infant, the wind flattened a second toddler against a fence.</p>	<p><b>Weather Quiz</b></p> <p>Alberta Clippers are fast-moving winter storms that begin on the lee side of the Canadian Rockies and track eastward across North America. If the storms start farther east in Saskatchewan, they are called Saskatchewan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) schooners</li> <li>2) screamers</li> <li>3) slashers</li> <li>4) stubblers</li> <li>5) riggers</li> </ol>	<p><b>1999:</b> A young Toronto Maple Leaf fan from Windsor, ON, was disappointed when the local daily newspaper failed to cover Toronto's win over the Pittsburgh Penguins in the semi-final Eastern Conference play-down. The newspaper's explanation was that, due to an electrical storm, white space instead of the game story appeared on the front page of the <i>Star's</i> sports section.</p>
Mother's Day		Census Day	Last Quarter 			

**1964:** A series of small tornadoes, followed by wind-driven rain, hit Newbrook, AB, at about 8 p.m. No one was injured, but there was extensive damage to roofs, windows, TV antennas, trees, and all movable objects. One farmer said to his wife, who had just sown her garden, "Oh, I think I saw your carrots flying by." A piglet was found the next day after being bounced off the farm.

20

**1930:** Never in the history of Truro, NS, had a sleigh been seen on the streets so late in the spring. Citizens had put their gardens in and settled down for a peaceful summer when a snow-storm of blizzard proportions suddenly hit. More than 10 cm of snow fell across southeastern New Brunswick and northern Nova Scotia. Temperatures were around -1°C.

21

Victoria Day

**1811:** It was a rough winter and a hungry spring on Prince Edward Island. Lieutenant Governor DesBarres authorized a grant of £300 to purchase provisions from Halifax, NS, for island settlers.

22

New Moon

**1977:** Residents of Chatham, NB, sweltered when temperatures reached a record high of 35.3°C. It was also the highest temperature reading for this month across Canada. The hot, humid weather fuelled a thunderstorm in Pictou, NS, that caused extensive property damage and sporadic power outages.

23

**1953:** A massive storm battered Prince Edward Island with 90 km/h winds causing massive damage to lobster traps and fishing gear. Two veteran fishermen risked their lives rescuing 2 boys trapped on a lobster boat.

24

**1886:** A ship from France went ashore at Scatarie Island off Cape Breton Island and dashed against the rocks during dense fog. The second mate jumped from the vessel and swam ashore. A deep-sea line was then thrown to him and fastened. All crew were saved except 2 who became entangled in the ropes and drowned.

25

**1935:** At Lindsay, ON, a strong whirlwind struck a canoe and lifted the paddlers 2 metres in the air before dropping them into the river. Oddly, the canoe remained upright, and one canoeist's jacket, which had been lying in the bottom of the canoe, was not even wet.

26

**1996:** A teenager in Springfield, NS, got the shock of his life when he was struck by lightning while fishing under an iron bridge. The youngster dropped "like a sack of flour" then crawled on all fours up the bank towards a neighbour's house. The neighbour drove him to a hospital where the boy was given medication to slow his racing heart.

27

**1999:** Near La Ronge, SK, 300 km north of Saskatoon, a menacing wildfire ignited by lightning forced 1,500 residents from their homes. The town of 4,100 came chillingly close to being destroyed. Nine homes, a shop, several sheds, vehicles, boats, and other valuables were destroyed, but no one was killed or injured. "It's definitely a why-me sort of situation," said one resident.

28

**1845:** Two fires devastated portions of Quebec City in 1845. The first fire began in a tannery and was fanned by a strong gale from the west that spread the flames quickly, engulfing the streets. Over 1,500 homes burned and a score of lives were lost.

29

First Quarter

**1776:** A storm with strong northwest winds, blowing and drifting snow, and bitterly cold air overtook some Indian women as they crossed the water near Fort Churchill on Hudson Bay. Twenty of them arrived at the Factory (Churchill) alive but with their extremities almost frozen solid. Seven froze to death, and the next day men who were sent to look for them found them with their infants still alive sucking their dead mothers' breasts.

30

**1998:** Four family members from Pangnirtung, Nunavut, including a 1-year-old baby, on a fishing weekend were rescued after a freak meltdown stranded them near Baffin Island for almost 3 days. When temperatures warmed, the ice melted and water covered their trail. Eventually a plane spotted them from the air and dropped a radio and some food. Said the head of the household, "Oh, I was so happy. I only had one cigarette left."

31

MAY						
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# June 2001

JULY						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<p>1998: The Inuit community of Repulse Bay witnessed some mysterious and what they believed were harmful yellow rings and gold stains 25 km out on the Arctic Sea ice. A meteorologist and 2 forestry scientists from Edmonton, AB, concluded that high winds had transported a huge cloud of pollen from jack pine and white spruce forests in central Quebec to the Arctic Circle, about 1,000 km.</p>	<p>1945: A Blenheim, ON, resident was awakened by the roar of water rushing in from Lake Erie. Fifty men armed with shovels and wheelbarrows were quickly summoned. After a few hours, they succeeded in installing an earthen dam to prevent a washout—just in time to save the entire marsh and the onion crop from flooding.</p>
<p>1832: Persistent winds drove thick ice into Newfoundland's bays and inlets. Settlers were desperate for food on a schooner caught in the ice for 6 weeks. From a resident's log: "I asked a poor widow what she gave her children to eat; she replied, 'I send my children out in the morning and if they can get a morsel, well; if not, I give each of them 2 or 3 potatoes a day, as I have yet a bucket or 2 of potatoes left.'"</p>	<p>1976: A 90-minute storm blasted a stretch from Swift Current to Lanigan, SK, with heavy rain, hail, and winds in excess of 160 km/h. The Department of Highways faced the massive job of re-signing the area since the wind broke off almost every signpost at the ground and rolled many of the signs into balls of metal.</p>	<p>1988: A tornado destroyed a family's barn near Camrose, AB, and ruined a prize-winning garden. The owner said a 2-tonne windmill located less than 4 metres from his house was tossed like a toy over the children's front lawn tent and landed 50 metres away. His 4 children were in the small tent but slept through the storm. A tree trunk missed the tent by less than one-third metre.</p>	<p>1888: A tornado touched down near Cornwall, ON, and skipped along to Montreal, PQ. The losses included 3 deaths, dozens of injuries, and 500 flat-tened barns, homes, and outbuildings. Farm workers took shelter in a barn. Realizing that it was about to collapse, they fled—just as the roof flew off.</p>	<p>1933: A powerful wind and driving rainstorm played queer pranks in western Ontario. In Woodstock, a farmer tried to close the barn's double-doors when the wind suddenly slammed them shut and cut off his ear. Another resident found the linoleum from his kitchen floor in the next lot despite it having been beneath a heavy stove. The wind carried a veranda from a house to the front lawn of another whose owner lost a garage.</p>	<p>1999: An intense storm with driving rain (68.4 mm of rain in less than 6 hours) and hail the size of jelly beans overwhelmed White Rock, BC, a Vancouver suburb, forcing a municipal state of emergency. Some areas were under 1 metre of water; others were covered with a thick layer of hail. Water rose to the hood-level of several cars.</p>	<p>1990: A freak hailstorm in Orillia, ON, had residents shovelling driveways and cleaning out drains, ditches, and other areas to allow the rain and melting hailstones to drain. Hail tore leaves off trees and ruined gardens in the city. Following a quick trip to the beer store, one family grabbed 3 camping coolers and filled them with hailstones to cool their beer.</p>
	World Environment Day	Full Moon				
<p>1922: A terrific wind- and rainstorm downed 7 huge steel towers that carry electricity to Toronto, from Niagara Falls, ON, plunging Toronto homes and its transit system into darkness. Many people returning home from Saturday picnics and outings spent part of the night and nearly all the early morning hours in crowded, stalled streetcars.</p>	<p>1999: In southwestern Manitoba and southeastern Saskatchewan, cool, wet spring weather prevented farmers from seeding nearly 3 million acres of some of the most productive farmland in Canada. The water problems were not caused by over-flowing rivers but from overland flooding—too much water in too short a time. Brandon, MB, received 201 mm of rain in May, more than half its normal yearly rainfall.</p>	<p>1954: Near Simcoe, ON, a mother and her daughter were walking to the house from the barn when a twister struck. They tried to run, "but their feet were just going up and down and they were not moving an inch." Local residents called some of the twisters "leap-froggers" because they seemed to rise then drop to strike again further on.</p>	<p>1999: Maritime farmers were praying for rain as a third straight season of hot, dry weather arrived. Everything was early, and vegetables were cooking in the ground. The soil was too dry to work and simply blew in the wind. The heat was also tough on cows. They tend not to get romantic in hot weather, and didn't produce the usual volume of milk.</p>	<p>1892: One of the worst electrical storms ever in the Maritime Provinces swept across Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. At Truro the electric lights were extinguished, and the midnight express from Saint John slammed into a boxcar that the wind had blown onto the main line.</p>	<p>1974: Twenty-five youngsters in Sarnia, ON—members of a local drum and bugle corps—escaped injury when a tornado hit the gymnasium in which they were practising. Miraculously, there were no injuries. The group spent a shaky night under what was left of the roof. Patches of light from the sky could easily be seen from the floor of the gym.</p>	<p>1863: For 18 hours, a blinding snowstorm driven by a northeast gale lambasted St. John's, NF. By next morning snowdrifts of 2 metres or more blocked the streets of the capital. Water from the melting snow flooded lower streets and washed out hills in its course towards the harbour. Dories appeared on Water Street.</p>
			Last Quarter			

**1816:** A father in the Missisquoi County, PQ, went to fix a sheep shelter in a far pasture. He left about noon in a snowstorm, half-joking, "If I'm not back by night, better get the neighbours out as I'd hate to freeze to death in June." When he had not returned by night, the neighbours went looking for him. A search party found him 3 days later—2 km from the shelter, frozen to death.

17

Father's Day

**1882:** The sky over St. Mary's, ON, was one continual blaze of sheet lightning, accompanied by thunder, rain, large hailstones, and strong winds. One resident had his kitchen carried away. A young gentleman and a lady were driving a buggy when it was lifted by the wind and set in the ditch, upside down, scaring away the horses. Trees were blown down and twisted in every direction all over town.

18

**1999:** In Rosedale, SK, 5 burials at a local cemetery had been on hold since May because excessive groundwater made it too wet to dig the graves. The delay affected only those deceased who had reserved plot locations. Their bodies were kept in refrigerated vaults until the ground dried sufficiently.

19

**1995:** Thunderstorms lasting 7 hours and packing 90 km/h winds swept across Manitoba knocking down trees and power lines, tearing off shingles, and ripping boards from fences. A weak tornado hit a farmyard, tossing 2 steel granaries 1 km through the air as the frightened family watched from the basement. The twister also destroyed 30 maple trees in the yard.

20

**1999:** A monstrous thunderstorm battered much of southern Saskatchewan. A tornado swooped up a farmer in Crane Valley, 100 km south of Moose Jaw. He watched plywood boards corkscrew around and up, and wondered where they came from. The blackbirds that usually made a playground of the farmer's yard disappeared for 3 weeks.

21

Summer  
Solstice 03:38 EDT    New Moon ●

**1997:** The threat of flooding caused residents of the 700-member Driftpile Reserve on the shores of Lesser Slave Lake, AB, to move frail and elderly neighbours to higher ground. Most rivers and basins in northern Alberta were swollen from heavy rains and spring melt. With the snowpack at a 12-year high and the soil already saturated from autumn rains, the ground was unable to absorb much water.

22

**1999:** In New Brunswick, it was so hot and dry that the soil was turning to dust. Strawberries were small and odd-shaped, and grazing cattle ran out of green pastures. Free-ranging birds ate less, and produced fewer eggs.

23

**1999:** A persistent dampness made life miserable for residents of coastal BC who longed for blue skies and brilliant sunshine. Garden centres were hopeful the lousy weather was only temporary. Hot dog vendors and buskers stayed off the streets. But tanning parlours and those selling bright light products couldn't have been happier as sales soared.

24

**Weather Quiz**  
Waterspouts at sea were thought to be living monsters of the deep. When sailors would see a spout coming they would:  
1) change direction  
2) shout and beat drums  
3) drop anchor  
4) head for the galley  
5) fire cannons at it

25

**1998:** Lightning struck and killed a man from Cobourg, ON, as he tried to rescue his windblown backyard tent. In a separate incident, lightning hit a teenager huddled under a pine tree in a provincial park south of Parry Sound. The bolt split the tree in half. The boy's father, a physician, worked to revive his son but pronounced him dead at the scene.

26

**1930:** Heavy rains caused a washout of the CNR tracks 6 km east of Capreol, ON, leading to the derailment of 2 trains. There were tales of nightmare horror as frantic mothers sought to save their children. One brave mother broke through a window, and with a child under each arm, and an infant gripped firmly in her teeth, swam to the shore of the Vermilion River.

27

**1999:** Lightning struck and seriously wounded a female golfer near Edmonton, AB. Paramedics drove their ambulance onto the fifth hole fairway to help the felled woman and worked frantically in the stiff wind and wet weather to save her life. A scorched hole about 30 cm deep by 20 cm wide could be seen on the ground where the lightning had struck her.

28

**1897:** A fearful whirlwind struck near London, ON. It turned barn wood into kindling and flattened orchards. The storm picked up a horse and threw it into a field about 100 metres away. Yet, 4 turkeys in a flattened barn were unharmed. In another incident, a woman grasped a sack of flour as it whirled about in the air with her.

29

**1999:** It was a dreadful month in coastal BC. There were only 2 consecutive days in June without rain. The joke in Victoria was, what does daylight savings time mean in Victoria? An extra hour of rain.

30

Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day

○  
First Quarter ●

JUNE

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# July 2001

AUGUST

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Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

**1999:** As Shania Twain took the stage in Timmins, ON, the rain started to pour down on the overflow crowd of 20,000. They came prepared, though. Out came yellow rain suits, garbage bags with slits, signs, and pizza boxes—anything they could pull over their heads. Few brought umbrellas, since they would have blocked others' view of the stage.

1

**1999:** Canada's only desert centre opened for business near Osoyoos, BC—in a rain-storm. About 200 people, many of them under umbrellas, took a rainy walk along a 1.6-km boardwalk over to the desert site north of town. The centre is at the northern edge of the Sonoran Desert and features hundreds of rare desert plants and invertebrates.

2

Weather Quiz

3

Which city is drier?

- 1) Athens
- 2) Downtown Los Angeles
- 3) Salt Lake City
- 4) Minneapolis
- 5) Kelowna

**1999:** Up to 65 cm of snow fell in the high mountain country between Lake Louise and Jasper at Saskatchewan Crossing, AB, on the 3rd and 4th, forcing the RCMP to close the scenic Icefields Parkway. In and around Clearwater, several days of rain destroyed at least 100 km of roads. When water rose to the hoods of trucks, hundreds of vehicles had to be abandoned.

4

**1999:** A long line of thunderstorms wreaked havoc across southern Quebec, downing power lines, toppling trees, and tearing roofs off buildings. More than 418,000 households across Montreal and the Eastern Townships were without power for days. A La Sallé resident said, "You could feel the windows bending with the weight of the wind; the pictures on the walls were moving, and the furniture was creeping across the floor. It was really frightening."

5

**1721:** From *Journal of a Voyage to North America* by Pierre de Charlevoix: "The sun was so burning hot, and the water of the bay so warm, that the gum of our canoe melted in several places ... where we went ashore was so infested with troublesome gnats that we could not close our eyes, though we had not slept for 2 days; and as the weather was fine, and the moon shone bright, we set out again at 3 o'clock in the morning."

6

**1968:** In mid-afternoon a brief but intense storm struck Englehart, ON. Hailstones, the size of mothballs, covered streets and lawns as gale-force winds flattened gardens, brought down trees, and spread lawn furniture far and wide. The force of the wind uprooted and demolished a large archway in front of the Community Centre grounds, a town landmark dating from WWII.

7

Canada Day

Aphelion 10:00 EDT

Full Moon 

**1928:** A Toronto trainman was standing on the roof of a railway boxcar when a fierce gust of wind hit the car. Before he knew what had happened, he was clinging to the car's detached roof as it sailed away. The flight was of short duration because the wind eased as suddenly as it had sprung up. The trainman sustained fractures of both arms and a broken kneecap.

8

**1816:** During the "Year without a Summer," parts of Canada suffered from cold and snow into the summer months. Some ponds near Quebec City did not become ice-free until August. With a pending harvest fiasco, officials proclaimed a 60-day export embargo on grain, so as to hold on to last year's reserve.

9

**1999:** From the *Peterborough Examiner*: "Algonquin Park experienced one of the biggest die-off of moose in its 106 years of existence. A heavily infested moose carried as many as 100,000 blood-sucking winter ticks. The hair loss was so bad that park staff saw 'ghost moose' for the first time. Without a heavy protective coat, a mostly hairless moose might die of exposure, almost literally shivering to death in the mixture of cold spring rains and low temperatures."

10

**1914:** A bolt of lightning struck the gable of a barn near Carberry, MB, tearing off the shingles, splintering the rafters, then passing down through the barn and killing a man and his horse. When the storm began, the man had gone out to close the barn door.

11

**1926:** Although tornadoes are rare in British Columbia, an awesome and devastating twister struck the central interior near Lac La Hache. Barns and other farm structures disintegrated. Twisting winds mowed down stands of valuable timber, and lightning started numerous fires in the tinder-dry forests. Fallen trees downed almost all power lines and made roads into the area impassable.

12

**1884:** Near Tusket, NS, lightning struck a residence, badly damaging the roof and every room in the house and overturning the furniture. Next door, lightning didn't damage the home, but a woman was struck in the back of the head and killed instantly.

13

**1999:** Labrador saw some of its worst thunderstorms in years. An eyewitness stated: "I was pouring coffee and all of a sudden the coffee pot kinda turned bright blue on the counter. And when that happened, outside a pole just turned blue and a big ball of fire came out of the pole. There was no sign of the transformer."

14

Last Quarter 

**1999:** At Calgary, AB's, Stampede grounds, fairgoers bundled up in winter fleeces, toques, and lined rain coats. The temperature was 2.7°C, there were snow flurries, and winds gusted to 54 km/h. The windchill temperature was as low as -13.8°C or 1144 W/m². There were several new provincial records set for minimum temperatures, including Banff: -2.5°, Lethbridge: 0.9°, and Pincher Creek: 2.5°C.

15

**1999:** In Alberta's Rocky Mountain parks, a later-than-normal spring, followed by cool temperatures, delayed mountain-snowpack melting and vegetation growth on the upper slopes. The unseasonably cool weather kept bears confined to the valley bottoms and trails. Since the start of June, Waterton Lakes National Park had recorded 242 black bear and 14 grizzly sightings.

16

**1999:** A 71-year-old woman from Scarborough, ON, was hit by lightning while talking on the telephone. The electric shock jolted the phone out of her hand and continued down her left side. Afraid to touch the dangling phone, she went in her basement where she picked up another telephone and assured her friend she was fine. She was unable to call out on her telephone afterwards, but by the next day everything was back to normal.

17

**1999:** A Chinese ice-breaker, *Xue Long*, was attempting to get halfway to the North Pole from the north-eastern tip of the Russian mainland when it was surrounded by 8-metre-thick chunks of ice in dense fog. A Canadian Radarsat ground station at Gatineau, PQ, gathered radar satellite images of the region and transferred them to the ice-breaker via the Canadian Ice Service, who marked an appropriate escape route through the ice onto the images.

18

**1998:** A wild windstorm ripped through Sault Ste. Marie, ON, uprooting gigantic trees and dumping marble-sized hail in sheets of rain. Between 25 and 30 mm of rain fell during the storm. About 10 towering, century-old evergreens were knocked down at a cottage by winds of 102 km/h. The same winds that uprooted trees and blew out windows failed to move a pop can sitting on a deck or a plastic deck chair.

19

**1931:** A sighting of ball lightning was reported at Toronto: "Two balls of fire came in an open window. The size of walnuts, they were 2 feet apart and came with a sizzling sound. There was a terrific peal of thunder. I was almost blinded. They seemed to land on the pillow beside me, but I believe they struck the bed light. Particles of metal from the lamp that was struck fell on the pillow-slips and burned several tiny holes in them."

20

**1922:** A tornado lifted a house and deposited it in a wheat field some distance away in Crystal Springs, SK. On its way across the countryside, the tornado sucked dry all the sloughs in its path.

21

New Moon 

**1926:** A woman was seriously injured and 2 men received broken legs when a tornado-like storm blew down a hall in which about 70 people were dancing at the Rollingdam, in Charlotte County, NB.

22

**1905:** Owing to the scarcity of water for hydraulic mining in the Klondike district, the Yukon government and some mine owners hired a professional rain wizard from Los Angeles, CA. If he produced sufficient rainfall for a prosperous summer in the placer mining industry, he was to receive \$10,000; otherwise he would be paid only his expenses. But his attempts failed. In the House of Commons, MPs condemned the "foolish performance" of the Yukon authorities.

23

**1999:** Heat at the Pan Am Games in Winnipeg, MB, took its toll on spectators and athletes. Five people overcome with heat exhaustion fainted as temperatures rose to the 32°C range. At the soccer pitch, participants claimed fatigue and dehydration affected their play, except the team from Costa Rica, who had a definite edge in the heat.

24

**1829:** A forest fire fanned by high winds threatened Charlottetown, PEI. Four fire-engine wagons, soldiers from the local garrison, and all able-bodied townspeople were on the scene to fight the blaze. Fortunately, the wind eased and the city was saved.

25

**1998:** British Columbia baked as temperatures approached 40°C from the 26th to the 28th. At least 7 BC cities had temperatures of 39°C or more. On Vancouver's beaches, where 200,000 people went to cool off, the sand became too hot to walk on. Health officials issued air quality warnings for Greater Vancouver, the Fraser Valley, and the southern Interior.

26

**1969:** After a severe thunderstorm raced through the Welland, ON, area, curious residents noticed the storm had propelled a wheelbarrow almost 200 metres through the air to a landing, with handles imbedded, in the roof of a dwelling.

27

**1899:** A lightning bolt entered a Dunvegan, ON, home and took the life of a 7-year-old boy. The victim was sleeping between 2 other children who were unharmed.

28

First Quarter 

**1946:** The most destructive hailstorm in the Okanagan Valley's history pelted Penticton, BC, with hailstones as large as hens' eggs and weighing 85 grams. In 15 minutes, the storm wiped out 15% of the bumper crop of apples, peaches, apricots, and prunes.

29

**1937:** A severe storm with wind, hail, and rain caused enormous property and crop losses near Camrose, AB. Even where the hail was not as thick, the accompanying strong winds stripped the heads off grain stalks. There were 2 instances of calves being blown out of their yards. A wagon and hayrack went through 3 fences and into the bush.

30

**1997:** Swarms of voracious caterpillars threatened Nova Scotia's Christmas trees and blueberry crops in one of the worst infestations in 20 years. The past mild winter and hot, dry weather had been ideal for the caterpillar. In its caterpillar stage, the hairy beast sheds its fur. These tiny irritating hairs can cause skin rashes, often driving work crews from the forest because the hairs can cause excessive itching and breathing problems.

31



# August 2001

JULY						
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SEPTEMBER							
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<p>1895: From an account of a hailstreak—a hailstorm less than 2 km wide—near Regina, SK: “A few preliminary drops, then the rattle and crackle of hailstones. The wind became violent, and the hail thickened until the rattle on the roof and windowpanes became a roar. It did not last long, but what destruction! The ground was covered an inch deep ... about 60 acres which that morning had promised an enormous yield had suffered severely.”</p>	<p>1979: A violent storm with gusty winds up to 100 km/h swept through Montreal's West Island. The storm cut hydro-electric power to more than 22,000 homes in the Quebec region and damaged 30 houses and cars. The storm also overturned several pleasure boats on nearby lakes.</p>	<p>1998: Thanks to a mild winter with minimal winterkill and a recent run of hot weather, the summer produced a bumper crop of pesky bugs in Calgary, AB. There was a lot more food out there for wasps and ants. One pest control company said its calls for wasp extermination had increased by 40%, and ant and aphid calls were up about 30%.</p>	<p>1999: In Burlington, ON, an F1 (weak) or F2 (moderate) tornado picked up a 15-metre mobile house trailer and blew it up. The owners found household objects scattered over their lawn and the trailer park. Pictures, personal letters, and Tupperware landed up to 2 km away. Ironically, the couple usually spend winters in Florida where they dodge tornadoes. But it was in Canada that they lost everything to a twister.</p>
						Full Moon ○
<p>1999: A wall of mud, laden with tree limbs and boulders and pushed by a thunderstorm, swept over a 200-metre swath of the Trans-Canada Highway near Banff, AB. Road crews took 24 hours to plough a 2-lane path through the debris. Thousands of tourists, truckers, and local residents were trapped, and traffic through Banff National Park was tied up for 3 or 4 days. Some excited American tourists said that this really topped their holiday.</p>	<p>1998: It was so hot in Saskatchewan—temperatures exceeded 38°C—that hog barn operators were hosing down their hogs in the afternoon. They used a holding tank to warm the water to ensure that the temperature change was not such a shock to the animals.</p>	<p>1844: At Galt, ON, a tornado unroofed several barns, destroyed fences, and downed scores of trees. A huge elm tree fell and crushed to death a Mrs. McIntyre—the first reported tornado death in Canada.</p>	<p>1979: A deaf-mute couple could not hear the thunder and high winds preceding a tornado that smashed through Regina, SK, about 6 p.m. The couple's young son motioned to his father to look out the window. Within seconds, the roof lifted, leaving several rooms exposed to extreme winds and rain. The force sent their children flying. Debris containing broken glass, pieces of trees, and loads of dirt swirled around the family's possessions.</p>	<p>1882: Lightning struck and damaged a home in Riverdale, NS. The force threw a mother and her baby into the cellar, seriously injuring them. The lightning bolt then passed from the house to the barn, where the father was milking a cow. It knocked over the pail and killed the cow.</p>	<p>1863: Lightning damaged a house near Beaver River, NS. The jolt knocked a woman senseless, and broke into pieces a pan she was carrying. It shattered another house, breaking at least 70 panes of glass. The lightning also struck the doorway of the Deerfield Baptist Church, completely destroying it and smashing the lamps in a chandelier.</p>	<p>1911: A twister hit Black Diamond, AB, picking up a little house with 3 people inside. Fortunately, the floor dropped out and settled to the ground, leaving the dazed occupants uninjured. What was left of the house and the family's belongings exploded into a mass of flying boards and rubble so high above the ground that a crew haying over the hill in Turner Valley could see it.</p>
	Civic Holiday					
<p>1931: Terrific forest fires burned a mere 3 km west of Fernie, BC, as citizens stood by to defend their homes. Heavy smoke concealed the fire's true extent. Farther into the Interior, 5 men abandoned their machines to escape the inferno. They told horror stories of wild animals fleeing the burning underbrush, their fur scorched or on fire. Bears, deer, cougars, and range cattle maimed by running over live embers ran desperately in front of the conflagration.</p>	<p>1999: A regional Beechcraft plane crashed near the Sept-Iles Airport on Quebec's North Shore, killing the pilot and injuring the 3 other people on board. Heavy mist had reduced visibility when the pilot attempted to land the plane.</p>	<p>1982: Baseball-sized hailstones in Parry Sound, ON, damaged as many as 6 cars, including two Model A Fords participating in a car poker rally east of the city. Insurance companies do not always insure antique vehicles to a value reflecting the hours of labour needed to restore them to mint condition.</p>	<p>1997: A motorist in British Columbia received a photo-radar ticket taken at 9:04 p.m., yet the photograph was taken in pitch darkness. Checking the newspaper's daily weather report, he confirmed that “the sun didn't set that night until 9:38.” He fought the ticket in court, telling the judge, “If they can't get the time right, how can we trust anything about it?” The judge agreed, and threw the ticket out of court.</p>	<p>1888: A funnel-shaped cloud twisting like a corkscrew struck St. Zotique, PQ. A lighthouse keeper described it as a great wall of green smoke containing all sorts of debris. After the storm cleared, a man's body was discovered half-buried in the mud with a piece of picket through his left temple and exiting from his neck. The twister also blew a boy into the river, where he drowned. His father was knocked down and pinned to the ground.</p>	<p>1999: What Environment Canada called a cold-core funnel cloud ripped along south of Winnipeg, MB, uprooting trees, shearing shingles off roofs, and frightening residents. The rotary cloud lifted a fertilizer tank and moved it about 400 metres. In Winnipeg, a 61-year-old man received cuts when water pressure from the downpour blew a manhole cover loose and sent it smashing into the bottom of his car.</p>	<p>1999: A tornado touched down in Pugwash, NS, ripping the dining room from a restaurant and sending it 12 metres across a parking lot. The cook and manager went flying through the air. A worker at the Pugwash Visitors Centre noticed an increase in traffic after the storm. “People want to see the damage for themselves. Lots of people stop outside what's left of the Caboose Café, take a picture, and then jump back in their car.”</p>
Last Quarter ●						New Moon ●

**1861:** In St. Mary's, NS, a father accidentally shot his 10-year-old son in a dense fog. The boy had climbed unobserved into a tree to fetch a robin's nest. His younger brother, hearing a rustling in the tree, took it to be a hawk, and immediately called his father, who fired in the direction of the noise. When no hawk fell out, he climbed into the tree and discovered the lifeless body of his boy caught among the branches.

19

**1999:** Three teachers hiking in northern British Columbia came across the frozen remains of an aboriginal hunter who died perhaps 10,000 years ago after falling into a glacier crevasse. Archaeologists dug the body out of the ice with ice picks and shovels and had it flown by helicopter to Whitehorse, YK, for temporary storage and examination. They could not find the man's skull. Ice movement over the centuries had likely separated it from the body.

Yukon Discovery Day

20

**1988:** A Soviet booster rocket used to launch a communications satellite plunged towards Earth over southern and central Ontario. Widespread sightings of the fiery debris prompted calls to Environment Canada's weather offices across the province.

21

**1892:** The worst gale in 20 years, packing winds between 60 and 100 km/h, ravaged Prince Edward Island. At Souris, the rare sou-easter washed away 30 metres of breakwater and drove ashore a 1,000-tonne barge, the *Gazelle*, near Wood Island. The storm toppled buildings and trees across the province.

22

**1998:** On the 23rd and 24th, a series of violent storms struck communities in the Sault Ste. Marie area of Ontario. At one home, propane tanks exploded. Elsewhere, a tree fell on a camper, squashing it as it it were aluminium foil. Another homeowner had his garage lifted off its footings. One woman discovered that the winds blew the covers off her bees' hatches.

23

**1998:** A freak storm with walnut-sized hailstones hammered Verona, ON, for 5 to 7 minutes. Howling winds and torrential rains and hail accompanied the blast. The hail hit with such force that it stripped leaves off trees. All that was left of a small fishing lodge were a pair of rubber boots and some garbage. "There was stuff like tablecloths and branches flying through the air. It was wicked," declared an eyewitness.

24

**1928:** Canada's first major air disaster occurred when a Ford Trimotor flew into Puget Sound, off the coast of British Columbia, in bad weather. Seven people died.

25

First Quarter



**1999:** Lack of rain meant that St. John's, NF, faced a serious water crisis. Water levels at Bay Bulls Big Pond had not been this low in 10 years. The water level had been dropping more than 25 mm per day due to hot weather and no rain. To add to the problem, the standing water in the Petty Harbour was "boggy" and infected with algae. "It's terrible and disgusting," said one restaurant owner.

26

**Weather Quiz**

On which day of the week does lightning most often strike people or things?

- 1) Monday
- 2) Tuesday
- 3) Friday
- 4) Sunday
- 5) no difference

27

**1999:** Hundreds of dead fish—shad, gizzard shad, catfish, and freshwater drumfish—washed up on the beach near Wheatley, ON, on Lake Erie, victims of thermal inversion. Thermal inversion occurs locally when strong north winds blow surface water toward the U.S., causing oxygen-depleted bottom water to rise to the top. Oxygen levels are low near the bottom because refuse rots there and uses up oxygen.

28

**1583:** Canada's first recorded marine disaster took 85 lives when the *Delight* was wrecked on Sable Island, NS, during a storm. Gale-force winds, blinding rain, and dense fog accompanied the storm. Wicked currents and huge waves made navigation impossible. The force battered the ship's top deck as it struck one of Sable's sandbars.

29

**1998:** The wooden, open-deck Viking ship *Snorri* and crew left Nuuk, Greenland, for L'Anse aux Meadows, NF, 2 months ago to retrace the route Leif Ericsson took nearly 1,000 years ago. There was no wind, but the weather forecast offered some relief: Hurricane *Bonnie* had fizzled out before reaching the ship. The voyage's website recorded, "The weather has been perfect, if not for sailing, then at least for rowing, hiking, and standing around in long johns."

30

**1998:** The blast of late summer heat rode the upper winds into Calgary, AB, from the deserts of California and Nevada. Temperatures in the city hit 28°C with sunny skies and no precipitation. In the blacksmith shop at Heritage Park, they didn't bother firing up the forge. Just too hot!

31





AUGUST													
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# September 2001

OCTOBER													
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<div>1912: A cyclone tore through Ingersoll, ON, and environs. At Zenda, it demolished a large concrete shed connected to the Methodist church. Of the numerous vehicles under the shed, 11 buggies—many of them almost new—were practically destroyed. A sheaf of oats hurled through the church window from a nearby field and almost knocked the minister attending Sunday School off his feet.</div>
<div>1915: A severe windstorm destroyed a railway bridge spanning the Minnewaski River, east of Uno, MB. Thirty minutes later, an eastbound freight train came through. The engineer saw that the bridge had disappeared but stuck to his post in an effort to stop the train. He went over the edge with his engine tender and 1 car. His fireman waited until the last minute before jumping as the engine went over the brink.</div>	<div>1999: Dense, early morning fog enveloped sections of Highway 401 near Windsor, ON, contributing to one of the worst road disasters in Canadian history. The horrific accident killed 8 people and injured 33 others. The chain-reaction pileup destroyed 82 vehicles, many of them fused together in the intense heat. Moments before the crash, visibility had been reduced to about 1 metre by the sudden occurrence of dense fog just after sunrise.</div>	<div>1999: Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro broke records this year for the number of blackouts to hit central Labrador. Customers lost electricity at least once a week. Hydro blamed the unusually high number of lightning storms over the summer. Critics also claimed that several insulators had burst in a heat wave earlier in the summer.</div>	<div>1999: The temperature in Montreal, PQ, reached 32°C—the highest mark registered for the city on this date since records were started in the province at Dorval in 1942. The day before, the temperature was 33.5°C, also a new record. Health officials recorded a rise in emergency calls for chest pains and asthma attacks. Ambulance usage was up by 10 to 15%. On the other hand, business for outdoor café owners was booming in the heat.</div>	<div>1939: A severe thunderstorm raged over St. Benoit, PQ. During the loud storm, a road-making machine backfired several times. All this occurred 5 days after Nazi planes started bombing Poland. Word spread quickly among villagers that enemy planes were dropping bombs while on their way to raid Ottawa. During the noisy storm, about 50 people rushed from their homes and spent up to 3 hours hiding in fields.</div>	<div>1999: Several residents of the fledgling territory of Nunavut took the day off because the tides in Frobisher Bay hit their lowest point of the year. Everyone wanted to dig clams, and business pretty well ground to a halt. You couldn't find anyone in government service that day. The new administration knows it must make allowances for tradition, as half the employees and 85% of the population are Inuit.</div>	<div>1878: Rain poured down on Hamilton, ON, and surrounding areas for 70 consecutive hours. High waters flooded roads in Hamilton and the rail track in Grimsby, where the forenoon train from the West was delayed for 3 hours. The public besieged the post office, asking why the papers had not been delivered. At Port Credit, flood water undermined the telegraph posts.</div>
<div>Full Moon </div>	<div>Labour Day</div>					
<div>1992: Upon arriving home, a man from Nova Scotia's Annapolis Valley discovered his driveway washed out, his television zapped, and his washing machine behaving strangely—all because of a lightning strike. He felt partially to blame because his well was low, and he had prayed for rain. Greenwood recorded 41 mm of rain. Near Middleton, a weather observer reported hail up to 15 mm thick.</div>	<div>1998: A break in the weather finally allowed divers at the scene of Swissair Flight 111 off Nova Scotia to attempt to retrieve victims and the telltale cockpit voice-recorder of the doomed flight. Strong winds and waves had kept deep-sea divers out of the water near Peggy's Cove since they had recovered the flight data recorder on 6 September.</div>	<div>1995: The remnants of Hurricane Luis slammed Newfoundland's southern Burin Peninsula, washing out roads and bridges and toppling trees. A resident from Marystown lost his motorhome when it was washed right out of his garage. Packing winds of 175 km/h, Luis tossed yachts and airplanes around like toys, trashed piers and shacks, and crumpled satellite dishes.</div>	<div>1999: Heavy rain from the remnants of Hurricane Dennis was a boost for fall fishing in New Brunswick. The rain increased many river levels by about 0.5 metres and had fish moving again. In the northern part of the province, with about 65 mm of rain in 3 hours, flash flooding washed out streets and bridges and flooded several homes in the community of Val-d'Amour, near Campbellton, and prompted housing inspectors to check for structural damage.</div>	<div>1839: A hurricane reached Charlottetown, PEI, in the afternoon. At its peak, the storm hurled loosened bricks from the top of chimneys and levelled several old buildings and 30-year-old trees.</div>	<div>1999: An infestation of Mountain pine beetles threatened hundreds of thousands of hectares of forests in and around Prince George, BC. A string of mild winters and an overabundance of mature timber had created ideal conditions for the beetle pest, which burrows into lodgepole pine, depriving the trees of nutrients and infecting them with a fungus. Nothing short of cold winters (-30°C) will stop the epidemic.</div>	<div>1909: "The Strathcona managed to get to a relatively safe anchorage before the storm. From then till 5 the next morning they couldn't see a thing for rain and spray driving at 60 miles an hour ... we saw lumps rising up on the bilge that was floating out of the water, which we felt sure were her crew fighting for their lives. To be so close to men perishing and be absolutely impotent to help them is a terrible thing." [Dr. Wilfred Grenfell of the International Mission in Newfoundland and Labrador]</div>

**1999:** Voter turnout in Saskatchewan's provincial election was not expected to be high. The weather was sunny and dry, and afternoon temperatures were around 25°C, some 6°C above normal, making it an ideal harvest day.

16

**1999:** Hurricane *Floyd*, which left a path of death and destruction in the U.S. eastern seaboard, turned out to be "more hype than hurricane" in the Maritimes. Winds rarely topped 80 km/h. With several days warning, fishermen started bringing in nets. The navy shuffled its ships and submarine to more sheltered jetties. At the Sable offshore drill site, the company flew up to 100 of its 300 employees to shore.

17

New Moon ●

**1879:** Near Montreal, PQ, the force of a "hurricane" raised a large freight shed and dropped it almost in the same place, in shambles. Crashing timber and shouts of the men frightened the horses away. One frightened fellow took refuge under a cart between a basket of potatoes and the wheel of a vehicle.

18

Rosh Hashanah Begins

**1958:** A violent storm with wind speeds as high as 100 km/h roared through Calgary, AB. The wind knocked over billboards, blew down store signs, and uprooted trees. It also hurled a bricklayer off a 15-metre scaffold. Winds fanned a fire, which had ignited in the hot exhaust of a baler and was burning in more than 2,000 tonnes of wild prairie hay at Stand Off on the Blood Reserve.

19

**1670:** At Charles Fort on James Bay, considerable effort was taken to keep the beer from freezing. One man's journal explained that beer was buried underground to preserve it from freezing so that "we may not want for our homeward bound voyage."

20

**1938:** A fierce rain- and windstorm raced across Quebec, causing heavy property damage and the loss of 1 life. Trees were uprooted, windows smashed, and roofs torn away. In Montreal, a streetcar stalled in a tunnel filled with water when its motor short-circuited. The passengers and motorman had to wade through water up to their waists. In Sherbrooke, stones weighing 1/2 kg were swept up and hurled through the air.

21

**1999:** On the 22nd and 23rd, 150 mm of rain fell in the Moncton, NB, area from tropical storm *Harvey*—a record rainfall with a probability of once in more than 100 years. Many residents of Dieppe who lived in basement apartments saw water rise to the ceiling and refrigerators float down hallways. In Sackville, employees of Beaver Lumber chased pieces of lumber floating around the yard.

22

Autumnal Equinox 19:05 EDT

**1999:** The remnants of Hurricane *Gert* sank at least 5 boats docked in the harbour at St. Bride's, on Newfoundland's Avalon Peninsula. Nine-metre waves took out a section of the concrete wharf and washed out parts of some roads.

23

**1878:** A storm ripped through Donnybrook, ON. In an instant, winds levelled an entire building, pinning an occupant in the debris. A nail was driven through his hand, but the man managed to break it off and pull it out with his teeth. He then quickly assisted other victims by lifting debris to free them.

24

**1964:** Gale-force winds, freezing rain, and rain caused havoc in southern Alberta. At Brooks, several tonnes of drilling pipe dropped from a rig onto a work hut crushing to death a worker and injuring 3 fellow workers in the hut. The rig is known to have withstood winds of 160 km/h. The storm also blew sheets of plywood around, destroying property, shearing off the heads of parking meters, and ripping off windshield wipers.

25

**1898:** At Merriton, ON, near St. Catharines, the sky became choked with heavy, coal black clouds that began massing in the West. Without warning, a dreaded tornado sliced into the centre of Merriton. It took 4 lives, injured 20 people, and obliterated countless homes and factories. A solid stone mill had its roof blown away, and part of a wall fell in on 100 employees. The winds carried cows through the air, and ripped the clothes off people's backs.

26

**1998:** A second consecutive day of powerful storms tore through parts of southwestern and eastern Ontario, toppling trees and power lines with high winds, heavy rains, and hail. About 40 km south of Hamilton, the winds sent a tree through a Binbrook home. "The tree started in my father's bedroom and went into the next room, and a limb came out the kitchen," said a resident.

27

Yom Kippur

**Weather Quiz**  
The hurricane season in the North Atlantic begins on which of the following dates?  
1) 1 May  
2) 1 June  
3) 4 July  
4) 8 August  
5) the day after Labour Day

28

**1958:** At Caribou, near Pictou on Nova Scotia's north shore, high seas aroused by Hurricane *Helene* flattened a 50-metre wharf and carried away more than 1,000 lobster traps. It immobilized traffic when 130 km/h winds sent trees crashing across streets, smashed store windows, and buckled homes. At Sydney, an unidentified freighter drifted 7 km offshore and rode through the storm. The captain ordered that the ship's engines be put in reverse to avoid grounding.

29

**1999:** Black ice conditions led to a 90-vehicle pileup in Calgary, AB, closing Deerfoot Trail for 20 hours. It was so icy, paramedics had to abandon their vehicles and walk to the injured.

30

First Quarter ●




SEPTEMBER

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# October 2001

NOVEMBER

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p>1669: Letter from Marie de L'Incarnation to her son: "The houses of the lower town of Quebec were badly damaged, the tide having swollen to such an extraordinary extent that it rose to the third storeys ... The gale was so violent that our house shook ... The roof and rafters of the lodgings of our domestic were carried away. It is estimated that the destruction caused by the tempest amounts to more than a hundred thousand lives."</p>	<p>Weather Quiz</p> <p>What causes the highest number of road accidents around the world?</p> <p>1) blowing snow 2) fog 3) strong winds 4) blowing sand 5) black ice</p> <p>Full Moon </p>	<p>1999: A frigid low of -8.6°C at Dauphin (Manitoba's cold spot) and -8.4°C at Gimli were new records for the date. Surprisingly, Dauphin became the province's hot spot when the afternoon temperature climbed to 7°C. Communities in northern Manitoba also experienced their first snowfall of the winter—some 3 weeks earlier than usual.</p>	<p>1999: Fredericton, NB, and district got a dusting of snow, but it melted a few minutes later. Since 1954, on only one other occasion has snow fallen here during the first 4 days of October. The city experienced brief power interruptions in a few sites as heavy, wet snow fell on power lines. The snow was blamed for a lower-than-usual voter turnout (34% of voting population) in the mayoralty by-election.</p>	<p>1998: Snow mixed with rain dampened northwestern New Brunswick around the Bath area. According to the <i>Farmer's Almanac</i>, it was going to be an early winter. The volunteer weather observer in Nictaux, NS, also predicted a snowy winter because beavers were gathering plenty of wood and spreading loads of mud on their lodges. (Note: Winter 1998-99 was milder and drier than normal.)</p>	<p>1998: The David Suzuki Foundation issued a report contending that air pollution and global warming kill about 16,000 Canadians a year. It estimated that by 2020 about 700,000 people worldwide would die prematurely each year from air pollution caused by the burning of fossil fuels.</p>
<p>1999: A Napanee, ON, man was lucky to be alive after lightning struck a furnace he was installing. He was standing on the third rung of an aluminum ladder when a bolt of lightning came through an upstairs window and hit the furnace. The shock did not knock him unconscious, but it left him disoriented and woozy and the tips of his fingers and toes ached.</p>	<p>1941: Described as a "twister," a violent windstorm was responsible for an extensive and costly power failure in the Toronto area. The disruption of hydro power stranded thousands of homeward-bound workers downtown, tied up traffic, and paralyzed war industries. The storm buckled a steel tower 8 km west of Cloyne, ON, and likely caused the failure of 2 other 220,000-volt circuits.</p> <p>Thanksgiving</p>	<p>1989: A vicious storm hit central Alberta, killing at least 1 person and causing extensive damage. The dust storm made driving treacherous in zero visibility. Winds of almost 120 km/h overturned 2 small planes and several trailers. The winds tossed a group of 10 dogs upside down through the air. A 1990 Cadillac Deville valued at \$50,000 was "thrown like a kite" from an advertising display stand at Calgary's Olympic Park.</p>	<p>1999: Around 8 p.m., a sailor aboard the <i>Buckeye</i>, a Great Lakes freighter, fell overboard into Lake Superior. It was a miracle that he survived in the frigid waters and 2-metre waves until his rescue 8 hours later. The survivor swam to shore, where police took him in. His first request was for them to turn up the heat.</p> <p>Last Quarter </p>	<p>1885: A powerful Atlantic hurricane raced along the southeast coast of Labrador from Battle Harbour to Cape Harrison. The storm did immense damage to the fishing fleet—wrecking 80 vessels and drowning at least 70 men. Two thousand persons huddled on shore in destitute conditions. Officials immediately dispatched steamers to the scene of the disaster carrying provisions, clothing, and other comforts for the castaways.</p>	<p>1998: The City of Saskatoon mobilized 75 city workers to trim trees following a huge Thanksgiving Day snowstorm in Saskatchewan. The surprise blizzard damaged up to 3,000 of the city's 90,000 public trees. The storm's heavy, wet snow added weight to the still-leaved trees causing limbs to break. In Regina, tree branches and limbs collapsed on cars, smashed roofs of homes, and downed power lines.</p>	<p>1893: On Friday the 13th, an intense storm struck the west end of Lake Ontario causing extensive property damage. Heavy rains flooded several dwellings in Hamilton. At the yacht club, the storm sank 3 expensive boats at their moorings. In Burlington, the wind-driven waves washed 100 barrels of apples off the dock.</p>
<p>1999: It was a tough summer for bears on Greater Vancouver's North Shore. Wildlife officers shot a record 28 bears, more than a 4-fold increase from 1998, and relocated another 10. Conservation officers had received 900 calls so far this year about problem bears. A late, cool, wet spring meant fewer bees pollinating flowers. Without ample berries, bears move down the mountain looking for food and end up in conflict with humans.</p>	<p>1996: Trace amounts of snow fell over much of Prince Edward Island on the 15th and 16th, forcing highway crews to sand a slippery stretch of the Trans-Canada Highway. Fierce winds and foaming waves stalled work on the Confederation Bridge for several days. Workers had only a few weeks left to finish placing the final piers and segments in the water before the ice set in and halted work until spring.</p>	<p>1876: A severe Atlantic storm ravaged parts of the Maritimes. The <i>Reeves</i>, an American schooner, struck the northwest side of Sable Island. All deckhands were lost. The <i>Lily</i>, with a cargo of cordwood and potatoes, capsized off Cape St. Mary's, NS. Two of the crew held on to the deck, which was swept off by a heavy sea, and succeeded in reaching the shore alive—bruised, bleeding, and almost chilled to death.</p> <p>New Moon </p>	<p>1996: A rapidly intensifying storm struck Vancouver Island, causing massive power outages and enormous property losses. Waves rose to 30 metres from 200 km/h winds. The storm toppled light standards and sent expensive pleasure craft crashing into rocks at the Oak Bay Marina. The Coast Guard Rescue Centre fielded 17 serious distress calls ranging from a capsized catamaran to overdue kayakers. There was no loss of life.</p>	<p>1999: Hurricane <i>Irene</i> began its assault on Fredericton, NB, as a steady, gentle rainfall with 50 km/h winds. The cold rain did not flood Moncton—much to the relief of city works officials. The last big hurricane flooded the city from 22 to 23 September with a record 150 mm of rain. <i>Irene</i> hit harder in Nova Scotia, battering the coastline with stronger winds.</p>	<p>1999: Several windy days disrupted transport schedules across Newfoundland. Ferries to the island were as much as 4 or 5 days behind; container vessels were a half-week off; and trucks were held up on both ends of Wreckhouse, likely the windiest stretch of the Trans-Canada. In past decades, winds there have blown over transport trucks and trains. But years ago, a gale blew down the monitoring station, so winds are no longer monitored there.</p>	<p>1920: Appropriately, it was wet almost everywhere in British Columbia as results in a provincial plebiscite rejected prohibition. It even rained in Kamloops, one of the driest localities (weatherwise) in the province.</p>

1987: A CN railway tank car carrying propane from Winnipeg, MB, to Duluth, MN, derailed due to a track-switching problem. Although no leakage occurred, emergency measures officials evacuated about 300 people in and around Emerson, MB, as a precautionary measure. The Weather Office at Winnipeg provided those on site with relevant current weather information as well as forecast information.

21

1999: A hot, dry spring in Prince Edward Island was great for planting, but near-drought conditions occurred in June and July. In some areas, farmers had to buy irrigation systems. In the fall, when farmers counted on dry weather, hurricane tailspins dumped huge rainfalls. Potato crop losses were estimated at 25% across the province because many potatoes were left in soggy fields.

22

1999: Bad weather in Kingston, ON, forced the postponement of a charity walk in honour of a homeless man who had died from exposure. Organizers rescheduled the walk for a week later, rain or shine.

23

1999: More than 25 people were forced from their homes after large straw bales caught fire in southeast Calgary, AB. The bales were used to buffer construction noise coming from the building of a new highway interchange. Weeks of dry, warm weather made grass highly combustible.

24

1933: Huge rainfalls made main highways in southern New Brunswick impassable due to downpours of 100 mm and the ensuing washouts. Water to a depth of 2 metres or more flooded 12 highway bridges and interrupted rail service.

25

1886: The Calgary *Tribune* ran an editorial praising the unsurpassed climate of the ranching country around Calgary, AB. An estimated 100,000 head of cattle were on the ranges south of the city. Encouraged by several warm winters, ranchers shared the newspaper's optimism and did not put up hay for their cattle. The winter of 1886-87 proved to be tough. There were several blizzards, and no Chinooks until March.

26

1997: A major snow-storm lashed parts of Quebec, leaving thousands of people without power and unprepared for an early taste of winter. Hydro-Quebec crews restored power to more than 50,000 homes, most of them in the Montreal and Quebec City areas. Provincial police pulled heavy trucks and busses off the roads in the Charlevoix region, a mountainous area with winding roads about 100 km northeast of Quebec City.

27

1998: Farmers and homeowners along the Grand River prayed for rain because their wells were drying up. Officials of the Grand River Conservation Authority said it was the worst drought in Ontario in more than 20 years—the result of a very dry summer and fall. Well-diggers had to dig more than 20 metres in order to find water. Some residents waited long periods for flows to return after doing only 1 load of laundry.

28

1999: Biologists suspected a rare bacteria or botulism killed hundreds of ducks and loons found washed up on the shores of Lakes Erie and Huron. Warm summer and fall weather along with low water levels increased algae bloom, which may have contributed to the kill-off. Hundreds of birds washed up on beaches at Ipperwash and Erieau, ON.

29

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

30

1999: An Alberta clipper raced through Saskatchewan bringing several centimetres of snow to the North Battleford region. Winds reached 70 km/h in Saskatoon and 110 km/h in Regina. They knocked down frees, tore off sidings and eavestroughs, and blew over signs. The strong winds even moved parked cars.

31

First Quarter 

Halloween 

Daylight Savings Time Ends

## OCTOBER

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## November 2001

## DECEMBER

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Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

**1999:** A man from Fredericton, NB, was recovering from an accident yesterday when high wind gusts of 70 km/h tore the "bolted-down" cap off a half-ton pickup truck and hurled it into his windshield. The vehicles were travelling in different directions and had just met each other when the accident happened. **4**

**1938:** High waves on Lake Erie, driven by strong southwest winds, pounded government piers at Eriau, ON, for several hours. The wind-waves washed out an asphalt surface used for truck traffic on the main dock. The waves entered warehouses thought to be adequately high and destroyed a load of beans ready for shipment. **5**

**1998:** A provincial silviculturist from the Vernon forest district of British Columbia reported that last summer's severe drought had killed millions of trees in the Okanagan, and weakened millions more. He said it was the worst damage he had seen in 25 years and warned that it could be worse by next summer. **6**

**1869:** A thunderous storm roared across the Great Lakes, sinking 77 ships, including 56 schooners. Some saw this horrible incident as the turning point from sail to steam on the lakes. **7**

**1986:** The worst blizzard in 20 years dumped 35 cm of snow over 2 days on Winnipeg, MB, and reduced visibility to zero. Blinding snow and gusting winds up to 90 km/h buried roads and made travel in the city and surrounding areas almost impossible. Residents used snowmobiles to navigate main arteries as transit services came to a halt. **8**

**1913:** A Great Lakes storm sank or wrecked 34 ships, drowning more than 270 seamen. A sailor from Hamilton, ON, read in a newspaper that his body had come ashore. He hurried home only to find a coffin in his father's house and preparations being made for his funeral. Earlier, his father had claimed a body that bore every resemblance to his son, even to the tattooed initials and a remembered scar. Luckily, the young man had left the ship before the storm. **9**

**1816:** A British transport ship heading for England struck the outermost rocks of St. Shotts, NF, during a fierce storm. In a desperate attempt to get a rope ashore, the captain tied a line to the ship's dog and threw him overboard. The dog got ashore. The first mate, who had made it to land earlier in a lifeboat, secured the rope to the rocks. Thirty people made it to safety along the lifeline before the rope broke, but 200 souls drowned. **10**

**1838:** From Lady (Louisa) Durham's journal: "I believe this is the worst gale [Newfoundland] we had—on one occasion the only small sail we had to steady the ship was split in pieces, with a noise like thunder ... We continued after this to have a great deal of bad weather, heavy squalls, swell, and terrible rolling of the ship but occasionally finer intervals—and when it was possible we passed some time on deck." **11**

**1887:** The captain of the British steamer *Siberian* reported while he was off Cape Race, NF, the previous night, a large ball of fire rose out of the sea to a height of about 15 metres and came, against the wind, close to the ship. It then ran alongside the vessel for some time and finally bore off in a different direction, being visible altogether for about 5 minutes. What he saw was probably ball lightning. **12**

**1917:** In Inverness, BC, the weather had been "the worst known in 50 years"—rain and winds day after day. A large debris slide moved down a mountain and covered an area 12 metres deep and 180 metres wide. Cattle and horses drowned, and rain washed away the potato and hay crops. People suffered much from cold and lack of proper food. When news of the disaster reached England, sympathy and substantial help came from many quarters. **13**

**1997:** When the first snowfall of the season (17 cm) hit Hamilton, ON, panic-stricken residents made a run on stores selling snowblowers, shovels, and ice scrapers. The snowfall contributed to more than 50 highway mishaps. Workers at Ivor Wynne Stadium had to scrape the snow off the turf for a high school football game. **14**

**1786:** From the memoirs of a preacher in Pictou, NS: "The snow that came today lasted until the middle of April, some of it till May ... It became gradually deeper ... between 2 and 3 feet deep ... We had to alter the plan of preaching entirely. People could not sit in a house without fire and could not travel far ... The settlers of the upper East River, being unprovided with snow shoes, were excluded from all communication with the rest of the people." **15**

**1959:** Today was the first day of an 18-day stretch of precipitation in Quebec City. The total accumulation over the wet spell was 91.6 cm, including 50.1 cm of snow. **16**

**1999:** Freezing rain and fog wreaked havoc on Calgary roads and sidewalks, creating backlogs for ambulances and forcing hospitals to bring in extra staff. From 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. ambulance teams responded to 130 calls. Normally the Alberta city gets 150 calls in a 24-hour period. **17**

# Weather Quiz

18

In November 1970, a horrendous hurricane in the Indian Ocean battered the region. In one country, people blamed the government for not warning them of the impending disaster. They revolted, and in a few months had formed a new country. Which country was it?

- 1) Myanmar (Burma)
- 2) Sri Lanka
- 3) East Pakistan
- 4) Bangladesh
- 5) Mauritius

19

1980: The first snowstorm of the season in Halifax knocked out electrical power systems in the centre of the city. Four people died—2 drowned when their boat capsized off Nova Scotia's eastern shore, and 2 others perished in traffic accidents. The storm downed hundreds of utility poles and forced businesses and schools to close.

20

1999: A weather vane designed in the shape of a large molar, sitting atop the roof of a dental clinic in Yellowknife, NWT, went missing. Earlier, witnesses had spotted children trying to climb the roof. The copper wind vane was one of a kind, made in California. No one filed a police report, but the public was asked to keep an eye out for the missing molar.

21

1991: As the Argonauts took the practice field prior to the Grey Cup game in Winnipeg, MB, a fresh snowfall of 10 cm covered the ground. But rather than bundle up, 12 team members jogged out for practice in their shorts. "We were trying to make a point. I don't know if it worked," said Don Wilson, Toronto defensive back.

22

1957: A storm blasted Prince Rupert, BC, with heavy rain and gale-force winds. It blew out windows and knocked over fences. Water surrounded the city. Road, air, boat, and telephone services were out. Mud loosened by the rainfall swept down a mountain slope, carrying rocks, trees, and muskeg. Trees, some 1 metre across, snapped like matchsticks. By the time the mud slump settled at the bottom of the mountain, it had buried 3 houses and 6 bodies.

First Quarter 

23

1797: When the HMS *La Tribune* ran aground near Herring Cove, NS, the captain ordered 44 cannon tossed overboard so the ship would float free with the rising tide. Unfortunately, he threw them over the lee side, and as the wind came up to gale force, the ship was battered against the guns. It sank in 20 metres of frigid water as the men clung to the rigging. Local residents built fires on shore and called to the stranded sailors. But the seas were too high to mount a rescue, and 250 men perished.

24

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

25

1997: Canada's Environment minister pressed a computer button in Ottawa to power up 2 giant wind turbines 2,500 km away in southern Alberta. The 3 blades on each 40-metre tower near Pincher Creek started slicing through the air, producing wind power that will supply all of Environment Canada's electricity needs in Alberta for the next decade.

26

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

27

1999: During the Santa Claus parade in Moncton, NB, the temperature rose to a record 16.5°C. The previous record had been set in 1926 when the temperature reached 16.1°C. Moncton's main street was busy with shirtsleeve shoppers bobbing in and out of stores and commenting to one other about the mild weather. Miramichi beat a 102-year-old record with a temperature of 15.7°C; Bathurst's 16.0° eclipsed a 111-year-old record.

28

1999: November temperatures in Edmonton, AB, were about 4 degrees warmer than normal. The city usually gets 74.6 cm of snow between September and November. This year saw only half that amount. Despite the lack of snow, more people signed contracts for ploughing and shovelling than in 1998. Residents feared that the record snowfalls from last year would be repeated.

29

1999: During a morning snowstorm in London, ON, a resident was either cutting his back lawn or winterizing his gas mower when, for unknown reasons, the mower caught fire or exploded, engulfing the man in flames. A charred lighter and package of cigarettes was found beside the mower. The man's clothes were burned off. He died late that night from massive burns to most of his body.

30

1998: Rural Quebec voters had to show patience as they dealt with freezing rain, icy roads, and long lineups. Outlying areas faced power outages—a grim reminder of last January's ice storm—while the temperature soared to a balmy 13°C in Montreal.

Full Moon 

NOVEMBER

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# December 2001

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
						<b>1999:</b> Winter's first snowstorm created havoc in Nova Scotia. City-hall phone lines in Halifax were jammed with people complaining about delays in ploughing side streets. Officials explained that besides being the season's first snowstorm, this was also the municipality's first big snowfall in 2 years. At the airport, about 35 cm of snow—with the consistency of wet cement—gave snow-clearing crews fits. The airport had to close for a few hours. <b>1</b>
<b>1926:</b> An ice blockade in the St. Mary's River, connecting Lake Superior with Lake Huron, trapped over 100 freighters on the 2nd and 3rd. Ice jams are common in this area in spring, but exceptional in early winter. For 4 days preceding the blockade, temperatures had ranged between -15° and -30°C, some 8 to 20 degrees below normal. A raging blizzard helped complicate the situation. <b>2</b>	<b>1900:</b> There was lots of coal for stockings this Christmas in North Lake, PEI. A coal boat, the <i>Citizen</i> , came ashore in a snow-storm. More than 20 cm of snow fell, and temperatures were at -3°C. <b>3</b>	<b>1845:</b> "In spite of stormy weather and almost impassable roads, over 150 inhabitants, consisting of members of the Legislative Assembly, clergy, magistrates, and the more weighty and influential freeholders, gather in Windsor, NS ... to discuss transportation in general and, in particular, a railway between Halifax and Windsor." [ <i>History of the Dominion Atlantic Railway</i> , by Marguerite Woodworth, 1936] <b>4</b>	<b>1999:</b> In Red Deer, AB, unseasonably warm weather meant that consumer items such as overcoats, vehicle batteries, shovels, snowboards, skis, and other winter equipment sat unsold on store shelves. Retailers had to slash prices. The only items disappearing from shelves were Christmas lights and decorations. <b>5</b>	<b>1862:</b> The worst gale in Yarmouth, NS, in several years blew down a long row of buildings known as "Landers' Block," on what is now called Alma Street. The wind pushed a building housing the fog bell and tower more than a metre off its foundation. A few days later, a number of townsmen assembled to raise the walls. <b>6</b>	<b>1999:</b> The crucial ferry link across the Mackenzie River in the Northwest Territories reopened, restoring Yellowknife's only highway access to the outside world. Before this, helicopters had to airlift perishables such as milk and eggs across the river. Christmas trees were a low priority. The city had been cut off 2 weeks earlier when an ice jam caused river levels to lower. A break in the ice jam restored the water to the minimum level necessary. <b>7</b>  Last Quarter ☾	<b>1913:</b> Heavy rainfalls (100 mm or more) on the 8th and 9th caused mudslides and train derailments in and around Prince Rupert, BC. Passenger trains were held up for a week; some interior locations ran short of food supplies. A gasoline launch broke its mooring and sustained considerable damage after being blown across the lake. <b>8</b>
<b>1977:</b> Over a 5-day period, London, ON, received 100 cm of snow. Whiteout conditions trapped people at home and work. Businesses and retail stores shut down, and the army was called in. They used mine detectors to locate fire hydrants buried in snow. Civilian snowmobilers ferried nurses to work and picked up stranded motorists. One 4-wheel-drive vehicle went all the way to Hamilton to pick up a supply of blood for the Red Cross. <b>9</b>	<b>1998:</b> Eaton's forecasted a loss of \$29 million instead of a solid profit due to "warm weather and squeezed margins." The retailer said that profits would continue to plummet during the crucial Christmas season as unseasonably warm weather plagued sales of coats, boots, gloves, and other winter items. <b>10</b>  Hanukkah Begins	<b>1999:</b> The first snowstorm of the winter in southern Quebec dumped 25 to 40 cm of snow, swept by winds of 80 km/h. The storm spared Montreal and Quebec City, but many areas along the St. Lawrence from Trois Rivières eastward faced blizzard-like conditions. Sept-Îles got nearly 40 cm of snow. Slippery roads and black ice conditions caused scores of accidents, leading to 13 fatalities and many injuries. <b>11</b>	<b>1999:</b> With temperatures hovering 5 to 7 degrees warmer than normal, several golf courses in the London, ON, area remained open. Cobble Hills Golf Club, which is also a ski club, boasted it could switch from grass-cutting to snow-making within 48-hours notice. Some Christmas-tree vendors blamed warm weather for slower-than-normal sales. <b>12</b>	<b>1999:</b> The RCMP in Prince George, BC, investigated an incident of road rage when a driver attacked a snow-plough with a hammer and punched the driver. He smashed out the plough's headlights and the driver's side window, then attacked the windshield before fleeing. The hammer-wielding man claimed that stones from the plough had struck his windshield. <b>13</b>	<b>1876:</b> A blizzard, described as "a perfect hurricane," raced across the Prairies. The fine snow blinded people to such an extent that even in places near Winnipeg's business centre, citizens lost their way. A party on snowshoes carrying lanterns and accompanied by a bugler searched unsuccessfully for one lost soul. One well-known citizen, unable to discover his exact whereabouts, roamed around within 50 metres of his house for nearly 2 hours. <b>14</b>  New Moon ●	<b>1964:</b> The "Great Blizzard" struck parts of the Prairies with heavy snow, sustained winds of 50 to 90 km/h, and -34°C temperatures. Lost livestock numbered over 1,000, and 3 people froze to death. In Red Deer, AB, the windchill temperature was nearly -73°C. Chief Walking Eagle, a wily old weather prophet, was not surprised. He had predicted that the winter would be long and cold with deep snow and "one really bad blizzard." <b>15</b>

**1876:** A fire broke out in the village of La Prairie, PQ, destroying the post office, telegraph office, a hotel, and 2 stables. A strong southwesterly wind threatened the lower portion of the village. The inhabitants turned out, organized a bucket brigade, and also demolished all the wooden buildings in the vicinity of the fire. The firemen were unable to use their hand pumps, owing to a "heavy frost." [The temperature was -30°C.]

16

**1998:** One of the world's largest aircraft skidded off a runway at Newfoundland's Gander Airport while landing in poor weather late in the night. Freezing rain had been falling for several hours, and there was fog. Officials said none of the 16 people aboard the massive Russian-built cargo plane, belonging to Britain's Heavylift Airlines, was hurt. The aircraft was still parked at Gander 16 months later.

17

**1999:** Winter arrived suddenly in Calgary, AB, when a howling blizzard stranded more than 50 skiers at the top of Canada Olympic Park. Winds gusting to 70 km/h forced officials to close the hill. Some skiers were blown backwards by the strong winds. Others lay on the frozen ground, huddling together, trying to escape ice crystals and snow blasting in their faces until park staff could send vehicles to bring them down.

18

**1999:** The first blizzard of the winter slammed into southern Manitoba, shutting down the Trans-Canada Highway and stranding scores of motorists. Two motorists died when their cars hit patches of black ice. Police arrested a 20-year-old man and charged him with dangerous driving on Pembina Highway. He was spotted around 4 p.m., pulling 2 teens on snowboards behind the vehicle.

19

#### Weather Quiz

Which place receives more solar energy?

- 1) North Pole on 21 June
- 2) Equator on 21 March
- 3) South Pole on 3 January
- 4) Equator on 21 September
- 5) Tropic of Cancer on 21 June

20

**1999:** A man from Lacombe, AB, survived a collision with a freight train by clinging to the side of the train for 20 km before he derailed it. He had lost control of his pickup on an icy rural road and struck the middle of the train, which dragged the pickup for about 4 km. He escaped through the back window and climbed onto the side of a rail car. Eventually, he uncoupled the cars, setting off the emergency brakes and stopping the train.

21

**1999:** At Haines Junction, YT, rain and mild temperatures melted snow, resulting in flooded basements and large puddles. One resident said he hadn't seen flooding like it in 27 years. In the days following, temperatures dropped and about a metre of snow fell, but rain on Boxing Day washed it away again. Fortunately, the town had used its vacuum truck to suck up puddles because by New Year's the temperature had fallen to -32°C.

22

Winter Solstice 14:22 EST

First Quarter 

**1995:** While on a flight from Yorkton to Regina, SK, a pilot flew his single-engine plane into thick fog and headlong into guy wires attached to an RCMP radio tower. Weather was clear on take-off but deteriorated soon after.

23

**1999:** Filmmaker Bryan Stoller had to have snow hauled from an arena to a sidewalk in Ottawa's Sparks Street Mall for the wintry scene in the movie *Kavendish*, starring Dolly Parton.

24

**1999:** Hundreds of residents of Churchill, MB, had to seek refuge in a community centre from a fierce storm that knocked out power in northern Manitoba and northwestern Ontario. Winds peaking at 133 km/h cut most of the power in Churchill on Christmas Day afternoon.

25

**1902:** Two Grand Trunk Railway trains collided near Wanstead, ON. Twenty-eight persons died, nearly all of them passengers, and another 29 or more were seriously injured. There was a severe snowstorm at the time—25 cm of snow over 3 days and -15°C temperatures.

26

**1999:** It was so warm in parts of Alberta on the 27th and 28th (as high as 20.6°C in Claresholm) that grass fires broke out and trees sprouted leaves. It was hotter in Alberta than in parts of Mexico. People shed parkas for T-shirts; there was even a string bikini sighting on a ski hill in Edmonton. In Saskatoon, SK, a barely frozen skating rink sprouted patches of grass as temperatures hit 7.8°C.

27

**1942:** One of the worst freezing-rain storms to hit eastern Ontario this century began today. More than 30 mm of ice brought much of the area to a standstill for several days, and disrupted power, telegraph, and telephone services for up to 2 weeks. It was reported that outlying areas were a mass of tangled wires and trees. Telephone wires were covered by ice as thick as a person's wrist.

28

**1999:** Vancouver reported its eighth consecutive day with dense fog, making it the foggiest month in the BC city this decade, but far from a record. Many flights in Victoria and Vancouver were cancelled during the 8 days. The longest streak of consecutive fog was 13 days, from 20 November to 2 December 1956. There were also 2 streaks of 12 days in January 1965 and December 1985.

29

**1999:** Boy Scouts from around the world assembled in Quebec City, PQ, to try winter camping. It was a big shock to scouts from tropical regions who were without warm clothing, when temperatures sank to -25°C.

Full Moon 

31

Christmas Day

Boxing Day





# WEATHER QUIZ ANSWERS

January – 1)	Victoria, BC
February – 5)	Halifax Hal
March – 3)	wine
April – 3)	zigzag line
May – 2)	screamers
June – 5)	fire cannons at it
July – 5)	Kelowna
August – 4)	Sunday
September – 2)	1 June
October – 4)	blowing sand
November – 4)	Bangladesh
December – 3)	South Pole on 3 January