

DECEMBER

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FEBRUARY

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# January 2002

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

		<p>1997: Several Ontario and western Quebec cities registered a record low number of hours of bright sunshine last month. Not coincidentally, mental health clinics reported a rise in seasonal affective disorder (SAD), a depressive state associated with shorter days and overcast weather. Typically, patients feel lethargic, can't concentrate, sleep longer hours, eat more chocolate and pasta, and experience other mood disorders.</p> <p>New Year's Day</p>	<p>1955: Following a snowstorm, workers in Fredericton, NB, were removing snow from city streets. They became concerned when snow spewing from their snow blower had a pinkish tinge. They searched through the snow, tearing what they might find. What they learned was that a young man, whose parents objected to him using alcohol, had hidden a bottle of red wine in the snowbank.</p>	<p>2001: With near-record temperatures of 11.5°C and a negligible snow cover in Calgary, AB, the phone was ringing off the wall at companies specializing in scooping "doggie doo." Said one busy pooper scooper, "There's poop soup everywhere when it melts. That freaks people out. All of a sudden these brown flowers show up all over the place. A dirty job. But somebody's got to do it."</p>	<p>2001: Canada's first snow-made hotel opened in Quebec City. The interior room temperature was around -5°C. One thousand tourists had signed up for a night in the frosty inn. Modelled after a similar attraction near Stockholm, the hotel was built from 4,500 tonnes of snow and 250 tonnes of ice. It opened for 3 months before being left to melt in spring. The cost—\$165 a night—included a hot breakfast.</p>	<p>1956: A freezing rain storm descended over parts of Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick, disrupting communications and leaving hundreds of people without light, heat, and water. Bent television aerials hung in grotesque shapes. In southeastern New Brunswick, at least 8,000 utility poles collapsed, and food was running low. With trees and poles falling everywhere, travelling on foot was extremely hazardous.</p> <p>Last Quarter ☾</p>
<p>2000: On the strength of weather forecasts, officials in Ottawa, ON, were hopeful that the Rideau Canal would stay open during celebrations to commemorate 30 years of skating there. Two days ago, rain runoff containing salt, sand, and other road debris had run onto the canal, warming and weakening the ice. For the celebrations, skaters received 30% off skate rentals and sharpening, and hot beverages cost 30 cents.</p>	<p>1928: Heavy rain and a rapid temperature rise in west-central British Columbia primed slopes for avalanches. Near Stewart, a thundering wall of snow buried several cabins. The snow also swamped 2 horse-drawn sleighs. Rescuers worked frantically to extricate the animals. After 2 hours of strenuous digging, they freed the horses. The sleighs and harnesses were recovered later.</p>	<p>2001: Canadian and US coast guards were busy clearing paths for freighters on the Detroit River, Lake Erie, and the Upper Great Lakes. Lake Superior froze over for the first time since 1994. According to veterans of the US icebreaker fleet, owing to the earlier-than-normal cold, this winter was shaping up to be the worst for ice jams in more than 20 years. Ice fishers weren't complaining.</p>	<p>1875: The weather was cruelly cold and blustery across southern Ontario. Temperatures dipped to -30°C. In Lindsay, an intense storm of wind and snow raged all day, halting trains in their tracks. In London, several outdoor workers suffered frost-nipped noses and ears. In Hamilton, a poor woman, known familiarly as "Crazy Jane," froze to death in her hut on the Mountain Road.</p>	<p>1971: In a tailed ice-fishing expedition in BC's Skagit Valley near Ross Lake, 2 children froze to death and 3 relatives suffered exposure and frostbite. The incident shocked police because the group had everything needed to survive: matches, propane torch, and lots of wood. Why they went fishing in the middle of the winter's first big snowstorm and ran down the truck battery playing the radio remains a mystery.</p>	<p>2001: Scooter, an American foxhound, was dining on salmon, chicken, and roast beef following an ordeal drifting alone on an ice floe. She had been running after a coyote near Big Point, PEI, when winds pushed the ice floe off the coast. Her owner gave up trying to get her back. Five days later near a beach at Lismore, NS, a young man jumped into the ice-filled water to rescue the marooned dog.</p>	<p>2001: Winter had hit early, and there were record and near-record snowfalls in December. Windshield-washing fluid became a hot item for sale in eastern Canada. Demand was up 70% in Ontario and 40% in Quebec. Major producers pumped out jugs of windshield-washer fluid around the clock but still couldn't keep up with demand. Someone's solution for the shortage: raid your liquor cabinet.</p>
<p>2001: About a week ago, Alberta Environment found the water equivalent of snow on the ground at Sunshine Valley near Banff was only 47% of the 16-year normal of 290 mm—the lowest ever measured at this time of year. Precipitation levels in Edmonton were also at an all-time low for January with 1.2 mm of rain and a trace of snow.</p>	<p>Weather Quiz What is the origin of the expression "brass monkey weather"? 1) weather service employees working in Snag, YT 2) factors working for the Hudson's Bay Company near Churchill, MB 3) British nautical term for cold weather 4) North-West Mounted Police expression for the dead of winter 5) trappers' expression for when traps become frozen shut (answers on inside back cover)</p>	<p>1997: Some of the coldest air in years swept across Manitoba and northern Ontario. In Winnipeg, where it dipped below -30°C, a 5-year-old girl froze her fingers waiting in line to enter school. She couldn't get one of her mitts on because it was caught in her snowsuit sleeve, and she didn't want to draw attention to herself by calling a teacher. Doctors were able to save the child's fingers.</p>	<p>1889: When it is winter in Canada, it is summer "down under." Australia's highest temperature on record occurred on this day at Cloncurry, Queensland, 53.3°C. At the same time, Winnipeg, MB, was in the grip of a cold spell with temperatures as low as -38°C.</p>	<p>2000: The worst blizzard in nearly a decade blasted most of Nova Scotia. Blowing snow on major routes caused reduced visibility, whiteouts, and snowdrifts. Most places received between 20 and 35 cm of snow. Almost everything was closed or cancelled including terry service, food banks, shopping centres, and schools. A Truro man set fire to a pile of firewood with a blowtorch while trying to thaw water pipes.</p>	<p>1935: The headline in BC's Vancouver <i>Sun</i> read: "An unknown enemy—a blizzard—barraged the Lower Mainland." Snow piles became a mini-glacier, especially after being coated with ice rain. Road crews abandoned motor trucks and brought out horses and sleighs. Residents used kerosene heaters in bathrooms to keep the pipes from freezing.</p>	<p>1886: Edmonton, AB, suffered through its lowest-ever temperature when the mercury plunged to -49.4°C. The city's population was 2,000. Commenting on an evening meeting, a local newspaper wrote: "The literary society had good attendance: ... at least of gentlemen ... despite the cold." The lecture for that week, after a short concert of a flute-violin duet as well as a banjo solo, was a discussion on summer frosts.</p>

New Moon ●

**1999:** Winter was taking its toll in the Barrie, ON, area. The Royal Victoria Hospital reported many cases of broken bones from people slipping and falling, or tumbling off ladders and roofs. Some patients complained of chest pain after shovelling sidewalks; other patients lost fingers trying to clear snow-clogged snowblowers. Chiropractors couldn't keep up with their caseload of lower-back-pain sufferers.

20

**2001:** A storm blasted Nova Scotia with upwards of 30 cm of snow and powerful northeasterly winds. The weather didn't discourage thousands of teenage concertgoers from catching The Moffatts at Sydney's Centre 2000. In Halifax, transit authorities took buses out of service, and police kept cruisers off the roads. Halifax police received more than 100 calls to ticket vehicles hampering snowploughs.

21

First Quarter 

**2001:** Yet another snowstorm hit St. John's, NF. There was about 6 times (more than 335 cm) the normal amount of snow on the ground. A radio station sponsored a contest asking listeners to submit original songs about the weather. The winner included the lines: "We're swimming in the snow, it's got to be knee deep. We can't get it cleared because we're just a side street." Her prize? A cleared driveway.

27

**1977:** The "Blizzard of '77" is long remembered in the Niagara Peninsula as their "storm of the century." In Wainfleet, ON, teachers became trapped with their students for 2 nights. On the third day, road crews used a lull in the storm to open up access roads to the schools. At one point, an army helicopter was used to drop some students into their own back yards.

28

Full Moon 

**1999:** At the end of December, Environment Canada changed its reporting of wind chill in southern Ontario from the old "feels-like" temperature to the wind chill factor in units of watts per square metre, a measure of how fast bodies lose heat. But because of a backlash from storm-shocked Torontonians enduring their snowiest January in 160 years, weather officials reverted back to equivalent temperature.

22

**1998:** During a rare winter thunderstorm in Nova Scotia, lightning shattered every pane of glass in 2 rooms of a house and tore down the ceiling. An 11-year-old girl sitting near a window got a severe shock. The force of the lightning broke her leg and split the sole of her foot from her ankle joint to the end of her toes. She required 22 stitches to close the wound. Later the foot had to be amputated.

23

**2001:** The unseasonable warmth in Whitehorse, YT, spelled trouble for the Yukon Quest sled dog race between Whitehorse and Fairbanks, AL, to take place in 2 weeks. Some waterways had not yet frozen over. One racer planned to use reflective blankets on dogs with dark fur to prevent them from absorbing the sun's heat. He also planned more breaks so his 14-member canine team could cool down and eat snow.

24

**1997:** The temperature in Edmonton, AB, dropped to -42.2°C. Organizers for several weekend events featured in the *Edmonton Journal's* "Ten Best Ways to Beat The Cold" cancelled events, including a nature walk, cross-country skiing, and dog-sled rides. Towing companies ran 6 hours behind. The fire department rotated fire fighters every 20 minutes so the men would not "freeze solid."

25

**1905:** Few storms ever stopped railway traffic in New Brunswick like this storm. The night express train from Saint John stalled in 10-metre snowbanks near Truro. Somehow, the plough got separated from the locomotive and froze fast. The locomotive had to be cut off from the rest of the train. Shovelling it out with such a fierce wind and blinding snow was said to be "beyond the power of man."

26

**1996:** Between Wawa and Marathon in northern Ontario, snowdrifts were over 3 metres high. It was so perilous that the Ontario Federation of Snowmobilers closed many trails. A week before, even the trail groomer got stuck in the deep snow. Highway maintenance crews resorted to using dynamite to clear snow on the Trans-Canada Highway.

30

**2001:** Clean-up and rescue operations continued at a Ste-Marie-de-Kent farm in New Brunswick after part of the barn housing 9,000 pigs collapsed under heavy snow, killing hundreds of pigs. No one was in the barn when about a quarter of the roof fell in. About 2 dozen people helped remove the debris and rescue pigs still alive under the rubble.

31

## JANUARY

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# February 2002

## MARCH

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Sunday

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Saturday

**2000:** Residents of Tofino, BC, were miffed that their hot-spot temperature of 16°C didn't register on weather maps distributed by Environment Canada. Instead, the government weather service reported the country's hot spot was Pitt Meadows, BC, with 12.1°C. One Tofino resident, obviously hot under the collar, said it was so hot here that "the sun was splitting the rocks."

3

**2001:** Two young snowmobilers fell into the frigid water of Lake of the Woods. They scrambled out and found a nearby cabin, but their clothes were frozen on. The girl's fingers were so cold that she had to dial 911 using a pen held in her mouth. But police couldn't trace the call. Miraculously, the cabin's owner had the urge to call her cabin, and she contacted the police. Unfortunately, the young man died.

4

Last Quarter 

**1802:** Peter Fidler, a Hudson's Bay trader, reported unseasonably mild temperatures at Chesterfield House near Leader, SK. Fur was stored at this post before shipment to York Factory. "Warm weather, thermometer 40+ (°F). Cleaned the snow off the houses to prevent its melting and running through and spoiling the furs. Several Indians came in with only twenty foxes amongst them all."

10

**1430:** An aboriginal hunter, his headless body found by 3 sheep hunters at the foot of a northern BC glacier, lived prior to the arrival of Christopher Columbus. Carbon dating on the hunter's hat and weapons suggested he lived 570 years ago. Researchers believe he was a healthy young male who died in a winter storm.

11

**1663:** An account of an earthquake in Ontario: "... the inhabitants ... saw buildings tottering backwards and forwards, the walls ... suddenly parting one moment and closing the next. The earthquakes caused the bells in the churches to peal, the pickets of fences to bound from their places, great trees to be torn up by their roots and dashed hither and thither." [McMullen, *The History of Canada from Its First Discovery to the Present Time*]

5

**1911:** A fierce gale in southern coastal British Columbia, with wind gusts exceeding 100 km/h drove waves against the shore of Ross Bay. The waves washed out gravesites and carried coffins out to sea. The cemetery caretaker had to dig up exposed coffins and move them to a secure location. Among the coffins were the remains of smallpox victims. No one was to help the caretaker dig up the coffins.

12

Chinese New Year New Moon 

**2001:** Heavy snow in Atlantic Canada brought down several roofs. In St. John's, NF, the roof of a distribution centre caved in causing about \$100,000 in damages. In Halifax, NS, part of a former bingo hall/department store roof collapsed. The snow-laden, rain-soaked roof triggered a chain reaction that dislodged 2 lower floors, destroyed thousands of items, and blew out a brick wall. The noise sounded like an earthquake.

6

**1870:** After heavy snow-fall and rain at Low Point, NS, a wall of snow struck a house and carried it and its 6 occupants downhill. At the shore, the occupants were spilled out and the building was carried out on the ice. The husband and children escaped unharmed; a baby remained in the cradle sound asleep, and the wife/mother suffered bruising and burning when she fell against the stove.

13

Ash Wednesday

**2001:** New Brunswick students of all ages are convinced that if you wear your pyjamas inside-out on the night of a storm enough snow will fall to close schools the next day. For some youngsters, it's worked 4 times this winter. Some kids even wear their pyjamas backwards as well, just to increase the odds of having a snow day.

7

**Weather Quiz**  
What temperature must it be before schoolchildren in Yellowknife, NT, are allowed to play inside at recess and lunch hour?

14

- 1) 0°C
- 2) -10°C
- 3) -18°C (old 0°F)
- 4) -22°C
- 5) -35°C

Valentine's Day

**1947:** Pukatawagan, MB, has a strange and popular taxi service. The taxi is a snowmobile, and it allows the 500 residents to travel where they wish without benefit of roads. "I have seen a car with slush so high around you couldn't open the doors, and [the snowmobile driver] just reverses [the machine] and it came clear like a caribou out of water," said a game officer.

1

**1996:** A deep freeze gripped western and central Canada. In Vancouver, BC, police credited the cold with curtailing criminals. In Winnipeg, MB, the temperature was -42°C, and for the first time, mail carriers were excused from their routes. In Vancsoy, SK, Pepper the dog got his tongue stuck to an electric frying pan as he gobbled up food. He was spotted running home with the pan hanging from his tongue.

2

Groundhog Day

**1999:** Deep snow forced moose to move into Prince George, BC, in search of food, usually willow and alder bushes. One moose calf charged some visitors and had to be shot. Another animal broke down 2 fences as it walked through Prince George neighbourhoods. And another one charged a resident's dogs and hurt one of them.

8

**2001:** Thanks to a rainy day (20 mm at Toronto Pearson Airport), luck, and winning combinations of family numerals, a Vaughan, ON, couple won \$20 million in the Lotto Super 7 draw today—the fourth-biggest lottery win in Canadian history on a single ticket. The winner was out on her daily walk but took refuge in a mall when it started to pour. The detour led her directly to the lottery kiosk.

9

**2000:** The new territory of Nunavut held its historic first vote. Voter turnout was heavy in the new capital of Iqaluit. The North's notoriously fickle weather co-operated, with clear skies, little wind, and a seasonal -30°C. In the last territorial election, high winds had blown one polling station right into the ocean.

15

**2001:** Prince Edward Island residents were cleaning up following a snowstorm. Charlottetown got 13 cm of snow, but high winds whipped up snowdrifts as high as 2 m on highway shoulders. There were scores of multi-vehicle accidents, and hundreds of vehicles were abandoned. Some RCMP vehicles received minor damages from collisions while officers attended accident scenes. Several tow trucks broke down from worn-out clutches.

16

**1937:** A powerful wind- and snowstorm struck near Midnapore, AB. Windows blew in at the schoolhouse, cutting several children with flying glass. The winds fanned ash piles into showers of blazing cinders. Only quick work by neighbours prevented what might have been a serious blaze. Following the storm, many farmers spent long hours digging out cattle that were stuck in drifts with only their head sticking out.

17

**1773:** Scottish immigrants in the Maritimes used to store a supply of clams and oysters for the winter by piling them in large heaps on the sea shore, then covering them with sand. In winter, however, they were often obliged to cut through ice more than 0.5 metre thick to get at them.

18

Heritage Day

**1979:** Temperatures rose across central and eastern Canada after the record cold of the past 5 days. In Ottawa, the temperature was above -10°C for the first time in February—1 day short of the record for 20 days set in 1893. More than 200,000 persons attended the inaugural Winterlude. Leather facemasks and balaclava were fashionable at the 13th Canadian Ski Marathon—its coldest outing to date.

19

**1879:** A horrendous winter storm raged across the Maritimes. Halifax, NS, had its heaviest snowstorm in 5 years. Drifts in some places were 5 metres high. Business was completely suspended in the city. All roads were blocked. No mail communication was possible in rural areas. On the Intercolonial Railway, the train from Moncton, NB, to Halifax got stuck.

20

First Quarter 

**2001:** Near Elie, MB, you couldn't see a metre in front of your face because of whiteout conditions. At 8 p.m. there were more than 50 cars holed up in a gas station. The station's owner put 30 groups up for the night in his home and at his mom's place. They crashed on beds, couches, and on the floor. The manager set up 50 chairs among the store aisles so motorists would have someplace to sit.

21

**2001:** Outside temperatures dipped to -15°C, prompting Hamilton, ON's, chief medical officer of health to issue an extreme cold weather warning. An elderly woman froze to death when her feet were pinned under a heavy overhead door on the double garage behind her home. The 79-year-old woman, who lived alone, lay trapped for 2 days unable to reach the warmth of her home a few metres away.

22

**1974:** Winter weather likely played a role in the outcome of a Saskatchewan Liberal nomination meeting in Moose Jaw. Frigid temperatures around -18°C, blowing snow, and snow drifts 2 metres deep blocked regional roads, preventing supporters of some candidates from making it into the city. The low turnout enabled the local candidate, Colin Thatcher, to poll 82 more votes and secure the nomination.

23

**2001:** An Edmonton, AB, mother found her 13-month-old toddler in the snow in a neighbour's backyard, virtually frozen solid. The child had wandered outside and spent several hours in -20°C weather. Her toes were frozen together, her body temperature was 16°C—less than half of the body's normal temperature of 37°C—and her mouth was frozen shut. Her heart stood still for 2 hours. Doctors called her survival a miracle.

24

**1999:** Cold weather in Charlottetown, PEI, pleased women curlers at the Scott Tournament of Hearts. The colder it is outside, the easier it is to manage the ice inside. The head ice maker said that the swing in temperature this week from -20°C to 6°C made it a challenge to keep the ice perfect given the heat and high humidity from a full house. If inside "weather" is not right, dense fog can develop.

25

**2001:** Across western and central Nova Scotia, motorists and pedestrians slipped and slid on a slick sheen of ice following 9 hours of freezing rain. Near Kentville, a truck taking pigs to slaughter overturned on the slippery road. The pigs took off but were later rounded up. Several schools closed across the province, making for a record 7 days this winter.

26

Purim

**1997:** Wind gusts up to 110 km/h uprooted trees, smashed windows, and tore siding off buildings in the Windsor, ON, area. Seven university students escaped injury after a 10-metre branch broke off a rotten tree in the front yard and crashed through their rented house. On main street, glass globes were blown off light standards, traffic lights were out, and several stores had to replace shattered windows.

27

Full Moon 

**1998:** *The Old Farmer's Almanac* predicted February as the snowiest and coldest part of winter in southern Ontario. At Toronto, with records back to 1840, it turned out to be the mildest February on record. There was so little snow in the city (0.8 cm compared to the long-term average of 29 cm) that idle snow-removal crews were sweeping streets of winter grit and cigarette butts.

28

FEBRUARY

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# March 2002

APRIL

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Sunday

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Saturday

					<p>1962: A spring snowstorm surprised residents of Vancouver, BC, including weather forecasters who had called for clear skies. The city got a record 2-day snowfall of 35.6 cm. The storm closed Lions Gate Bridge, stranding dozens of motorists downtown and forcing them to spend the night in hotels. The snow also surprised pilots. One pilot had to crash-land on a highway near Mission.</p>	<p>2001: Most Ontario residents were griping about the length and severity of winter, especially the absence of bright sunshine. Callers inundated The Mood Disorders Association of Ontario with complaints that they were suffering from more bouts of seasonal adjustment disorder (SAD) than other years. The busiest spots in town were tanning salons, and the hottest selling items were snow or roof rakes.</p>
<p>2001: Old-timers in Prince Edward Island couldn't remember a tougher winter than 2001 for getting around. As of 1 March, 282 cm of snow had fallen at Charlottetown, about 115% of normal totals for this time of year. There were frequent whiteouts and many hours of drifting and blowing snow—conditions that caused several multi-vehicle pile-ups. Seven school days had been cancelled in the province this winter.</p>	<p>1971: A snowstorm dumped more than 50 cm of snow on Montreal, PQ, paralyzing the city. A physician was shovelling his driveway when a policeman on a snowmobile "kidnapped" him and took him to a clinic to assist a woman in labour. A huge snowplough then transferred them to a nearby hospital, where the woman gave birth to a girl. Meanwhile, the doctor's wife called police to report her missing husband.</p>	<p>2001: Unseasonably mild temperatures, a critical lack of rain and snow, and grass fires forced Alberta officials to declare fire season a month early. Snow pack in southern regions was as much as 1/3 of normal, making it the 4th driest on record. Residents and visitors had to obtain a burning permit before lighting a fire. Farmers were advised not to plant water-thirsty crops such as alfalfa.</p>	<p>2000: A late winter snowstorm covered Alberta highways with treacherous slush and ice. Icy roads in Edmonton caused 67 fender-benders including separate collisions with a couple of transit buses and school buses. Hospital staff was busy treating dozens of cases of sprains and bruises. The city even ran short of ambulances at times.</p>	<p>2001: Ice rings are more rare and less understood than crop circles. The Canadian Crop Circle Research Network has documented 11 cases in Canada. A woman in Delta, ON, found a perfect ice ring almost 5 metres across on the pond behind the family barn. How they form is a mystery. One theory: the current flowing into a pond moves in a circle and affects the freezing pattern.</p>	<p>2001: Off Pouch Cove, NF, 3 boys died as they were jumping from table-sized chunks of ice about 50 metres from shore. One boy fell into the frigid water and slipped under the ice. Two boys were swept into the ocean trying to save him. Frolicking on ice floes, called "copying" or "bally-cating" in Newfoundland, occurs when winds blow ice into the harbours of coastal communities.</p>	<p>2000: A tandem truck hauling 17,000 litres of gasoline and 1,100 litres of diesel fuel cracked through the ice on a well-travelled road on North Caribou Lake, about 200 km northwest of Sioux Lookout, ON. The lake is a major transportation route during winter. Three other vehicles had also broken through. Normally the roads are open in March, but mild weather caused them to deteriorate earlier.</p>
<p>Weather Quiz</p> <p>Expressions of wind-chill temperature are issued regularly by only a few national weather services. Which country does not issue a wind-chill forecast?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>United States</li> <li>Finland</li> <li>Russia</li> <li>Great Britain</li> <li>Canada</li> </ol>	<p>1908: A young J.G. Diefenbaker and an uncle were at a concert when a blizzard struck and temperatures fell to -22°C. They became disoriented on the way home, and Diefenbaker fell asleep. When the pair arrived home, John's legs were like "blocks of wood." For years, the future prime minister was afraid to go outside in a blizzard. [From <i>But It's a Dry Cold: Weathering the Canadian Prairies</i>, E. Wheaton]</p>	<p>1899: The new 8,200-tonne steamer <i>Castilian</i>, one of the world's largest steamers, came aground about 20 km from Yarmouth, NS. There was dense fog, and no land was visible. Those on board were unaware of the accident until the fog lifted and they saw the shore. Water filled the forward compartment, drowning 200 sheep. Ten days later the <i>Castilian</i> broke in two during a gale.</p>	<p>2001: Another snowstorm in Montreal, PQ, left residents either fed-up or bored with winter. One snow-removal contractor said he logged 100 hours more on his tractor this winter than last. In 2001 there were not enough warm days to melt the snow or enough rain to wash it away. Even children had had it with 15-minute recesses that were shortened to 5 minutes as it took so long to get dressed.</p>	<p>1927: The worst blizzard in decades left snow-bound Saskatoon, SK, in 1 to 2 metre drifts. Hundreds of citizens donned snowshoes and walked to work, many collapsing from exhaustion. Vehicles were entirely covered by drifting snow. The city's horse-drawn sidewalk snowplough struggled to cut a lane through the drifts. Restaurateurs reaped a rich profit from the storm when businessmen ate downtown rather than brave the drifts going home.</p>	<p>2001: A freak accident caused by a wind gust claimed the life of a young Markham, ON, boy. The wind blew a garbage can and recycling bin onto the road. Vehicles slowed to avoid the debris, but a van carrying the 8-year-old boy as a front-seat passenger crashed into a truck. The deployment of an air bag figured in his fatal neck injury.</p>	<p>1999: A storm described as a "white hurricane" ripped through the Upper Saint John River Valley, dumping more than 35 cm of fresh snow and packing gale-force winds. The blizzard forced closure of all schools in the region as well as most businesses. Woodstock, ON, was a virtual ghost town, after being hit by the same storm.</p>
					Islamic New Year	

Last Quarter ☾

New Moon ●

**1987:** A 3-day blizzard dumped 61 cm of snow on Cumberland, NS. Snow-removal crews worked desperately to clear roads but were "slowly running out of places to dump the stuff." The postmaster took to the airways to announce that only residents who cleared their walks would get mail delivery. It was impossible for letter carriers to climb over 2-metre snowdrifts while carrying 16-kg mailbags.

17

St. Patrick's Day

**2000:** A late-season storm commonly known as "Sheila's Brush" combed Newfoundland, dumping snow and freezing rain over 2 days, shutting down highways, and causing flooding and wind damage. Rains washed out the main road in Belleoram for about 12 hours, and dozens of cars slid off highways. In St. John's, several shops in the Avalon Mall closed when a leaky roof caused roofing tiles to fall.

18

**2001:** A "baby blizzard" raged near Yellowknife, NT, with winds of 30 to 40 km/h and temperatures of -24°C. The storm closed the re-supply road leading to the Ekati and Diavik diamond mines. Two mine workers were lost in the whiteout for 3 days. They tried twice to signal aircraft by lighting fires, but blowing snow limited visibility. They eventually stumbled upon a snowmobile search party.

19

**1742:** While in Churchill, MB, Capt. Christopher Middleton noted that observations of celestial bodies using telescopes could not be taken without great difficulty as "the air is filled with innumerable particles of ice, very sharp and angular, and plainly perceptible to the naked eye. The metal and glasses, by the time I could fix them to the object, were covered one quarter of an inch thick with ice, and thereby the object rendered indistinct."

20

Spring Equinox 14:16 EST

**1913:** The "Good Friday Gale" caused damage from Windsor to Cobalt, ON. Wind gusts exceeded 150 km/h, uprooting trees, razing buildings, and felling utility poles. Seven perished under fallen debris. Windmills started up at full speed and ran at a terrific rate. Barn doors blew off. Large evergreen trees broke a couple of metres from the ground. In Prospect Hill, the wind demolished the brick schoolhouse.

21

First Quarter 

**2001:** A spring snow-storm deposited 20 to 50 cm of snow in southern Quebec. Around Trois Rivières, the storm caused power blackouts, forced school closings, and contributed to hundreds of traffic accidents. In Montreal, one downtown bistro dared customers to eat outside on the patio. The bill would be on the house. A tourist family from Florida saw the storm as a "kooky adventure."

22

**1936:** Floods isolated the small community of Manguerville, NB, for several days. Emergency officials manoeuvred boats with great difficulty through swift river waters, ice cakes, trees, and other debris to visit homes in the village. One woman and 3 children were plucked from their attic, where they had lived for 2 days. Bodies of horses, cattle, and foxes floated in the water.

23

World Meteorology Day

**1954:** A freak miniature tornado passed through Burnaby, BC, lifting cars, flattening garages, shattering windows, and hurling debris 100 metres.

24

Palm Sunday

**1972:** The Rideau Canal in Ottawa, ON, was closed for skating. This marked the first year the canal was transformed into a rink and the latest closing of the canal in 30 years. In 1996, the skating season closed on 23 February.

25

**1999:** Twelve hours of high winds gusting to 83 km/h kept hydro crews busy across Manitoba. Damage ranged from downed wires to pole fires, leaving some people across the southern part of the province without power for up to 2 hours. A number of poles around Stony Mountain, Rockwood, and Lorette caught fire when insulators cracked and shorted wires.

26

**1878:** In Saint John, NB, a 12-day spell of an almost continuous downpour of snow, freezing rain, ice pellets, and rain began. The streets turned into a quagmire with ankle-deep mud. Residents couldn't remember a "spell of weather so disagreeable." More than 133 mm of precipitation fell during the wet spell, including a total snowfall of 78.9 cm with 58 cm of wet snow on 1 day.

27

**1998:** Algoma syrup producers got a bonus of a second run of maple syrup thanks to 2 El Niño warm spells. The first sap-run in mid-February generated an unexpected 4,000 litres of syrup. Since then until late March, a drop in temperature caused a dry spell in which sap lines were near frozen. A second, slower but definite syrup season was well underway.

28

Passover Begins Full Moon 

**1999:** Fire officials said lightning during a thunderstorm sparked a house fire in Winnipeg, MB. It's unusual to have thunder and lightning in Winnipeg in March. There have only been 2 other reportings since 1955. In 30 years of records, between November and March there have been a mere 4 occasions with thunder. Warm surface air and cold air above created an unstable atmosphere primed for thunderstorms.

29

**1922:** Freezing rain (30 to 40 mm) coated southern Ontario from Windsor to north of Toronto. The Windsor newspaper reported "little candles spluttered and flickered," turning the city into a "fairyland." It took 3 days to restore hydro service. Between Windsor and London, hundreds of hydro poles toppled, and telephone and telegraph services were disrupted. Bell Telephone called it the worst storm in the company's history.

30

Good Friday

31 Easter Sunday

MARCH

1 2  
3 4 5 6 7 8 9  
10 11 12 13 14 15 16  
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31

# April 2002

MAY

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Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

**1**  
1960: NASA successfully launched TIROS I, the first weather satellite, from Cape Canaveral, FL. Canada was the first country to receive weather pictures from space. During its lifetime of 2 1/2 months, TIROS I transmitted 19,389 meteorologically usable pictures. Since then, there have been more than 75 polar or geo-stationary orbiting satellites in space.

**2**  
1999: Weather conditions looked promising for southern Alberta ranchers. One rancher said this was the first spring that he hadn't lost calves to cold weather or disease. But farmers also described it as the driest winter in 26 years. Precipitation was about 1/3 of normal. Strong winds fanned grass fires, threatening homes and putting valuable farmland out of production for at least a year.

**3**  
1920: According to *The Record* in Sherbrooke, PQ, the flood was so bad in Richmond that at Gunter's Bar they unloaded the beer through a second-storey window.

**4**  
1943: The Red Deer River's worst flood to date occurred following a long snowy winter and sudden thaw. Torrents of ice-infested water spilled into the river. Water levels rose an incredible 6.5 metres above flood stage in 1 day. One resident woke up when water flooded her bed. Others were alerted by the sound of ice grinding against the walls of their homes.

Last Quarter ☾

**5**  
1873: One of the greatest rain and hail storms ever tore across southern Ontario. In Hamilton, water ran down the streets and flooded cellars. Metre-deep water moved sidewalks. At New Lowell, lightning struck several stables. Three cows that had escaped from the barn were turned perfectly black. In Caledonia hallstones "as large as hickory nuts" broke several hundred panes of glass.

**6**  
1759: During the siege of Quebec, the surface wind from the west was blowing with such force that soldiers had to use enormous strength to row boats. However, when a bomb burst over the town, smoke remained in nearly the same place for 15 minutes, showing that the air above the fortress was calm.

**7**  
1927: A gigantic wave crashed down on the crew of the schooner *Alsatina* off Lunenburg, NS. Miraculously, the 17 men were not washed overboard. The sea did catch one sailor, throwing him against the dory cradles and killing him instantly. Other crew members sustained injuries ranging from bad bruises and cracked ribs to broken limbs and smashed shoulders.

Daylight Saving Time Begins

**8**  
1910: High temperatures and heavy rains washed out an 8-metre section of the local power company's dam on the Scoudouc River in New Brunswick. The onslaught of water also carried away a 60-metre highway bridge, known as MacDougall Bridge. The debris, logs, and water broke through booms at the mill, sweeping the logs out to sea.

**9**  
1895: A snowstorm struck Cape Breton Island, creating 3 to 4 metre snowdrifts and blocking roads. It became known as the "Hart Storm" because a Baddeck merchant, A. I. Hart, and 32 local men were caught unprepared by the blizzard while attempting to bring 2 carloads of much-needed hay from a siding 40 km away. A light snowfall was not unusual in April, but a huge dump or blizzard was rare.

**10**  
1937: In 1925 a diminutive woodchopper, "Heine" Miller, established a wood camp on the Tatonduk River. During the Great Yukon Flood, Miller was in his house when the river carried it 6 metres downstream and washed away more than 600 cords of cut and stacked wood. The disaster broke him, and he left the area. [From *Last Frontier: A History of the Yukon Basin* by M. Webb]

**11**  
1971: The flood-swollen Wascana Creek poured over its banks causing untold damage in at least 3 Regina, SK, neighbourhoods. Many residents spent the day rescuing belongings by shuttling back and forth in canoes and motor boats to their flooded homes. Volunteers helped with sandbagging duty. Sightseers with cameras and children in tow descended on the area, turning the scene into a makeshift tourist centre.

**12**  
1967: From an eyewitness account of a tornado that hit Mensall, ON: I saw my Volkswagen lifted off the ground. It rolled over and over and came to rest against the house. A new barn was lifted up. There wasn't anything left to indicate where it had once stood. I heard the back wall of the service station crack. Then the whole building fell down.

New Moon ●

**13**  
1992: In St. John's, NF, a freezing rain storm persisted for 8 hours, knocking out power and thwarting the travel plans of the president of Portugal on a visit to Canada. Department-store employees piled shopping carts with emergency items: camp stoves, kerosene, lanterns, batteries. If a customer wanted something more, a clerk with a flashlight acted as an escort through the darkened store.

**14**  
1924: "Winter of 1923-24 sticks in the memory like frost to a window pane. We didn't have a tractor to push the snow in those days. You had to move it with a team of horses and a scraper. We used the bobsleigh to go to town. We warmed a big rock, put it in the sleigh, and put blankets around. It stayed warm pretty near the entire trip." (*Red Deer Advocate*)

**15**  
1987: Scanty winter snowfall made land in southern Saskatchewan vulnerable to drifting. Record wind gusts over 125 km/h blew tonnes of topsoil, turning the sky black. "The dirt even ran down the windshield at times," said one driver. A pilot reported blowing dust at a height of 2300 metres. Soil dunes blocked the front of buildings and buried lawns.

**16**  
1844: Account of an ice jam and flood from Moodie, MB: "The ice and current carried away the cow house, carpenter's shed, forge, and dwellings. Women were screaming, children crying, and cattle lay drowned in the yard. Ice was in great masses around buildings, some driven with fearful force over the plantation. Scarcely anything could be observed that did not increase the horrors of the scene."

**17**  
1843: Drift ice carried away the Poplar Island bridge at North River, PEI. When a road crew went to repair the bridge, they were dismayed to find the remaining pilings badly eaten by worms.

**18**  
1999: Strong winds brought several foreign birds to the Newfoundland shoreline. Birders rescued a tri-coloured heron. Sightings of these birds are unusual this far north—only 3 on record. The heron is supposed to be in the Carolinas or Florida in spring. Birds caught in storms often end up on the Grand Banks. Unless they find a drill rig or boat, they usually perish.

**19**  
1999: The movie *Titanic* renewed interest in icebergs. Newfoundland is considered the best place in the world to view the giant bergs. But in 1999, there were no icebergs to be found. In 1998 at this time, there were close to 1,000 of them south of St. John's. One tour operator admitted that most tourists are easy to please: if they see one iceberg they'll be happy.

**20**  
1933: The weather office in Toronto received inquiries about a fire burning out of control in the Port Dalhousie area. There was no fire, but unusual atmospheric conditions over Lake Ontario and abnormally good night visibility caused a glow from the opposite shore. Welland Canal officials reported: "We can see all the lights of the Toronto waterfront from Sunnyside to Scarborough Beach."

First Quarter ☽

**2000:** After day-long torrential rains, hundreds of irate homeowners between Windsor and Woodstock, ON, spent the day pumping out smelly sewage and assessing damage to basements and family rooms flooded by backed-up storm sewers. The overflow filled some basements to the rafters. In rural areas, the rain was a welcome sight for farmers worried about their parched crops.

**21**

**1873:** News was not good in southern Manitoba following a tough winter and lingering spring. There was still ice on the river. Hundreds of persons were destitute, buffalo stayed south, and the hunt was poor. Fur traders didn't make it to Fort Garry until summer. Mail from eastern Canada to Manitoba only got as far as Minnesota, where floods prevented it from being moved north.

**22**

Earth Day

**1997:** Air-raid sirens shrieked across the drowned Red River Valley as 17,000 people were told to evacuate. Authorities said the volume of water heading to Winnipeg was more than the valley had seen in 500 years. The only saving grace was that residents had had plenty of time (since February) to prepare by building dykes and removing possessions from their homes and businesses.

**23**

**1896:** Outside Victoria, BC, the *Matilla* encountered thick fog and became grounded near Point Wilson lighthouse. Its skipper had not heard the fog horn. Later, investigators learned that because of dry weather there had been no water available for the fog horn's steam boiler. The ship was repaired and returned to duty.

**24**

**1956:** A farmer about 80 km north of Edmonton, AB, lost a market-sized hog during a January blizzard. While trying to locate a hog-trough, the farmer thought that he saw the snow move near a mound of hay. He dug into the snowbank and finally the long-lost pig wiggled clear. Its weight had dropped from about 110 kg to 34 kg during its 93-day imprisonment, but it did manage to make its own way to the pig-shed.

**25**

**1892:** At the start of a 10-day blizzard in southern Alberta, a Medicine Hat newspaper criticized parents for sending their children to school. "A worse day could hardly be imagined. Immense snowdrifts ran in all directions, and buildings only a few yards distant could not be seen ... the wisdom or propriety of sending children to school by themselves on such a day is questionable."

Full Moon 

**Weather Quiz**  
What is the major cause of avalanches that kill people?

**27**

- 1) heavy snowfall
- 2) Chinook-like warm winds
- 3) skiers and hikers
- 4) sudden pressure change
- 5) sonic booms from aircraft

**1998:** Two men, including British explorer David Hempleman-Adams, reached the North Pole 56 days after setting out on an epic journey. The two adventurers overcame frostbite injuries and falls through the ice, while dragging their sleds about 960 km in wind-chill temperatures as low as -80°C. David's 8-year-old daughter said, "I can't wait to see my dad, although I know he will stink."

**28**

**1906:** When a violent thunderstorm broke over Niagara Falls, there was a rare sighting of ball lightning. The eyewitness said the reddish brown ball was lying on the ground, burning like a fuse. "About 10 minutes after the fire went out I put my hand on the ground where the ball was, and it was still so hot that it burnt my hand. It smelled like sulphur, and when I touched it, it turned my fingers yellow. I felt no shock."

**29**

**1983:** High river levels and heavy rain (50 mm) forced the Saint John River near Fredericton to overflow. Floodwaters inundated several parking lots in the city and forced the closing of the Trans-Canada Highway. Officials took the ferries at Gagetown and Upper Gagetown out of operation when access roads flooded. The pressure of the floodwaters caused several basement walls to collapse.

**30**



## APRIL

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## May 2002

## JUNE

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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> <b>1999:</b> In early May, temperatures soared to 27°C in Ottawa, ON, about 10 degrees warmer than average for this time of year. The hot weather meant that many of the 5 million tulips would bloom out before the Canadian Tulip Festival even got started in mid May. To slow the growth, festival officials decided to turn on irrigation systems.	<b>2</b> <b>2000:</b> In Red Deer, AB, lightning blasted the side of a house blowing out light sockets and electrical outlets. It carved a .5-metre-wide hole in the side of the house and shattered windows. Its force peeled back siding, and, in one incident, fired a chunk of wallboard from one wall across the room where it embedded in another wall.	<b>3</b> <b>1998:</b> A storm with wind gusts over 100 km/h swept through parts of Saskatchewan. In Saskatoon it left a trail of broken trees, downed power poles, and scattered shingles. At the airport, a parked Cessna crashed into another airplane when a tie-down line snapped. Near Regina, a semi-trailer slammed into the back of a car that had slowed due to poor visibility, killing an elderly passenger.	<b>4</b> <b>1900:</b> In the midnight skies over Montreal, PQ, residents marvelled at the breathtaking northern lights. The evening was cold and overcast. Heavy stratus clouds looked almost like snowbanks. Near midnight, there were 2 visible layers of cloud with a ledge of pale, greenish yellow auroral light between them. By 1 a.m. the display had largely subsided, and the weather became clear and cold.
<b>5</b> <b>1945:</b> One of Alberta's worst dust storms ever blinded and choked citizens and animals in the south. Some claimed that an acre of topsoil went by every moment. Streetlights more than a block away were not visible. The driving dust crept through cracks or blew in through lifted windows. Residents out for Saturday night entertainment became caked in dust.	<b>6</b> <b>1978:</b> A small white cyclone appeared in a neighbourhood in Sauli Ste. Marie, ON. These cold air funnels usually begin over the lake but rarely move inland. The twister touched ground twice, swirling gravel and loose cardboard into the air, then throwing clothes off a clothesline. One woman said when it passed within 15 metres of her the wind became so strong she had to lean into it.	<b>7</b> <b>1915:</b> During a severe windstorm, the hour hand on the north dial of the big clock at the Lethbridge, AB, post office tower broke off and fell to the street. A pedestrian narrowly escaped injury or death from the heavy steel hand. He thought at first that he had been the target of the German enemy's showering darts, which somewhat resembled the hour hand.	<b>8</b> <b>1999:</b> A tornado ripped through Hull, PQ, causing about \$2 million damage. It tore roofing off houses and industrial buildings, downed trees, and sent 6 people to hospital. Sheets of plywood and concrete blocks were airborne. Garbage cans, recycling boxes, and lawn furniture flew through the air. People picked items from their backyards and brought them to the street so neighbours could claim them.	<b>9</b> <b>2000:</b> Across Ontario's Niagara District, a lightning storm touched off several fires causing extensive damage. In Caistorville, lightning struck the belfry of the century-old United Church tearing a 1.5-metre-wide hole in the side. At Chippawa, lightning hit a massive silver spruce and scattered it over the neighbourhood. The tree was famous for its award-winning Christmas decorations.	<b>10</b> <b>1972:</b> Ten days after studded tires became illegal in Nova Scotia, motorists faced a late-season snowstorm that covered streets and highways with 15 to 25 cm of snow. Authorities hustled to get snowploughs out of storage. About 25 cm of snow fell at the Halifax International Airport delaying most flights. Police advised motorists to stay off the roads.	<b>11</b> <b>1963:</b> At a cocktail lounge in Halifax, NS, the orchestra played "Jingle Bells," but few patrons thought the tune peculiar. Outside, between 10 to 12 cm of snow covered the city, and temperatures hovered around the freezing point. More snow fell on the city today than the previous record accumulations for the entire month of May.
<b>12</b> <b>2000:</b> At Goderich, ON, the wind howled and the sky turned weird. During the first intermission of a theatrical performance at the local high school, officials decided to move the audience, cast, and crew into a hallway where there were no windows. They waited 40 minutes before getting the all-clear-of-the-tornado signal. Incidentally, the evening performance was <i>The Wizard of Oz</i> .	<b>13</b> <b>2000:</b> Several Ontario communities cleaned up after a week of rain. In central Ontario near Walkerton, the 5-day rainfall total exceeded 150 mm. Authorities investigating the E. coli outbreak in the town's water supply suggested that heavy rains flushing cattle manure into the town's water supply might have been a factor in contaminating the town's drinking water. There were 7 deaths directly linked to the E.coli bacteria.	<b>14</b> <b>1998:</b> Lightning strikes, heavy rain, and hen-egg-sized hail pounded southeastern Manitoba between Emerson and Lac du Bonnet, causing localized flooding and at least 1 injury in the first severe thunderstorm of the season. At Steinbach, the water pooled 30 cm deep, stalling cars. In Winnipeg, lightning split a 12-metre blue spruce down the middle and sent splinters across neighbourhood yards.	<b>15</b> <b>1906:</b> "(In Saskatchewan) ... a man ... handed me a photograph of my brother ... I knew it had been sucked out of my trunk by the tornado but was surprised to learn it had been carried for miles, then dropped in a hayfield. It was still in perfect condition, except that in one corner a silver had pierced the photo, leaving a small hole." [From <i>The Last Best West</i> by Jean Bruce, 1976]	<b>16</b> <b>1936:</b> The Great Flood of 1936 washed away large chunks of farmland around Terrace, BC. The city was completely isolated except for crews and supplies coming by boat on the swollen Skeena River, or on seaplanes landing on Lakelse Lake. Residents sought shelter in the school or church, or camped on higher ground. CNR tracks were washed away or left dangling, tying up rail service for weeks.	<b>17</b> <b>1997:</b> The long weekend brought tonnes of snow to campgrounds in the foothills of the Rockies west of Calgary. "We've had it all—4 seasons in 1 day," said the campground attendant for Kananaskis Campgrounds. In Calgary, gusting winds of up to 90 km/h played havoc with security alarms. Many security systems rely on motion detectors, which respond when strong gusts rattle windows.	<b>18</b> <b>1893:</b> During a thunderstorm in southern Manitoba, lightning struck and instantly killed a farmer working in the fields near Rhineland. His horses ran away, dragging the body several kilometres.
Mother's Day	New Moon					

1787: Settlers in present-day southern Ontario faced extreme drought in 1787. Crops failed, livestock died, and there was no food or seed for the upcoming winter. Wells dried up and forest fires devastated the land. A Quaker wrote in his journal: "The children ate strawberry leaves, birch leaves, and dried flax seed. They leaped for joy at 1 robin being caught and used to make a pot of soup."

19

First Quarter 

1912: Drought gripped the Prince Rupert area of northern BC. Water levels in reservoirs fell to critically low levels. The city engineer imposed water-use restrictions. When merchants complained to city council, aldermen passed a motion to build a water wagon, enabling them to sprinkle the dusty streets. Brush fires scared so many wild animals into town that additional animal-pound keepers were hired.

20

Victoria Day

2000: Rain drenched Vancouver, BC, making for a miserable Victoria Day weekend. Campsites in nearby provincial parks became pits of mud. Everywhere, people folded their tents and headed back to Vancouver a day early. What made the weekend especially miserable was that on Friday the weather had looked so promising—sunny, blue skies—but by Saturday it was pouring.

21

1991: A fierce wind in Rapid City, MB, destroyed a concession booth at a local ball ground. The wind carried the structure 25 metres to the north through a chain link fence and smashed it to the ground.

22

1997: Today Winnipegers celebrated the end of the "flood of the century." The all-clear was sounded at noon, shortly after the Canadian Forces Snowbirds flew above Portage Avenue and Main Street. Organizers encouraged motorists to mark the occasion by honking their horns in the famous intersection. Right on cue, sunshine replaced the overcast, and temperatures warmed to 16°C.

23

2000: After 3 stormy days, the weather cleared on Canada's highest peak, Mount Logan, YT, enabling 5 climbers to make it to the top. The group included Ross Watson—the first blind person to climb Logan. Overnight temperatures on the mountain at 5,945 metres dipped below -30°C. Watson had relied on his companions' voices to orient him and help him decide where to step next on the sometimes-treacherous climb.

24

1896: A fierce thunderstorm raged for more than an hour in Guelph-Elora, ON. Rain fell in torrents flooding streets and nearly every cellar in town. In one home, lightning came down the chimney and through the stovepipes, where it blew open the doors and tossed off the top lids. The mother received shocks to both feet and had her shoes and stockings torn off.

25

#### Weather Quiz

That famous expression "everybody talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it" was first uttered in which year?

- 1) 1816
- 2) 1897
- 3) 1929
- 4) 1939
- 5) 1961

26

1832: The journal of Rev. William Wilson, a Methodist minister who arrived in Bonavista, NF, in 1829, provides a chilling tale of the hardships endured by our ancestors: "The ice is still in our bay ... and famine begins to be felt amongst us." [From Environment Canada's Bruce Whiffen]

27

1994: Nine days after a balmy high of 21.4°C, a 2-day blizzard pounded Inuvik, NT. Temperatures dipped below -8°C, winds blew in excess of 70 km/h, and snow totalled almost 25 cm over 2 days.

28

1745: The siege of Louisbourg was well underway. Taking advantage of 2 days of thick fog, British forces moved their advanced battery to within firing distance of the fortress at Louisbourg.

29

1928: A tornado blew down a swatch of hardwood trees near Mystic, PQ. It then crossed the railroad track at exactly the time the noon train passed by. The wind hit the train broadside, and blasted the 2 wooden cars onto their sides in the ditch. The locomotive was not derailed, but the coupler ripped out of the back of the tender. One person died and several others were injured.

30

1985: The Barrie-Central Ontario tornado matched the number of fatalities of the Pine Lake, AB, tornado of 14 July 2000. The death toll in Ontario would have been higher if power outages ahead of the storm hadn't closed down industries, forcing workers to go home early. The .5-km-wide tornado hurled glass and pieces of vehicles and rooftops hundreds of metres into the air. Bombed campgrounds looked like a war zone.

31

Full Moon 

MAY

			1	2	3	4
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

# June 2002

JULY

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7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27		
28	29	30	31					

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

1937: Another dust storm hit southern Saskatchewan. Driving was done in low gear. Some drivers stuck their head out the window to see the side of the road. Drivers passed cars and never saw them. Ditches and roads were the same elevation. It was said that upon arriving home most passengers and drivers could only be recognized by the gold in their teeth.

2

Last Quarter 

1859: In London, ON, a violent thunderstorm raged nonstop for 2 hours. One boy was found dead in his bed. Lightning had singed his hair and blackened his ears and body. The lightning had entered his leg just above the right ankle, transversed up the body, came through the head by the ear, and across the brain to the other ear.

3

World Environment Day

1872: A windstorm ripped the upper storey off a farmhouse in Canboro, ON, carrying a father and his sleeping child into a nearby orchard where the man clung to an apple tree. The winds also blew away furniture and bedding.

10

New Moon 

2000: North of Smithers, BC, a fire set by provincial parks staff to improve the habitat of stone sheep burned out of control in a wilderness park. Two days before, during a control burn, winds had taken the fire in the wrong direction, and it torched 3,500 ha of the park. Because the fire was in a "let burn" area, firefighters were not called in.

4

1998: Prairie communities had to ration water in the midst of one of the driest springs on record. Hot weather led to an increase in beer consumption. But the empties didn't come back quickly enough, and the breweries ended up short 1 million cases of empty bottles. Brewers' association ads warned beer lovers that without returned bottles there would be a shortage of some brands.

11

1908: Several days of heavy rain washed out 2 bridges near Frank, AB. The river rose about 5 metres, overflowing much of the lowlands and putting several ranchers out of their homes. The force of the water took out several large trees and telegraph poles and swept everything ahead of the flow. A construction crew found its tents and possessions under 3 metres of water.

5

1968: High wind gusts reaching 130 km/h swept through the Bafflefords in Saskatchewan, tearing down free branches, telephone lines, and power poles. At a local hotel, employees reported a wall swaying as much as 10 cm. The fire department ordered the building closed until its structure could be reinforced.

12

1879: A storm from Newfoundland described as a hurricane came ashore at Rimouski, PQ. Strong winds grounded several large schooners. The sea rolled into town, swamping the streets and carrying away sidewalks. The shoreline was strewn with smashed boats and wood from wharves and other harbour buildings. The storm also tore up the railway track on the wharf.

6

1999: Officials traced a terrible stench near Narcisse, MB, about 70 km north of Winnipeg, to the death of 65,000 red-sided garter snakes. In hibernating over winter, the snakes normally burrow below the frost line. The past winter, however, there was scanty snow covering. With insufficient snow to stabilize temperatures, the snakes couldn't handle the temperature fluctuations and froze to death.

13

1958: It was one of the darkest days in the history of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police when a corporal and 4 young constables under the age of 22 drowned in the turbulent waters of Lake Simcoe, ON. Speculation was that the boat's motor had faltered during the night and a sudden squall then broadsided the vessel, overturning it and throwing the men into the 1.5-metre waves.

7

1892: A fierce electrical storm continuously lit up the morning skies over Nova Scotia. At Truro, the electric lights were extinguished and the midnight express from Saint John was dashed into a boxcar, which high winds had blown onto the main line. Reports from across the province claimed that the storm was the most magnificent and awful display of electrical power ever seen in eastern Canada.

14

1978: A freak wind and hail storm tore through an area west of Winthrop, ON, riddling all the green plants and foliage in its path, damaging roofs, and blowing down trees. A witness reported that the force of the wind bent her windows. The next day, people couldn't see the road for shredded green leaves. Some leaves were still glued to the siding on buildings.

1

1933: Scorching 35°C temperatures in southern Ontario and Quebec surprised a sweltering Miami real estate agent. "I want to know why it's been kept from me that the climate here is hotter than blazes." He joked that he would start a resort here so that if his customers complained about cool Miami weather, he could ship them to Montreal, after which they would appreciate Florida's equable climate.

8

1933: A scorching heat wave seared crops and sizzled human and animal life across the Prairies for most of the week. Unofficial temperatures in the shade were 38°C. Over the weekend 6 people died as a result of the heat wave. Others drowned when they tried to escape the heat and went swimming in dugouts. Following the heat, hail pulverized wilting crops.

15

**1984:** During a record rainfall in Manitoba, a 10-year-old boy scout was camping at Birds Hill Park with 200 other cubs. During the night, the fast-asleep cub rolled out of his tent and into a huge puddle. Watchful camp leaders picked him up, dumped him into a dry sleeping bag, and put him back in his tent. When he awoke the next morning, he noticed the new sleeping bag and wondered what had happened.

16

Father's Day

**1951:** Following a day of violent weather in the Barrie, ON, area, a farmer looked out his door and saw a black cloud. He immediately led his wife and 16-year-old son into the cellar. When he surfaced a few moments later to fetch a sweater for his wife, he noticed that in that short time a tornado had hit the barn, sending sheet metal roofing with heavy beams and wood splinters hundreds of metres.

17

First Quarter ☉

**1973:** High winds, rain, and even snow lashed eastern Nova Scotia during a freak storm. The worst damage was reported on Cape Breton Island. As much as 10 cm of snow covered the ground in the highlands west of Sydney. Summer campers became mired in mud along the mountain roads. In Pictou County, hundreds of lobster traps blew ashore and several fishing nets were lost.

18

**1956:** Across central Saskatchewan, tornadic winds gusting to 130 km/h uprooted trees, tore shingles off roofs, blew over cement-encased granaries and sheds, and caused power failures. Hay-filled air even stripped paint off the walls of farm buildings, and hail shredded crops. One farmer who waited out the storm in his tractor said, "It rolled in and hit just like a sack of hammers."

19

**1857:** From the writings of Henry Youle Hind: "In descending this branch of the Winnipeg River, a terrific thunder storm, accompanied by a hurricane of wind and an extraordinary fall of hailstones, approached ... large hailstones began to descend with such force as to bruise my hands severely ... Lambert being provided with a thick fur cap held bravely on, although he loudly exclaimed that the hailstones were bruising his hands ..."

20

**1919:** According to author Robert Knuckle, in the 45 years that the Mounties patrolled the prairies on horseback, only one Mountie was killed by lightning. The bolt hit his revolver (and melted the butt plate), went through him into the saddle, and came out the horse's body into the man's spur. The watch in the top pocket of the sergeant's jacket stopped at 5:40.

21

Summer Solstice 9:24 EDT

**1869:** During a thunderstorm, lightning struck a lighthouse near Yarmouth, NS. The structure shook throughout, breaking glass in the windows, but the lantern remained intact. The lightning also struck a dwelling in town, damaging the chimney, shattering windows, breaking the plaster in one of the rooms, and scattering fragments of the ceiling on a bed occupied by a woman and her daughter.

22

**1999:** Miramichi, NB, suffered more than 40 new fires. Lightning touched down inside tinder dry forests and sparked the fires. The forest fire index was extreme over much of the province.

23

**1963:** A farmer near Birtle, MB, photographing an approaching storm from his door, died when the house exploded; apparently in a tornado. His body was found 50 metres away, entirely stripped of clothing.

30

**1972:** Only rarely do tornadoes move from east to west. One of these few exceptions was a tornado that occurred in Maniwaki, PQ, on this day. It was associated with the remnants of Hurricane *Agnes*, which had earlier swept northwards along the US Atlantic coast.

24

St-Jean-Baptiste Day

Full Moon ☾

Weather Quiz

What percentage of lightning victims are struck dead immediately?

- 1) 80%
- 2) 60%
- 3) 40%
- 4) 25%
- 5) less than 20%

25

**1999:** An incredible heat wave hit Newfoundland and Labrador. Goose Bay recorded a high of 35°C—the warmest temperature in Canada on this day. At Shoal Tickle, lightning struck the water and entered a cabin. The blast threw the kitchen table to the ceiling, blew the wristwatch off a man's arm, and threw the occupants to the opposite ends of the cabin. They thought an airplane had crashed.

26

**1978:** Buckingham, PQ, area residents said it is a miracle nobody was killed or seriously injured when a tornado and rainstorm destroyed 50 houses and businesses. "It wasn't a wind or rain storm," said one resident, "it was a junk storm." Luckily many residents were not at home. Three busloads of fans had gone to Montreal to watch a local boxer compete for the Canadian lightweight championship.

27

**2000:** Residents in Whitehorse, YK, claimed this was the worst year ever for mosquitoes. Excessive rain and moist air during the spring contributed to the vast clouds of biting insects. Numerous puddles become the prime breeding ground for mosquitoes. The standing water also prolonged the mosquitoes' lives.

28

**1855:** A devastating tornado battered Oxford County, ON. The weird spiral twister gathered up entire houses, barns, rail fences, buildings, and whatever came in its way. At Eastwood, the cyclone smashed the new Great Western Railway Station along with several farmhouses. There were 3 deaths and countless injuries.

29

JUNE

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

# July 2002

AUGUST

1 2 3  
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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

1911: In Ontario and Quebec, temperatures approached 40°C. In a 3-day period in Montreal, there were 183 registered deaths; 146 were children under 5. In Ottawa, a mother went into a store, and on exiting, found her baby dead of heat prostration. Electric fans were installed in the House of Commons. A tonne of ice per day was used to cool the chamber.

Canada Day

2000: The Ontario Provincial Police gave out over 400 tickets in the province in a crackdown on dangerous driving. Many officers reported ingenious explanations for speeding and careless driving. When a woman on Highway 400 north of Toronto was asked why she was not wearing a seat belt, she replied, "I wanted to be less restricted in case a tornado touched down." She got the ticket.

Last Quarter ☾

2000: There is a certain irony in one of the driest places getting the greatest rainfall. In usually rain-sparse Vanguard, SK, a carwash-like downpour flooded the community of 200. About 375 mm fell in 8 hours, the greatest storm for that duration on the Canadian Prairies and one of the largest rainfall intensities recorded in Canada. The flood carried away cattle herds and drowned deer and antelope.

1908: A windstorm struck the Calgary fairgrounds at about 2 p.m., tearing the roof off a refreshment booth. Flying debris killed a spectator in the grandstand. An airship pilot and his assistant struggled to keep their aircraft in the centre of the tent. A sharp gust of wind struck the canvas. A second later a muffled explosion and a burst of flame engulfed the attendants and the tent.

1911: At Long Branch, ON (near Toronto), a severe wind and electrical storm struck shortly after 3 p.m. Giant pine, oak, and elm trees, which had withstood powerful winds for decades, were lifted up by the roots and tossed heavily to the ground. Miraculously, everyone escaped injury. Two women did go into hysterics and fainted.

1885: When a severe thunderstorm struck Yarmouth, NS, lightning stunned 2 gravediggers, knocking one to the ground. Lightning also travelled down the chimney of one house and passed out through a door, ripping up portions of the carpet, tearing the boots off a woman, and rendering her and others "temporarily insensible."

2000: A torrential down-pour—a gully washer—dumped a month's worth of rain, between 75 and 110 mm, over southern Manitoba in just a few hours. Thousands of Winnipegers bailed out flooded basements and rescued submerged cars when sewers could not keep pace. Disaster assistance claims from homeowners far exceeded \$9 million, with over 1,100 applications for relief.

1963: When lightning struck a house in Brownfield, AB, one man apparently spotted an orange fireball about 1 metre wide. The rare ball lightning exploded like a cannon, filling the room with a sulphur-smelling smoke. It threw the drapes across the room and scorched them, then jumped to 2 wall pictures, melting the wires they were hung with, then burned the chains and weights of the cuckoo clock.

2000: A torrential storm flooded Exeter, ON, with up to 250 mm of rain. Residents struggled to dry out basements filled with muddy water. The water rose up so fast around camper trailers that owners moved quickly to chain them to trees. Officials organized special garbage collections to handle the tonnes of water-logged belongings worth millions of dollars.

1893: Lethbridge, AB, residents experienced the heaviest rain ever there, in only 15 to 20 minutes. At the lumberyard, waters carried away 1,000 metres of lumber, drying sheds, wheelbarrows, and other equipment. The flood overturned a carriage and carried the baby to the bottom of the hill. The mother was knocked around and badly bruised, and her clothes torn to shreds.

New Moon ●

2000: A tornado ripped the roof off a farmhouse near Crandall, MB. Winds also dismantled the deck, woodworking shop, steel Quonset hut, truck shed, and grain bins. Farm machinery lay mangled or upside-down. The dog, Spike, was discovered slightly injured hours later, a few kilometres away—heading home. He had been in the truck shed and might have taken a ride in the wind.

1952: Old-timers couldn't recall a day in Prince Rupert, BC, as hot as this one. For only the second time in the city's recorded history, the temperature exceeded 30°C. The city sanded streets when they began to bubble under the sun. One citizen asked the mayor what he was going to do about the dust. His answer? Pray for rain.

1976: A story from Diana Bethke of Moose Jaw, SK: "Dad could see our tarmyard [from a distant field] and the blue of the car. He wondered why Mom took the car out of the garage during a storm. When he got home, it was evident why... A tornado had lifted the garage right off the car and dropped it into the ditch. The family spent the rest of the summer combing the ditches and fields for dad's welding tools."

2000: Around supper-time, a powerful tornado spinning winds of 330 km/h slammed into the Green Acres campground about 60 km southeast of Red Deer, AB. Twelve people died and 140 were injured. The Pine Lake tornado was the deadliest tornado in North America in 2000, but the first killer twister in Canada in 13 years.

1997: During a thunderstorm in Hemmingford, PQ, lightning struck a woman and her dog. Both survived. She now suffers chronic fatigue syndrome. She slips into a sleep that is lighter than a coma but deeper than being asleep. Her vision is affected, her speech slurred, and her memory permanently affected. She needed rehabilitation to re-learn how to talk and walk.

2000: Lightning struck a Newmarket, ON, woman twice in a minute, leaving her with only a minor headache. She was part of a group of Canadian Outward Bound Wilderness School adult students camped near Killarney, ON, when ground lightning hit the campsite. Air ambulance transported her to Sudbury. The next day she returned to the camp in order to attend the graduation banquet.

2000: A confirmed F2 tornado with estimated winds of 200 km/h touched down in the south end of Guelph, ON, around 8:15 p.m. It tore up trees, flattened fences and decks, and ripped off sections of roofs from more than 125 houses and garages. Two people suffered slight injuries. Some areas were left without electrical power. Estimated property damage was about \$2 million.

First Quarter ☾

2000: A thunderstorm lit up Charlottetown, PEI, and flooded streets and parking lots. At the Lord residence, 10 buddies were playing cards after dinner and an afternoon golf game. The group had just moved inside from the patio when lightning blasted a backyard poplar tree. Amid much joking about lightning not daring to strike the house of the Lord, the group admitted they were terrified.

1997: A doctor was driving down a highway in the vicinity of Mitchell, ON, when a storm sent a telephone pole and a snarl of wires crashing down on his car. While waiting for the storm to ease up, he was shocked to see the shifting wind reverse direction and pull the pole free of the vehicle.

1960: Fierce winds and huge hailstones burst over parts of Alberta, including Lomond and Vulcan. The 1-hour storm left a pile of hailstones about 12 cm deep. All that was left of the outhouse at one farm was the hole. One woman said a mother cat gave birth to 3 kittens under the granary, which promptly blew away. All but 1 kitten survived.

**2000:** Montreal, PQ, received 132.5 mm of rain in May, twice the normal amount, and only 178 hours of sunshine, compared to the norm of 245 hours. In June there was only 212 hours compared to the usual 245 hours. In all, 19 of 30 days had rain. In July, it rained less, but it rained on 11 of the first 20 days. To date, hours of sunshine amounted to 156—compared to a norm of 180. No wonder Montrealers called it the “summer that wasn’t.”

21

**Weather Quiz**  
Meteorologically, what was significant about the Edmonton, AB, tornado of 31 July 1987?

- 1) the deadliest tornado to strike so late in the season
- 2) the deadliest tornado ever so far north
- 3) the first time an F5 tornado struck outside Tornado Alley
- 4) the first time a killer tornado occurred without hail and rain
- 5) first major city ever to be struck by a tornado

22

**2000:** A Surrey, BC, woman found out that her house had been hit twice by lightning. The first bolt struck a concrete patio, drilling a hole into the earth and shooting a beam of wood over the top of the house to the front garden. Concrete from the patio smashed the windshield of a neighbour's vehicle. The second bolt hit near a shed, tossing it into the air.

23

**2000:** After a foggy start to the week, near perfect weather—warm and sunny—for 5 days enabled more than 1 million people to enjoy the Tall Ships as they sat berthed in Nova Scotia's Halifax Harbour. Thanks to a brisk wind from the north, the large square-riggers could fly their full complement of canvas.

24

**1982:** After an intense hailstorm in Coaldale, AB, the ground was strewn with dead seagulls. A wildlife officer for the Alberta Fish and Wildlife Division said seagull injuries are treated according to their severity. Seagulls are not a rare or endangered bird, so the division will not go to a lot of expense to save a badly damaged bird.

25

**2000:** So far this summer, there were 250 fewer accidents on Quebec's waterways compared to recent years: 1 death in a boating accident, compared to 4 and 6 in 1998 and 1999, respectively. Several reasons were given: a cool, wet summer, stricter boating regulations, and higher gasoline prices. And so far this season, almost every weekend had at least 1 wet day.

26

**2000:** Following the Pine Lake tornado earlier this month, Environment Canada reported that, understandably, more southern Albertans than ever were scanning the skies for possible funnel clouds. The Calgary weather office was inundated with calls whenever a black cloud or unusual cloud formation appeared. Most meteorologists who keep an eye on the skies all their life have never seen a tornado.

27

**2000:** A severe thunderstorm developed over the Mackenzie Delta late in the afternoon, and a funnel cloud was reported north-west of the community of Arctic Red River. Environment Canada issued a severe thunderstorm warning for the Inuvik region around 3 p.m., which was maintained until early evening.

28

**2000:** Organizers of a street festival in Calgary were expecting over 45,000 spectators for a free-style snowboarders and freeskiers show. Weather forecasters were calling for sizzling temperatures around 30°C. Organizers trucked in snow and shaded it with insulating products like biodegradable plastic.

29

**1995:** Hail up to 1.3 cm in diameter fell at Alliston, PEI. The hail damaged tobacco crops and punched holes in greenhouse plastic.

30

**2000:** A drenching 5-hour rainstorm struck Muskoka, ON, dumping rain in excess of 150 mm. Even greater amounts were unofficially recorded in Bracebridge—some 275 mm—more rain than Hurricane Hazel yielded in 1954. On Highway 11 North at Gravenhurst, a sink hole developed in the road causing a detour for northbound traffic. Ontario Police had to rescue several motorists.

31

Full Moon 

JULY

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7 8 9 10 11 12 13  
14 15 16 17 18 19 20  
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28 29 30 31

# August 2002

SEPTEMBER

1 2 3 4 5 6 7  
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Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

				<p><b>2000:</b> Around 6 p.m. a tornado raced through Viking, AB, about 140 km southeast of Edmonton. It lifted a washing machine and a large deep-freezer on end. Granaries, silos, and fences disappeared. One farmer lost 7 grain bins and 2 barn roofs. Egg-sized hailstones shredded gardens and trees and sliced the once-promising, nearly chest-high wheat crop to just a few centimetres.</p> <p><b>1</b></p> <p>Last Quarter ☾</p>	<p><b>1975:</b> With temperatures reaching the mid-30s and no air conditioning at the Shakespearean Festival in Stratford, ON, theatre-goers were walking out in the middle of performances and musicians were having trouble keeping their instruments tuned. In a somewhat futile attempt to cool the theatre, the fire department was called in and sprayed 1,700 litres of water a minute on the roof.</p> <p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>1999:</b> A fierce thunderstorm blitzed Vancouver Island and BC's lower mainland, causing power failures and forest fires. Lightning struck 2 main transmission lines connecting the mainland and Vancouver Island, cutting power to 40% of BC Hydro's customers for about an hour. In Burnaby, lightning narrowly missed a woman riding a lawn mower on a golf course, but burned the grass on the putting green.</p> <p><b>3</b></p>
<p><b>1895:</b> Near Paradise, NS, in the picturesque Annapolis Valley, a cyclone struck around 6 p.m. Winds levelled hundreds of 20- to 30-year-old trees. In a once-prosperous apple orchard not a single tree was left standing. "They have the appearance of having been grasped by giant hands and whisked out of the ground." (<i>Halifax Herald</i>)</p> <p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>1956:</b> Motorists parking in downtown Trail, BC, received unexpected dividends from a heat wave. Yellow chalk, used by police to label parked cars, melted in the 37°C+ heat before police could return for a second check. The RCMP requisitioned headquarters for a more heat-resistant brand of chalk.</p> <p><b>5</b></p> <p>Civic Holiday</p>	<p><b>2000:</b> Another tornado touched down not far from the Pine Lake, AB, campground destroyed by a twister on 14 July. The violent weather came as campers were gathering for an evening memorial service for the victims of last month's tornado. As the storm approached, terrified children cried and hundreds of campers raced for cover. Others packed up and left the campgrounds.</p> <p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>1979:</b> A tornado whipped through Woodstock, ON, killing 3 people and injuring 150 others. The storm also killed scores of livestock. Some cows ate insulation and then had to be destroyed. A dog named Ranger was tied up in his doghouse when the storm hit. When it subsided, he was still tied to an outside pole, but the doghouse was gone.</p> <p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>1997:</b> An enormous lightning storm threatened to delay opening ceremonies of the 1997 Canada Summer Games at Brandon, MB. Hail, rain, and winds reaching 86 km/h ripped through the stadium grounds destroying tents, props, and staging. Soldiers from a nearby military base worked all night to clean up the debris and rebuild the facilities in time for the opening ceremony.</p> <p><b>8</b></p> <p>New Moon ●</p>	<p><b>2000:</b> Three tornadoes swept through the Chatham, ON, area. The wind damaged farm buildings, wrapped hunks of metal around a flagpole, sheared trees in half, and littered fields with debris. It ripped away siding and even stripped off wallpaper. Pearl, a 2-year-old golden lab retriever, went missing after cement blocks rained down on her kennel. Twenty hours later she crept nervously from a field of soybeans.</p> <p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>2000:</b> A farmer from Oro-Medonte Townships near Orillia, ON, found 3 neatly formed crop circles in his field. He thought the culprit was either a whirlwind of sorts or a prank. The circles drew spiritualists, clairvoyants, and faith healers to the community. After entertaining the horde of strangers, the farmer said he was more puzzled by his visitors than the mysterious crop circles.</p> <p><b>10</b></p>
<p><b>1866:</b> From <i>The Daily Globe</i> in Repentigny, PQ: "The hailstones were extraordinary large, and so completely covered the ground that a sleigh could have glided over them."</p> <p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>1969:</b> A violent storm with high winds and hail struck Wadena, SK, and area, the worst hailstorm in the area in over 50 years. The rain followed 15 minutes of hail. The town drainage system proved inadequate to carry the sudden flood. The hail blitz pounded gardens into the ground and littered streets with branches and leaves. By 5 p.m., local stores had sold out of window glass.</p> <p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>1999:</b> Environment Canada (Ontario Region) celebrated a lengthy period of continuous weather observations at Minden, ON. Volunteer Philip Graham began his twice-a-day observations in 1949 in Haliburton, ON. Several years later, he and his wife moved their residence and the climate station to Minden. With the help of "backup volunteers" they have maintained a climate-observing program for over half a century.</p> <p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>1907:</b> A mother in eastern Alberta saw a fast-travelling black twister along the north side of the Battle River. Fearing a direct hit on her house, she and her 4 daughters raced outside. She threw herself over her baby. Her older, panic-stricken children rushed back into the house, where the twister struck full blast. Two girls were instantly killed. The other died later.</p> <p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>1971:</b> Hurricane <i>Beth</i> quickly moved northeastward along the Atlantic Seaboard, slightly weakening as it made landfall near Copper Lake, NS. Halifax had record rainfall at 296 mm—greater than the deluge from Hurricane <i>Hazel</i> in 1954. The rain washed away several highways and bridges, damaged buildings, and inundated farmland. Total damage province-wide was \$5.1 million.</p> <p><b>15</b></p> <p>First Quarter ☾</p>	<p><b>1888:</b> In Montreal, PQ, the day began cool and moist. By evening, it became warm, thunder rumbled, and heavy clouds gathered. In one store, lightning appeared to have struck through a small window and caught about forty cases of matches that were piled in close proximity to the open window. Among the goods destroyed in the fire were lamp chimneys, sulphur, Epsom salts, and brooms.</p> <p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>2000:</b> Wildlife control around Hamilton, ON, handled about 50 calls a day from residents wanting bats removed from their homes. "All the rain this summer has caused an explosion in the number of mosquitoes and other insects," said one pest controller. "That means an increase in the food sources for bats, who must feel like diners feasting on an all-you-can-eat smorgasbord."</p> <p><b>17</b></p>

**1830:** A tropical cyclone pummelled Nova Scotia's Atlantic coastline. Dozens of fishing schooners and coastal trading vessels were lost in the heavy surf. Heavy rains and powerful winds unroofed settlements from Cape Sable to Sydney. Loss of life from the storm was high, with more than 200 people missing.

18

**1836:** "On the 7th of June we had a heavy fall of snow and on the following day the ice was the thickness of a penny piece on the water; but still nothing serious happened to dampen our hopes till the 19th of August when the ... frost blasted our prospects by destroying the crops." (Alexander Ross, *The Red River Settlement*). This made for a 54-day frost-free season. The usual duration in recent times is 123 days.

19

**1969:** After an unbearably hot and still day, a storm descended on Grenfell, SK, bringing strong winds and hail as large as ping-pong balls. The savage storm broke windows, dented cars, stripped paint from buildings, and burned a house. It pulverized everything in sight. Of major concern were the crops—hail tore the tops off potatoes, flattened cabbages, and pounded tomatoes into the ground.

20

**1880:** Two men were in a field in East Kent, ON, when they heard a sudden loud roar. They turned and saw a cloud of stones flying upward. Surprised beyond measure, they examined the spot, which was circular and about 5 metres across. The ground was swept clean. They were certain it was not caused by a meteorite, an eruption of the earth, or a whirlwind. (From *Scientific American* 43:25, 1880).

21

**1993:** An intense storm rocked Saskatoon, SK. The northern and western areas of the city received a good soaking—more than 25 mm of rain. People spent the day scraping mud off their driveways. In one neighbourhood, a metre of water in the street carried a car for about 3 metres before the owner was able to get it to higher ground.

22

Full Moon ○

**1880:** *The Gladstone News* in Manitoba reported: "The season was unusually wet and the horses were wading through water most of the way. Jackfish and suckers were lying all over the prairie ..."

23

**1998:** A hoard of lemmings drove a resident of Cambridge Bay, NT, from her home. Apparently it was a peak year for the lemming population due to warm temperatures. She first heard and felt something running around her bed. The next day she set traps and patched holes in the walls, but it did not solve the problem. The lemmings were still there a week later.

24

**2000:** Four men from Rankin Inlet, NU, drowned in the bone-chilling waters of Hudson Bay after their 12-metre fishing boat sank in a storm. The men left Churchill transporting 13,500 kg of construction supplies needed for building projects in Arviat, on the west coast of Hudson Bay. Wind, wave conditions, then fog over the next 2 days stalled rescue efforts.

25

**Weather Quiz**  
Which one of these places has never recorded a temperature above 37.8°C (100°F)?

- 1) Fort Smith, NT
- 2) Lethbridge, AB
- 3) Fredericton, NB
- 4) Prince Albert, SK
- 5) Montreal, PQ

26

**1992:** The cool Arctic summer (12th coolest from 1948 to 2000) caused ice problems for canoeists in the District of Keewatin. Some called on aircraft to pick them up. Naturalists also observed bears and caribou in areas they rarely frequent this time of year. Farther north, ice trapped a hunting party of 25 from Arctic Bay for 1 week; they eventually had to be flown out by helicopters.

27

**1996:** Russia launched a satellite carrying a unique Canadian camera system to probe the Northern Lights and magnetic "space storms." Space storms create everything from static on long-distance phone calls to knocking out satellites. Canadian scientists heading the mission hoped to gain a better understanding of the Northern Lights and to improve "space weather forecasting."

28

**1999:** A father and his daughter were drowned near a Herring Cove, NS, shoreline path that is popular for viewing powerful waves crashing over shore rocks. There were reports of a rogue wave that swept the pair off the rocks. At Lawrencetown and Risser's Beach, waves as high as 2 metres from Hurricane *Cindy* and strong undertows remained a safety concern.

29

**1947:** In Gooderham, ON, a tornadic fury blew 5 people 100 metres from a wrecked home into a clump of cedar trees. Neighbours found the 5 hanging in the trees, stripped of their clothing. Near Coe Hill, the twister lifted a service station off its foundation, threw out a car inside, and parked it on top of the structure with sufficient force to crush the roof.

30

**1910:** It was the shortest growing season ever on Prince Edward Island. There were only 95 days between the last spring and first fall frosts. The usual frost-free period in recent years averages 150 to 165 days.

31

Last Quarter ●



AUGUST

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28	29	30	31		

# September 2002

OCTOBER

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27	28	29	30	31			

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

**1996:** Lifeguards along the south coasts of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick closed beaches ahead of tropical storm *Edouard*. That didn't stop crowds of wave-watchers from trying to get close to the pounding surf. At Saint John, NB, a man who saved a girl from the raging sea was himself rescued after he was swept nearly 1 km out. His saviours were almost lost, too.

1

**1876:** At noon, the weather head office in Toronto, ON, ordered Maritime harbours and lighthouses to hoist storm drums. There were no signs of a storm, and quiet jokes were made about the forecast. By evening, the wind, accompanied by showers, grew into a gale and by daylight a fierce storm. Likely, this was the fledgling national weather service's first storm warning.

2

Labour Day

**2000:** It was so wet and cold in Calgary, AB, at the Highland Games, rumour had it that even the Scotsmen wore something under their kilts. Many spectators pulled on long johns and track pants. About 50 mm of rain fell during the day, and the maximum temperature didn't exceed 10°C. Across the muddy field, 22 piping bands and 400 traditional highland dancers competed in the day-long event.

3

**1988:** When a storm struck the northeastern coast of New Brunswick, fierce winds of 90 km/h whipped up towering, 2-storey-high waves and caught herring fishermen by surprise. At least 20 vessels were in distress. Search and rescue aircraft from Summerside dropped portable pumps to several boats and searched in vain for the missing fishers. At least 3 fishermen drowned.

4

**2000:** A Calgary massage therapist offered free services to dogs who survived the tornado that hit the Pine Lake campground in Alberta. The therapist told *The National Post*: "Dogs will exhibit signs of stress and bad behaviour as a result of the July 14 storm." Symptoms can include irritability and misbehaviour. She uses therapeutic touch and massage to encourage relaxation and recuperation.

5

**1876:** The schooner *Glanmire* from Labrador bound for Boston ran into a nor'easter. Twice the winds threw her back upon her beam-ends. At one point, the ship was 35 km from port but ended up 250 km from land. The force of the storm tossed everything moveable into the sea, smashed the cabin skylight, and filled the cabin with water before the ship put into St. John's, NF.

6

New Moon ●

**1816:** Following a summer with snow, ice, and killing frost in eastern North America, the first 2 weeks of September turned warm. But by mid month cold weather returned. Many people believed the sun had cooled and the end of the world was near. One man near Stanstead, PQ, killed his livestock and hanged himself rather than wait for "a slow death by freezing."

7

Rosh Hashanah Begins

**1968:** Jim Miller from Gem, AB, recounts being struck by lightning in Algonquin Park. "I was carrying an ax ... it was thrown quite a distance away, but it was no longer any good. The lightning had stripped the ax head of its temper ... This experience might have ... made most people shy away from thunderstorms, but it only confirms that if you are going to get killed by lightning, that is the way it is going to be."

8

**1895:** Eyewitness account of "chain" lightning in New Brunswick: "The day had been hot—80°F in the shade ... At 10 o'clock there came on a terrific thunderstorm ... lightning, of all colours, blazed almost continuously. Objects 25 km off could be seen as plainly as daylight ... the chief peculiarity was 8 strange flashes of a chain formation with large elliptical links, and of a golden-yellow colour. (*Nature Journal*)"

9

**1856:** A tornado passed over Winchester, ON, destroying fences, breaking trees, and unroofing barns and houses. In the village, the "Storm King," as the tornado was called, caused some bizarre scenes: large sawed logs tossed several metres away, and split or otherwise broken; a large fat hog thrown 100 metres to the ground so violently that its entrails were ripped out.

10

**1920:** A severe thunderstorm broke across the Niagara Peninsula, accompanied by torrential rains, hail, wind, and lightning. The branch factory of the Dominion Canning Co. was struck by lightning and unroofed, and its upper storey wrecked. The property damage alone was excessive. Thousands of cans, full and empty, were also lost. Workers destroyed all cans, as rust would ruin them and their contents.

11

**1900:** Residents were cleaning up after remnants of the *Great Galveston* Hurricane, which had killed more than 8,000 people in Texas, swept through southern Ontario, Quebec, and the Maritimes. In Ontario, it toppled trees, cut telegraph wires, and destroyed orchard fruit. Waves larger than 3 metres swamped ships on the Great Lakes and in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Across eastern Canada, 86 people died. [research by John Reid]

12

**1774:** Moravian missionaries in Labrador took meticulous weather observations. From a report: "Brother Lehmann exclaimed: 'Oh Jesus! Into your hands I commend myself ... no one saw him alive again.'" Brasen, also in the boat, "... wore waterproof clothing, so that he could not sink immediately. He was given the oar ... but ... he sank ... bodies were discovered lying close together on the beach."

13

First Quarter ☾

**1746:** In the spring, a fleet under Duke D'Anville left France to recover Louisbourg. Near Sable Island a violent storm dispersed the ships. D'Anville arrived at Halifax with only 4 men-of-war and 3 transports. When the fleet left to attack Annapolis, a tropical storm dispersed the remaining ships and forced the others to return to France. Historians believe the storm was one of the factors that destroyed France's power in North America.

14

**1881:** Hurricane-force winds fanned bush fires in the Lindsay, ON, area. Near Kilmount, the fires consumed a railway bridge, a sawmill, a large quantity of lumber, and several barns. The wind remained strong the next day, and it was feared the fires would start afresh. At one point, it looked as if the town of Fenelon Falls would burn, but heroic villagers saved it.

15

**1998:** Unseasonably warm weather in Saskatchewan delayed the emergence of cankerworm moths. After a heavy frost, the wingless female moths emerge from the ground and climb up tree trunks to lay eggs in the crown of the tree. They are fertilized by the winged, flying males during the climb. The delay gave residents extra time to band elm, Manitoba maple, and fruit trees.

16

Yom Kippur

**2000:** Forecasters downgraded Hurricane *Florence* to a tropical storm off Newfoundland's east coast. Because the storm passed through the region faster than predicted, places to the west in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick were spared the heavy rain and storm-force winds. At the Albert County Exhibition in New Brunswick, most people watched the parade from inside cars along the route; participants got soaked.

17

**2000:** The Rt. Hon. Joe Clark called for the government to cut heating fuel taxes because the *Farmers' Almanac* was calling for colder than normal temperatures. "This is a winter country. If I may quote an authoritative scientific authority: the *Farmers' Almanac* suggests that we are going to have a much colder winter in most regions of the country. That means that heating fuel use will be up; heating fuel costs are up."

18

**1940:** A severe gale accompanied by heavy rain caused some of the worst flooding in years in the Miramichi region of New Brunswick. High tides and strong winds floated lumber off the wharves. Firemen using rowboats evacuated families from rooftops. In the Newcastle-Chatham area, old-timers described the storm as "unequaled since the Saxby Gale of 1869." The waters pushed stretches of railway track up to 5 metres from the original roadbed.

19

**2000:** A heavy rain-storm soaked dirt roads around Elora, ON, just as the International Plowing Match was set to open. Some small tents blew down in the high winds. By the time the gates opened, temperatures had dropped and the winds made it feel even cooler. The weather pushed many of the crowds indoors, making the exhibit tents throughout the grounds even busier than usual.

20

**2000:** On the last day of summer, it snowed in Calgary. Because it was the first storm, the 15-cm whack of snow wrought havoc on city roads, causing more than 100 fender benders, 10 with minor injuries. Customers raided hardware stores for winter goods. Several Alberta locations registered record low temperatures for the date with temperatures dipping to -5°C.

21

Sukkoth

Full Moon ○

**2000:** A Boeing 727 skidded off the airport runway at Iqaluit, NU, blowing 2 tires. The jet had just landed on a flight from Ottawa, ON, in blowing snow when it slid off the wet runway. As a precaution, First Air officials evacuated passengers and crew. No one was injured.

22

**1999:** Vancouver Island and BC's Lower Mainland residents lamented over the just-concluded miserable summer. Except for the last 3 weeks of September, it had been a dreadful season. June was a degree cooler than normal. June, July, and August had 40 rainy days—a new record for the number of wet days. The previous record was 39 days set in 1991.

23

Autumnal Equinox 00:56 EDT

**1757:** Another hurricane hindered the British in their attempt to take Louisburg during the Seven Years' War. A heavy gale blew with such violence that the crew had to dismantle the ships and throw their cannons overboard. They then set sail directly for England, delaying the British from taking the fort.

24

**1999:** More than 100,000 people in southwestern BC were without electricity after an overnight windstorm downed trees and power lines. One resident of the Victoria suburb of Saanich awoke after a limb from a large oak flew across the front yard and through the bedroom roof. The woman woke up with pieces of shingles, bark, and sawdust in her hair. She wasn't hurt.

25

**1998:** A family of severe thunderstorms worked across Ontario. It was a sparky, noisy night throughout Muskoka. Residents of Gravenhurst were sure a tornado touched down. Leaves, gravel, and pieces of bark whipping past windows were common sights. One property lost 70 trees, primarily tall mature poplars—uprooted and snapped off. Wind gusts exceeded 100 km/h, and hailstones were as large as golf balls.

26

**1999:** Southern Ontario enjoyed several days of hot, sunny weather, but smog levels at 51 to 54 were high, especially in the Windsor area. A ground-level ozone value of 50 is considered to be a threat to human health. Fortunately, brisk winds today helped to disperse lingering smog and lower the air quality index.

27

**1999:** Heavy frost hit farms in southwestern Manitoba crippling late-seeded crops before they could ripen. In Melita, temperatures dropped well below freezing for 6 hours. Seeding was late because of heavy spring rains. The killing frost was a week later than average, but many crops needed even more time to mature. Only a third of the canola and half the cereal crops in the region had been harvested.

28

#### Weather Quiz

What weather phenomenon is sometimes referred to as the "white combine"?

- 1) avalanche
- 2) hail
- 3) snow at harvest
- 4) frost at the time of August's full moon
- 5) lightning after sundown

29

**1999:** A northern Ontario family was on an annual hunting expedition to James Bay when strong winds and choppy waves swamped their boats. Eight family members drowned. Three survivors made their way to a hunting camp and stayed overnight. They borrowed a snowmobile to return to Moose Factory, a 64-km journey on bare ground. A massive search and rescue operation failed to find the lost hunters alive.

30



SEPTEMBER

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# October 2002

NOVEMBER

1 2  
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24 25 26 27 28 29 30

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<p>1974: Gale-force winds knocked out 2 main power-line feeders and several telephone lines near Kitimat, BC. The winds bent and bowled over signs and littered the town site with fallen leaves and branches. Corner stores reported a brisk business in batteries, candles, and charcoal briquettes. Households without hibachis or camping stoves to prepare an evening meal found long line-ups at drive-ins and restaurants.</p> <p>1</p>	<p>2000: An "Arctic Express" storm dropped about 24 cm of snow over Yellowknife, NT, one of the earliest snowfalls on record for Yellowknife. The city put out its 2 graders, 3 sanders, and 4 loaders, but strong winds created impossible drifts. Ferry service at Fort Providence came to a halt when winds caused water levels to drop so low that the boats hit the bottom.</p> <p>2</p>	<p>1978: When wind gusts peaked at 115 km/h in downtown Calgary, AB, several people had to seek shelter because they couldn't walk against the wind. Outside the city, tornadic-like winds lifted a huge building, complete with concrete footings, 20 metres in the air. Bits and pieces of cement blocks landed on roofs, lawns, and on the railway track some 50 metres away.</p> <p>3</p>	<p>Weather Quiz</p> <p>4</p> <p>Since 1979, Atlantic hurricanes with male monikers have caused this amount of damage compared to hurricanes with female names?</p> <p>1) half as much damage 2) quarter as much damage 3) the same cost 4) two times as much damage 5) four times as much damage</p>	<p>1970: Heavy rains undermined buildings and roadbeds in Grand Falls, NF. A 15-metre section of highway was torn up to a depth of almost 10 metres, and a small bridge washed away. During the storm, a car plunged over a 25-metre embankment, killing 1 person and injuring 2 others. The flood damaged several homes, house trailers, and garages.</p> <p>5</p>
<p>1997: Fierce winds from a mini-tornado or a straight-line wind and hail lasted just seconds in St. Catharines, ON, but left a swath of destruction. It was as if someone set off an explosion triggering a shock wave. Crews with chainsaws hacked away at broken branches and fallen, century-old trees in a cemetery. Toppled headstones and stone monuments lay buried beneath downed trees.</p> <p>6</p> <p>New Moon ●</p>	<p>1962: Waves swept a father and his 2 children off rocks at Peggy's Cove, NS, into the ocean. Hundreds of people were on the seashore to see the gigantic breakwater stirred up by Hurricane Daisy's 120 km/h winds. A towering wave, estimated at 8 metres, swept the father and his children into a sea-filled gully in the rocks. Four youths managed to pull one child from the churning waters.</p> <p>7</p>	<p>1906: During the fall migration, when thousands of birds were crossing Lake Huron, a sudden drop in temperature, accompanied by heavy snowfall, forced thousands of birds into the water and subsequently cast them up along the beaches. On one section of the beach, the dead bird count was 600 per km, and at another point 3,000 or more.</p> <p>8</p>	<p>1998: The Edmonton, AB, area got its first taste of winter with 7 cm of snow. South of the city, a soupy slush made roads slick, sending dozens of vehicles into the ditch. Retail shoe stores sold 5 or 6 times as many winter and hiking boots as usual. Stores also had a run on windshield wipers, gloves, and wool hats. Ironically, this was the day staff at a local ski club had planned to test their snowmaking equipment.</p> <p>9</p>	<p>1768: Note in weather log at Prince of Wales Fort on Hudson Bay: "The liquid in which the plumb-line of the quadrant is immersed, consisting of water, and about one fourth part brandy, is this morning frozen so hard, that I can scarcely make an impression on it with my finger."</p> <p>10</p>	<p>1875: At Sydney, NS, hurricane-force winds lifted a new warehouse and carried it into the sea. The storm also caused vessels in the harbour to drag their anchors. Two heavily laden schooners ran foul of the schooner <i>Ellen</i>, causing her to slip her cables. Acting quickly, the captain beached the boat in order to save the crew.</p> <p>11</p>	<p>2000: According to the champion grower competing at the Port Elgin, ON, Pumpkinfest, the summer's wet, cool weather made all the difference in the size of this year's pumpkins. The top prize at the 14th annual Pumpkinfest went to a 437-kg specimen that was almost 50 kg heavier than its nearest competition. Despite the snow, rain, and cold winds, an estimated 53,000 people attended the 2-day event.</p> <p>12</p>
<p>1958: Thick fog covered the football field in Victoria, BC. Sometime before the end of the third quarter, someone stole the goal posts. Officials suspended the match, and the fourth quarter was played at a later date. "I kept hearing footsteps," said one player. "Out of the fog comes a guy and he says, 'Hey, you got the ball?' I told him 'Nope,' so we both went looking for the game."</p> <p>13</p> <p>First Quarter ●</p>	<p>1954: A farmer in the path of Hurricane Hazel reported that 20 of his cows seemed drunk after the storm. Apparently, the cows came upon a feast of apples blown into a meadow by the storm's winds. The cows got high. They stumbled around and could hardly stand up. Their digestive juices work so fast that apple juice is fermented rapidly, making the cows drunk.</p> <p>14</p> <p>Thanksgiving</p>	<p>1880: A fierce storm tore across Lakes Michigan and Huron forcing ships to seek shelter. The storm ripped apart the steamer <i>Alphena</i> so badly that bodies and wreckage were scattered on the beach for 100 km. Included in the debris were fire buckets with the stencilled name of the steamboat, a piano with the lid torn off, a fragment of stairway, cabin doors, life preservers, and notes of despair.</p> <p>15</p>	<p>1984: Blizzard weather with winds of 50 to 80 km/h and near zero visibility produced treacherous driving conditions in Alberta and Saskatchewan. The storm dumped 28 cm of snow on Saskatoon, causing long delays in public transit, dozens of fender benders, and cuts in power and phone services. Officials allowed snowmobiles within municipal boundaries, but the city would not be liable for accidents.</p> <p>16</p>	<p>1861: William Bevis, the new lightkeeper at Fisgard, BC, complained that "every room is so damp that when the frost sets in, all the plastering and whitewash comes off." When the fire was snuffed out, their bedroom became "so dampa [sic] that myself and Mrs. Bevis have so much trouble with pain in the limbs such as we have never before experienced." The rheumatism worsened until his death in 1879.</p> <p>17</p>	<p>1930: An extraordinary snowstorm at the eastern end of Lake Erie dumped over 100 cm of snow in one area. In another, so much snow fell on the roof of a hotel that it and the roofs of hundreds of other small buildings caved in. The lakeshore, less than 5 km away, had drizzle, but no snow. This variation is typical of lake-effect snowstorms on the Great Lakes.</p> <p>18</p>	<p>2000: The last survivor of the Pine Lake, AB, tornado left hospital in Calgary. Even though her trailer vanished in the wind, the 74-year-old woman survived. Her chest and back were scarred with stablike wounds from shards of glass, wood, and metal. She actually stopped breathing and was brought back from the dead on board the helicopter ambulance. Doctors had to amputate her left leg.</p> <p>19</p>

**2000:** The Canadian Hurricane Centre in Halifax, NS, declared Hurricane *Michael* a land-falling hurricane when it crossed the southern coast of Newfoundland. The National Hurricane Center in Miami disagreed and said the system became extratropical just prior to landfall when it came ashore. The strength of the storm surprised forecasters who thought it would run out of steam over cooler northern waters.

20

**2000:** Indian summer weather prevailed from northern Ontario to Newfoundland and Labrador. Kitchener-Waterloo reached 21°C, a full 10 degrees warmer than normal. People packed outdoor patios, washed cars, and went for walks. Garden centres were busy, especially with the sale of a new variety of pansies: icicle pansies. If planted now they will survive the winter and come up in the spring.

21

**1968:** Hurricane *Gladys* swept the Maritimes accompanied by heavy rains and high tides. The Miramichi River in New Brunswick rose about 2 metres above normal, threatening several buildings and overtopping the wharves. High waters nearly 3 metres above normal forced the evacuation of 6 families in the Richibucto, NB, area.

22

**1999:** Having endured a raging storm, a 30-metre fishing boat from Victoria, BC, limped into the Queen Charlotte Islands. The crew was after black cod. This fishing takes place in winter storms and is one of BC fishers' most dangerous pursuits. Winds were at 120 km/h. The force of the water swept a man overboard. The crew risked their own lives to scoop him up.

23

**1846:** Lightning struck the Episcopal church on Butler's Hill in Yarmouth, NS, and set a steeple on fire. The lighthouse at the Cape was also struck at the same time, but was only slightly damaged. Previous to the lightning, a huge thick cloud settled over the town. It was so dark that candles were used in offices and homes at noon.

24

**1998:** The Canadian Wildlife Service said more than the usual number of Canada geese crossed over Prince Edward Island in the fall. Strong winds helped push the birds inland off the water.

25

**1926:** A heavy rainstorm and the ensuing runoff caused considerable damage to roads and bridges in Sussex, NB. Floodwaters inundated lowlands and tilted many cellars. The water also washed away two 4-metre spans on the McNutt Flat where 7,000 loads of new fill had recently been placed. Water rising to such a height rivalled the highest spring freshets in memory.

26

Full Moon 

**1997:** The season's first snowstorm left parts of the Maritimes with 20 cm of the white stuff. Police on PEI blamed road conditions for dozens of accidents and 2 fatalities near O'Leary. In New Brunswick, Chatham-Newcastle and Bathurst were the hardest hit areas with over 20 cm of snow. The storm caught many people off guard.

27

**2000:** An early winter snowstorm tracked across southern Quebec. Hardest hit was the Gaspé, which received more than 40 cm, a Quebec record for October. Police reported 130 snow-related accidents across the province. At least 3 people were killed when vehicles skidded out of control on rural roads and ended up in a ditch or collided head-on.

28

**2000:** A storm heralded the longest spell of dreary weather that Atlantic Canada residents could remember. St. John's, Charlottetown, Sydney, and Greenwood set records for continuously overcast skies, between 400 and 500 hours, when a low-pressure system anchored south of Nova Scotia refused to budge. Residents of Cape Breton Island faced flooded basements, sewer back-ups, washed-out roads, sinkholes, and stalled engines after 400 mm of rain.

29

**1996:** Storm winds up to 135 km/h left 4 people dead in southern Ontario, sent lake freighters scurrying for cover, closed the Welland Canal, and flooded the Niagara River Parkway. The storm also uprooted 100-year-old trees. A cast-iron pot full of soil, which had been sitting below a tree, ended up near a fence several metres away.

30

**1998:** Tempers flared among truckers at the ferry terminal in North Sydney, NS, after bad weather cancelled crossings to Newfoundland for 2 days. Many trucks were left behind when the ferry departed. Marine Atlantic allows up to 25 trucks per crossing, but some truckers felt there should have been more, in light of the backlog. Up to 6 trucks are permitted to jump the queue by paying double the usual rate for the ferry crossing.

31

Daylight Saving Time Ends

Last Quarter 

Halloween

OCTOBER

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# November 2002

DECEMBER

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Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

**2000:** On Cape Breton Island, police said it was the worst rainfall and flooding in memory. Water pressure caused manhole covers to pop off. Singer-songwriter Rita MacNeil was one of the victims of the flooding. The water ruined books and songbooks stored in her daughter's basement in Sydney, NS, that were earmarked for mail order sales and an upcoming concert tour with the Men of the Deep. **3**

**1875:** About 130 people, mostly from British Columbia, drowned when the *Pacific* sank after floundering in a storm from the southeast. It was negligence that really sank her. The ship was an hour late setting sail from Victoria because her captain had decided to sleep in. When the crew noticed that the ship was listing slightly, the remedy was to fill the lifeboats on one side of the ship with water. **4**

New Moon ●

**1998:** A huge storm brought tonnes of snow, rain, and blustery winds to the Great Lakes basin—a chilling reminder that the *Edmond Fitzgerald* went down in Lake Superior with 29 men exactly 23 years ago. The track of the storm and the strength of winds were eerily similar. At the same time, family members of the ill-fated crew attended a memorial service at the Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum. **10**

**1990:** Floodwaters on BC's Salmon River trapped about 100 residents of Sayward. Rescuers took 30 or so people out by truck and inflatable boat, but 62 others awaited rescue by helicopter. One of those rescued was a wheelchair-bound young man: Joe Phillion. Phillion received national recognition more than 15 years earlier when he suffered severe burns trying to rescue his brother from a fire in Ontario. **11**

Remembrance Day

First Quarter ●

**1879:** As a storm approached Newcastle, NB, winds increased to gale-force strength with heavy rain. The tide rose rapidly to almost the highest mark in memory. In the downtown, water filled cellars to the beams. Citizens floated rafts from sections of the sidewalk and wharves. The tide carried a house off its foundation and upstream some 150 metres where it settled into the mud. **5**

**1768:** Surveyor William Wales noting weather conditions at Prince of Wales Fort, MB: ... about 11 a.m. there arose a perfect hurricane ... which brought along with it a prodigious quantity of snow, and a very remarkable change in the temperature. About half past 9 p.m. ... I was disturbed by a noise which ... was caused by one of the beams of the house being bent by the expansive power of the frost. **12**

**2000:** The Canadian Alliance Party was 2 candidates shy in its quest to field a full slate of 301 in the federal election on 27 November. It nominated 301 candidates, but they had to fax formal papers to Election Canada by 2 p.m. today to get on the ballot. Bad weather prevented the Nunavut candidate from flying to Rankin Inlet, where he was to file his papers. **6**

**1886:** A fine powdery snow filled the air across the Great Plains. At night, the temperature fell below -18°C and a sudden gale and heavy snow blew up from the north. By morning, snowdrifts were piled over 2 metres deep, and the air was so charged with snow that cattle facing north in the blizzard breathed it in. Their nose and mouth became plugged and they were asphyxiated. **13**

**1994:** Voters were only trickling into polling stations for Ontario's municipal elections despite ideal weather with near-record balmy temperatures of 15°C and dry conditions across much of the province. Voter turnout in the 817 municipalities was less than half in the election for mayors, reeves, councillors, and school trustees. **7**

**2000:** Winds toppled a scaffold under the Ambassador Bridge that spans the Detroit River between Windsor, ON, and Detroit, MI. One worker plunged to his death in the icy waters. The US Coast Guard rescued 3 others. Wind speeds averaged 33 km/h gusting to over 40. The hundreds of onlookers burst into cheers and applause when Windsor firefighters safely hauled in the last man dangling from the bridge. **14**

**1999:** A fierce storm from Alberta roared across Manitoba. Winnipeg recorded its highest sustained wind speed for November at 87 km/h with gusts to 113 km/h. Some entire roofs had to be replaced. An elderly woman who had her glasses blown off as she crossed Portage Avenue groaned, "All I want to do is get back home and lock the door until this is over." **1**

**1819:** It was so dark in parts of New Brunswick that you couldn't see your hand in front of you. People burned candles all day. Some churches without lighting facilities cancelled services. Terror and fear of the unknown gripped most of the province. The next day the sun shone. Scientists were at a loss to explain the cause—a forest fire hundreds of thousands of kilometres away. **8**

**1942:** Nearly 42 cm of fresh snow paralyzed Edmonton, AB. Temperatures of -25°C and stiff winds intensified the misery. News of the storm knocked war coverage from the top of the front page. Three people died in the storm, 2 from overexertion and 1 in a car accident. Streetcar and bus service halted. Only 1 car managed to travel Jasper Avenue from the west end to the city centre. **15**

**2000:** Residents of southeastern Saskatchewan dug out from under a blanket of heavy wet snow that snapped 50 power poles, cutting power to thousands of homes and businesses. Glenavon got 66 cm of snow. In North Dakota, a strong gust of wind blew a busload of Alberta tourists off a slushy highway. About 20 passengers were injured, 10 of them seriously. **2**

**1995:** An Inuit hunter and his snowmobile fell through ice near Prince Albert Sound, NT. He crawled onto an ice floe and used his radio to call for help. Almost naked, and numb from the cold, he prayed aloud inside his tiny tent. Then he heard the rumble of turbo-prop engines. He stumbled outside, poured snowmobile gas into a bucket, and lit it. Searchers dropped rations a few metres from his tent. **9**

**1893:** All day, large quantities of lake steamer wreckage—portions of cabin, pails, pillows—floated ashore at Port Elgin, ON. Also in the debris were broken boards with a few letters stencilled on them, but the name of the ship could not be discerned. It was generally believed that the steamer had been lost in a heavy gale and snowstorm a few days earlier. **16**

**2000:** The longest spell of dreary weather and sunless skies that residents of Atlantic Canada could remember finally ended. It was called the "Indian Summer that Never Was," "Great Grey Sky Episode," or "Cloudfest 2000." In Gander, NF, the sun didn't show itself for 481 consecutive hours. Doubly depressing was that it robbed Maritimers of arguably the best time of the year—their glorious fall.

17

**1996:** As residents of Prince Edward Island went to the polls, the weather turned gloomy and drizzly. Despite the poor weather, voter turnout in the provincial election was heavy, with about 85% of the 94,000 eligible voters casting ballots.

18

**1997:** Delegates to the Asia-Pacific Economic Conference met in Vancouver, BC. The city's picture-postcard setting often provides the perfect backdrop for such meetings. But in November it usually brings rain and more. November is the city's rainiest month with an average of 186 mm. Just to be safe, officials gave every delegate an official APEC umbrella.

19

**2000:** A storm dumped nearly 90 cm of snow on Fort Erie, ON, closing the Peace Bridge, backing up traffic for miles, and virtually shutting down the border. Squalls caused by cold air over the warmer open waters of Lake Erie resulted in whiteouts. Businesses and schools closed. Said one youngster: "We'll probably go home and watch *Snow Day* again. It's a great movie."

20

**1998:** The *Lethbridge News* reported a spectacular display of sun dogs: "If sun dogs are a sign of cold weather, we will be safe in predicting a very cold snap. On each side and under the sun there were very bright spots, which looked like a rainbow, so bright were the colours. Such another display has not been seen here since 1887."

21

**1999:** A 15-km ice jam lowered the outflow from Great Slave Lake, dropping water levels on the Mackenzie River by more than 1 metre and effectively cutting off Yellowknife, NT's, only highway to the south. The ferry did not run because the draft of the vessel exceeded the depth of the water. Engineers could not even clear the blockage with dynamite. Grocers braced for air-freight charges to triple.

22

**2000:** Slush ice caused jamming on the Red River north of Winnipeg, MB, moving river levels there to unusually high levels. Officials ordered sandbags for low-lying properties. Residents living along the river were advised to move or secure structures and equipment near the water's edge. The river level downtown was 2.8 metres above normal winter ice level, which for this time of year is 0.3 metres.

23

#### Weather Quiz

Fifty years ago, which day of the week was deemed the most important day to get the forecast right?

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

24

**1996:** Since mid-summer, a group of 35 environmentalists from Earthroots launched a blockade of local traffic to protest old-growth logging in the Temagami forest in northern Ontario. When temperatures plunged below -20°C in the Owain Lake forest, the protesters packed away their summer tents and sleeping bags and headed home.

25

**2000:** A mini ice storm with 15 mm of freezing rain in the Ottawa, ON, area brought back memories of 1998's famous ice storm. Drivers slowed down, and pedestrians tread carefully to avoid falling. Hospitals had numerous patients sporting broken bones, bumps, and bruises. A candidate in the next day's general election making campaign calls didn't mind. "The response has been very good because people didn't go out ..."

26

**2000:** Prime Minister Chretien said that snow in some parts of the country may have contributed to the lowest voter turnout since Confederation, only a 62.87% participation rate of registered voters. Among the weather happenings on voting day—freezing rain from Ottawa, ON, to Montreal, PQ, and a snowstorm from southern Quebec through the Maritimes.

27

**1906:** An RCMP dog-sled patrol member doubled back to Fort Churchill, MB, to pick up a box that had fallen off the sled. The temperature fell to -32°C, and winds howled at 100 km/h. Days later his body was found about 9 km from the original camp. He had worked his way back but missed the final turn. Tracks showed that 3 times his dogs had tried to turn into the campsite, but he thought they were wrong and kept going.

28

**1983:** A man was driving along a back road in Nova Scotia when powerful winds blew down a diseased, 20-metre elm tree, crushing the cab of his half-ton truck. He was left a paraplegic. He sued the Province for negligence. A Justice of the Nova Scotia Supreme Court ruled that the provincial Transportation Department was negligent in highway maintenance.

29

**1867:** During a gale, the ship *Stag* dropped anchor in the St. Lawrence, near Trois-Pistoles. The following day the ship was surrounded by ice that cut her bow. Two days later she went down with a load of grain and 300 tons of government rifles.

30

Full Moon 

Last Quarter 

First Day of Chanukah

NOVEMBER

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# December 2002

JANUARY

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26	27	28	29	30	31		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>1997:</b> Warm temperatures and sunshine in Calgary, AB, brought out hordes of golfers, cyclists, joggers, and Christmas-light installers. Golfers had to wait up to 40 minutes for a chance to tee off. Said one golfer, "I'm going to phone Manitoba and tell my customers. I just want to rub it in. And there're no mosquitoes!"</p> <p><b>1</b></p>	<p><b>1799:</b> <i>Francis</i>, a government ship sailing from England, sank off Sable Island during a savage gale. All 40 aboard perished, including the staff of the Duke of Kent, future father of Queen Victoria. The Duke also lost some belongings. When some of his clothes, books, maps, and a silver plate began showing up in homes in Nova Scotia, rumours in London and Halifax circulated as to what had really happened to the ship.</p> <p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>Weather Quiz</b></p> <p><b>3</b></p> <p>In North America, there have been over thirty \$1-billion weather disasters from 1989 to 1998. How many of these storms were tornadoes?</p> <p>1) 0 2) 3 3) 10 4) 12 5) 18</p>	<p><b>2000:</b> The Toronto <i>Sun</i> reported that Saskatchewan farmer Gus Wickstrom offered his services in pinpointing when major storms would hit Toronto this winter. All he asked was that a fresh pig spleen, slaughtered in Toronto, be shipped to him. He claimed 80 to 95% accuracy, much better than weather forecasters. He just bites down on the spleen. "If it's firm, then it'll be chilly."</p> <p><b>4</b></p> <p>New Moon ●</p>	<p><b>2000:</b> The ice wine harvest in Niagara, ON, started much earlier than normal as temperatures in some vineyards hovered around -10°C. "It is the first time since 1984 we will be able to finish before Christmas," said one producer. The early harvest didn't harm the character of the vintage, even though quality is usually improved when grapes are left on the vine longer.</p> <p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>1999:</b> Temperatures in Winnipeg, MB, soared above 4°C as the city continued to enjoy one of the mildest falls in decades. Winter was nowhere to be seen. Chip wagons that normally close in October were open. At the zoo, even the polar bears were wondering what was happening. They hadn't started to hibernate; it was simply too warm.</p> <p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>1905:</b> The schooner <i>Antelope</i> crawled into Rondeau Harbour near Port Stanley, ON. Earlier a storm on Lake Huron broke off the ship's masts, smashed and washed away the cabins, and tore huge holes in her sides. The schooner capsized, and equipment on deck, such as hoists, steam hammers, air compressors, and other carpentry tools, was lost. The timber in her hold prevented the schooner from sinking.</p> <p><b>7</b></p>
<p><b>2000:</b> A Canadian entrepreneur shipped 300 tonnes of snow to Puerto Rico to let children build snowmen at San Juan's annual Christmas party. One organizer said he was excited about bringing the "white gold" from the northern Quebec mining town of Wabush to the Caribbean.</p> <p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>1906:</b> It was the most severe start to winter that farmers and ranchers in southern Alberta could remember. Temperatures dipped to -32°C at Lethbridge. The sheep suffered so much from hunger that they began eating the wool off each other's back. They were bare and bleeding by morning, and if any died during the night, there would be no wool left on the up-turned side.</p> <p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>1977:</b> In the taxi office at Kitimat, BC, a brawl broke out amongst hotel patrons looking for a ride home. Few cars were running because the week-long cold snap (-23°C) had drained vehicles of power. Mechanics worked 7 straight days to service a line-up of cars with frozen radiators and dead batteries. There were no batteries, antifreeze, or block heaters anywhere in town.</p> <p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>2000:</b> Toronto didn't call out the troops this time, but winter storms blasted southern and central Ontario, causing flight cancellations, school closures, and gridlock on the province's highway. About 20 to 50 cm of snow blanketed the province and western Quebec. Weather even forced the rare postponement of funerals. In Barrie, doctors and other emergency workers arrived by snowmobile or were picked up by volunteers with snowmobiles.</p> <p><b>11</b></p> <p>First Quarter ○</p>	<p><b>1955:</b> An RCMP inspector died of exposure when his car broke down near Cut Knife in one of the worst blizzards in northwest Saskatchewan's history. Another officer headed out in the storm to try and find the first man but got only 1 km from the village when his car stalled in a snowdrift. In another failed search, visibility was so bad that to keep the vehicle on the road an officer had to walk ahead with a spotlight.</p> <p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>1876:</b> In the morning, a Mennonite farmer from Blumenort, MB, recorded "beautiful weather." By dusk a fierce north wind started blowing. A dozen men and their sons who had gone out for wood 15 km to the east found themselves unprepared and lost. Because there were no fences in the vicinity, the men dug snow away from the furrows by hand. They knew the furrows ran south to north so followed them toward the village.</p> <p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>2000:</b> A month of record snowfall caused the roof of a store to collapse in Sarnia, ON. Witnesses said there was a thundering sound as the roof gave way in the Lambton Mall store. The cave-in crushed 2 employees, killing 1. The collapse occurred before the mall had opened for business so fortunately there weren't any customers in the shop. The Sarnia area had been hit by 50 to 60 cm of snow in the past few days.</p> <p><b>14</b></p>
<p><b>1876:</b> A strong north-east wind blew down the carriage hall building on the Ottawa Agriculture Society's grounds. The storm lifted the roof and threw it into the canal. Unfortunately there were 50 buggies, carriages, and cabs stored in the building, including one vehicle worth over \$1,000. Damage was extensive.</p> <p><b>15</b></p>	<p><b>2000:</b> Winnipeg, MB, escaped the big blizzard it feared when only 6 cm fell on the city. In the Red River Valley, wind gusts of 70 km/h caused hazardous driving conditions. In some towns, the wind chill dipped below -50°C in blustery winds. The weather put shoppers in a Christmas buying mood. Retailers did a booming business selling parkas and other cold-weather gear.</p> <p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>1929:</b> A memorable ice storm followed by a "real old-time blizzard" raked parts of southern Ontario. Between Lucan and London, the wind and heavy ice downed more than 400 utility poles. In eastern Ontario, the weight of snow and ice caused the roof of a newly constructed rink in Gananoque to collapse. Dairies were unable to pick up raw milk because of blocked roads. They reported widespread milk shortages.</p> <p><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>1929:</b> Officials from the Electric Auto-Lite Ltd. of Toledo, OH, came to Sarnia, ON, to open a new plant. Prior to the opening ceremonies, a huge dump of snow fell on the city. Little progress was made in digging out because the city had no snowploughs. Motorists abandoned vehicles, and trains were delayed up to 7 hours. At a dinner-dance in the evening, 2 orchestras battled to be heard over the howling winds.</p> <p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>2000:</b> A sudden, rapidly deepening storm, a "weather bomb," swept through the Maritimes. Winds over 110 km/h occurred at Moncton and Saint John, NB. A freak accident occurred at the Moncton Airport when the wind blew a portable wheeled-stairway against a plane, injuring a woman and her 2 children upon de-planing. The stairway landed on its side and the injured passengers tumbled to the ground.</p> <p><b>19</b></p> <p>Full Moon ○</p>	<p><b>1942:</b> It was cold in Fort Selkirk, MB, with temperatures below -40°C. When a woman went outside to check her dog, "Sheep," a big black head emerged from the kennel doorway. Thinking it was someone else's dog she tried to get rid of it with her broom. A huge gray wolf with a trap hanging on one foot stepped out. Old "Sheep" stood in front of his kennel as though to protect his friend.</p> <p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>1878:</b> It snowed about 15 cm in Saint John, NB, followed by rain and strong winds up to 90 km/h. The blast twisted a church steeple, blew off a piece of iron cornice, and toppled a chimney nearly 3 metres high. The rattle of falling ice on the roof of the cathedral during 7 o'clock mass alarmed some worshippers, who rushed to the door. Their fear subsided once the cause was ascertained.</p> <p><b>21</b></p> <p>Winter Solstice (20:15 EST)</p>

**22** 1998: The deep freeze got deeper on the Prairies; temperatures approached -30°C. The Alberta Motor Association took 1,400 calls in 10 hours, almost 3 times normal. Complaints included frozen blocks, broken block heater cords, and forgetting to plug in the vehicle. When one customer washed his car, it froze solidly. It was warmer in freezers (about -8°C) than it was outside; and there's no wind in the freezer!

**23** 1988: Over 900,000 litres of oil spilled from a damaged barge off the Washington State coast. The Institute of Ocean Sciences in Sidney, BC, estimated that a 4 km/h northerly current would carry the oil into Canadian waters in roughly 4 days. It arrived as predicted. By early January the oil had polluted roughly 150 km of coastline on Vancouver Island, including part of Pacific Rim National Park.

**24** 1999: St. John's, NF, used to be known as the snowiest major city in Canada. But in the 1990s, its average yearly snowfall was 306 cm, compared to 348 in the 1970s. One person adversely affected by the drop in snowfall was John Tee, AKA Santa Claus. Tee offered sleigh rides in Bowring Park. In 1999, his sleigh had been parked for about 3 years, and his Santa suit was collecting dust.

**25** 1646: From *Le Journal des Jesuits* (Quebec City): "The weather was so mild that it was not necessary to heat the church for midnight mass."

**26** 2000: At the Innu community of Davis Inlet, NF, broken-down snow-clearing equipment, fog, blowing snow, and freezing rain closed the runway for 10 days around Christmas. Not until the 28th did the weather clear, allowing a plane to land with presents, medicines, and relatives home for the holidays. According to the band chief, it was the worst Christmas the community ever had.

**27** 2000: Another Alberta Clipper rolled into Saskatchewan bringing blowing and drifting snow, freezing rain, and poor visibility. Roads were unnavigable. In Regina, city crews worked around the clock to clear clogged streets following 15 cm of snow. The heavy snow and cold temperatures made it increasingly difficult for deer and other wildlife to find food.

**28** 1996: Southwestern BC dug out from its "snowstorm of the century." A record snowfall of 41 cm fell on the Vancouver area; Victoria got 65 cm. Even search and rescue personnel had problems when the wind occasionally blew them off their feet. The wind blew the door off a police cruiser. Enough snow collected in places to fill the Trans-Canada Highway up to the bridge deck of the freeway overpass.

Christmas Day

Boxing Day

Last Quarter



**29** 1942: A freezing rainstorm hit eastern Ontario. Over the next few days, there was a continuous onslaught of snow, rain, and deep freeze. Along Bank Street in Ottawa, soldiers used picks to break the ice. One trolleyman stayed with his stranded trolley for 16 days. He went home to eat, bathe, and change clothes. There was concern children might get hurt or killed because the power line was still active.

**30** 2000: The last snowstorm of 2000 made driving a challenge across much of southern Ontario. In Toronto, December's snowfall of 76.2 cm was 20 times the 1999 accumulation and more than double the average (34.1 cm) for the month. Some drivers couldn't keep their vehicles on the road because of the slippery conditions. In Windsor, the 90.6 cm was the most snowfall for any month ever.

**31** 1999: Canada Post reported winter months are cruel to mail carriers, producing a flurry of twisted and sprained ankles as well as knee and wrist injuries. For instance, in a 1-year period, Hamilton mail carriers had 27 slips and falls that resulted in 286 lost work days and costs of \$260,000. Mail carriers rated icy sidewalks even higher than territorial dogs on a job risks list.



# WEATHER QUIZ ANSWERS

January 3) British nautical term for cold weather

February 5) -35°C

March 3) Russia

April 3) skiers and hikers

May 2) 1897

June 5) less than 20%

July 2) the deadliest tornado ever so far north

August 5) Montreal, PQ

September 2) hail

October 5) four times as much damage

November 3) Monday

December 1) 0