

DECEMBER

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natty / Masterfile

January 2003

FEBRUARY

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<p>1999: Nine people died and 25 others were injured when an avalanche swept down on a New Year's celebration in an Inuit village. The avalanche crashed into a gym in Kangiqsualujuaq, PQ, 1,500 km north of Montreal on Ungava Bay. Villagers immediately began kicking and digging by hand through 3 m of snow in a frantic effort to free dozens of trapped people.</p> <p>New Year's Day</p>	<p>1955: Workers in Fredericton, NB, were removing snow from city streets after a storm when they discovered that the snow spewing from their snow blower had a pinkish tinge. They searched through the snow fearing 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>New Moon ●</p>	<p>1890: In the Vancouver, BC, area, a recently completed bridge between Lulu and Sea Islands collapsed under the pressure of ice coming down the Fraser River. Local officials were not unduly upset: the bridge was still under guarantee.</p>	<p>1994: Residents of Happy Valley and Goose Bay, NF, suffered the consequence of a serious water shortage after leaving their water running to prevent pipes from freezing in -30°C temperatures.</p> <p>Perihelion 00:00 EST</p>
<p>Weather Quiz</p> <p>In world ranking of the 40 costliest insurance-loss disasters since 1970, where did the 1998 Eastern Canadian ice storm rank?</p> <p>1) 3rd 2) 9th 3) 20th 4) 34th 5) 40th</p> <p>(Answers on inside back cover)</p>	<p>1986: The second winter storm in 3 days struck New Brunswick. Moncton got 91 cm from the storms. Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island received lesser amounts followed by rain or freezing rain. Winds across the region blew at above 100 km/h. Moncton police had to use snowmobiles. At Bathurst, 30 cm of snow clogged the streets, left unploughed by striking snow-plough operators.</p>	<p>1998: Canada's most destructive weather event was in its third day. Ice Storm '98 was monstrous: 70 to 110 mm of freezing precipitation and 80 hours of ice rain, nearly double the normal annual duration. Its wide geographic coverage—from Ontario to New Brunswick—was extreme. About 900,000 Quebec households and 100,000 Ontario homes had no power. Property damage costs and business losses exceeded \$5 billion.</p>	<p>1989: The sudden arrival of warm weather, along with heavy rain and high winds, caused the ice to break up on Lake Simcoe near Barrie, ON. Hundreds of ice fishers were caught by surprise; 14 had to be rescued by helicopter.</p>	<p>2002: Pacific air flooded across Western Canada. Temperatures soared to 16°C in Lethbridge, AB, 10°C in Regina, SK, and near 6°C in Winnipeg, MB, smashing previous daily highs. At least 17 communities broke records. In BC's Okanagan, the warmth was bad news for ice-wine makers anxiously waiting for temperatures to drop to -9°C and stay there for at least 4 hours.</p>	<p>1997: Extremely cold weather prompted officials to postpone a winter-survival workshop at the Delta Marsh University field station, 20 km north of Portage la Prairie, MB. Organizers were concerned that the students arriving from Winnipeg would be stranded on the Trans-Canada Highway by cold temperatures and blowing snow, and in need of survival skills before they had received them.</p> <p>First Quarter ○</p>	<p>2000: A winter thunder and lightning show is unusual in Canada. On this night, a loud, booming thunderstorm could be heard clear across Nova Scotia. Some houses in Halifax shook, and windows rattled. Many callers to the weather office said the noise frightened their children. The lightning and racket also sent dogs and cats scurrying to corners or under beds.</p>
<p>1916: Weather was indirectly responsible for one of the worst railway accidents in Canadian history. Across southern Manitoba, snow blocked roads and slowed trains. In the Brandon rail yards, traffic nearly halted when ice fog enveloped all the locomotives. Suddenly, a locomotive emerged out of the fog and rammed into the caboose of a snow train crowded with workers. The crash killed 19.</p>	<p>1918: During a ferocious snowstorm, strong winds hit southwestern Ontario, tanning a huge fire in the town of Listowel. A number of trains were stranded throughout the region in monstrous 5-m snowdrifts and temperatures cold enough to freeze the wheels to the tracks. Food and fuel, cut short by the war, ran out quickly. Trains and rescue snow-ploughs were immobilized.</p>	<p>2002: Another "weather bomb" hit the Maritimes. New Brunswick's Acadian Peninsula got more than 36 cm of snow and wind gusts of 100 km/h. The Confederation Bridge had to be closed twice to high-sided vehicles and tractor-trailers. One Halifax, NS, resident confused the sound of live wires sparking on dumpsters behind his apartment for gunshots and called police. Winds reached 165 km/h in Truro, NS.</p>	<p>1671: Quebec City, PQ, received the season's first snowfall the previous day, marking what was probably its shortest winter ever. By mid-March, spring was settling in. Food spoilage, resulting from the lack of cold weather, caused considerable hardship.</p>	<p>2002: For the second time in 3 days, a howling blizzard descended upon Atlantic Canada. Cape Breton, NS, bore the brunt of the storm receiving 20 to 40 cm of snow. Schools, businesses, and every government office closed. Marine Atlantic cancelled the ferry crossing from North Sydney, NS, to Newfoundland.</p>	<p>1994: Blinded by blowing snow, a woman drove her small car into the back of a transport-trailer near Edmonton, AB. The unsuspecting transport driver drove off with the vehicle stuck beneath the tanker. For 30 minutes, the coupled vehicles stayed together despite the woman's frantic attempts to break free. Blowing snow kept other drivers from noticing. The truck driver stopped after he heard the car's tires exploding. The woman suffered only a broken ankle.</p> <p>Full Moon ○</p>	<p>2002: Lake Simcoe, ON, reputed to be the ice-fishing capital of North America, saw the latest arrival of sale ice in years. Some ice-hut operators thought twice about opening. Simcoe's Cook's Bay had about 13 cm of ice, but huge expanses of the lake remained open. The lake draws more anglers in winter than summer, and area businesses rely on the winter fishery to the tune of \$28 million a year.</p>

1935: More than 40 cm of snow fell on Vancouver, BC, in one of its worst storms in history. Strong winds whipped snow into 2-m drifts before 267 mm of rain and freezing rain over 4 days washed them away. The roofs of many buildings, including the Forum, collapsed under the weight of the precipitation.

19

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

20

1996: Unusually warm weather in Nova Scotia awakened peeper frogs from winter hibernation, endangering their lives when the cold weather returned. The sound of the peeper frog has traditionally hailed the coming of spring in Nova Scotia, usually by late March or early April.

21

1868: Extremely cold weather earlier in the week formed an ice bridge below Niagara Falls. Hundreds of people tread along the ice to get a spectacular view of Niagara with its ice-loaded trees and rocks, formed from the fall's spray.

22

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

23

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

24

2002: Three youth at a detention centre in Annapolis Valley, NS, took advantage of record-breaking snowfall to escape by building a snowbank high enough to climb over a fence in the yard. One was arrested within minutes. When the deputy superintendent spotted the other 2 he simply stopped the car and asked if they were cold enough to come back. They gladly returned to custody.

25

Last Quarter 

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

26

2002: Heavy snow blanketed British Columbia's Lower Mainland—Vancouver received a record 25 to 30 cm. In the Greater city, residents fashioned homemade sleighs from old skis, plywood, and plastic milk cartons. Kids took the wheels off their skateboards and slid down hills. At Nanaimo, on Vancouver Island, as much as 35 to 40 cm of snow fell by noon, and 2 teenage hikers died from hypothermia on the island.

27

1757: It was so cold in York Factory, MB, that brandy froze. English brandy freezes at -32°C.

28

1977: Southern Ontario was in the grip of a 3-day storm (28th to 31st) described as the "worst winter storm in memory." The 10-cm snowfall, whipped by 100 km/h winds, piled into huge drifts, isolating communities in the Niagara Peninsula for days.

29

1954: A tornado, accompanied by heavy hail and lightning, struck White Point Beach near Liverpool, NS. Since tornadoes rarely occur in the Maritimes, even in summer, this was a freakish event. Wreckage was strewn over a distance of approximately 1 km, and large beams were driven into the earth to a depth of almost 1/2 m.

30

2002: A storm in southwestern Ontario caused at least 5 deaths. A University of Windsor professor died instantly while shovelling his driveway when an ice-laden tree limb split and fell on him. The storm delivered a dangerous mix of snow, ice pellets, freezing rain, and rain. OPP closed the 401 eastbound near London after a transport truck loaded with more than 35,300 kg of apples rolled.

31

JANUARY

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February 2003

MARCH

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Sunday

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Saturday

1976: A Groundhog Day storm slammed the Maritimes. Grand Manan Island, NB, had a peak wind of 186 km/h; losses were from \$10 to \$50 million. Foul weather and high tides produced extensive flooding. Saint John, NB, was the hardest hit, with lengthy power outages and extensive destruction to buildings, bridges, and dockyards. Everything became coated with sea salt when winds carried spray far inland.

2

Groundhog Day

1934: A butcher from Ridgetown, ON, opened his shop one morning when the temperature outdoors was -29.4°C. He stepped inside his big icebox and found it more comfortable there than in the shop itself, which was near-freezing. Except for the few times when customers came in the store, the proprietor and his friends spent the rest of the day in comparative comfort among the steaks and chops.

9

1999: In Wiarton, ON, hundreds of mourners filed by a tiny pine coffin holding a stuffed groundhog of the likeness of Wiarton Willie. Groundhog Willie had passed away sometime during the fall or winter. Faxes of condolence came in from around the world, and Willie's web site had almost a million hits.

3

1776: A severe storm struck during the American siege of Quebec City, PQ: "A heavy wind at NE with thick snow—before the morning the storm increased to a perfect hurricane. It was impossible to face the weather but for a minute." [Sgt. Caleb Haskell, *The Country Journal New England Weather Book*, David Ludlum]

10

1989: Temperatures in Regina, SK, stayed below the -30°C mark and were accompanied by a biting wind. Exposed skin froze in less than a minute. Canada Post appealed to homeowners to "warm up a postie." Many residents put signs on their mailboxes to notify carriers that they could come inside for coffee. Still, the appeal was not enough to prevent several cases of frostbite.

4

1999: Over British Columbia's north coast, a southerly flow of mild air overran a shallow layer of Arctic air resulting in enormous snowfalls in the Terrace-Kitimat area. The volunteer climate station at Tahtsa Lake West, about 120 km south-southeast of Terrace, broke the Canadian record for the greatest 1-day snowfall: 145 cm. The world's record for 1 day is 193 cm at Silver Lake, Colorado.

11

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

5

1911: A fierce gale near Vancouver, BC, 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 willing to help the caretaker dig up the coffins.

12

1978: Regina, SK's, 4-day blizzard was underway with blowing snow and 100 km/h gusts. By the 9th, snowdrifts reached the rooftops, and many livestock perished. The city was snowbound, but total storm snowfall was only a trace at the airport.

6

1988: The Winter Olympics opened at Calgary, AB, under partially cloudy skies, a temperature of -4.9°C, and winds gusting to 74 km/h. Mild temperatures and lack of snow provided less than ideal conditions for the 15th Olympic Games from 13th to 28th February. Temperatures in the upper teens and strong Chinook winds disrupted alpine and ski-jumping events.

13

2000: A father and his 2 children from South Africa living in Prince Rupert, BC, suffer from forperhia, a disease that leaves the body acutely vulnerable to light and heat. In sunny South Africa they had to stay indoors. In cool, cloudy, and damp Prince Rupert—the least sunny place in Canada—the children could play outside. "It has been heaven," said their mother. (Two years later, Immigration Canada denied them residency into Canada.)

7

1982: The world's largest offshore oil rig, Ocean Ranger, sank off Newfoundland resulting in 84 deaths and losses of \$60 million. Search-and-rescue crews battled poor visibility in freezing rain and snow, as well as freezing spray, turbulent seas, and buffeting winds, in an attempt to locate survivors. There were none.

14

1996: Frigid temperatures continued across the Prairies for the third consecutive week. Near Stavely, AB, a farmer used duct tape on the ears of his newborn calves so their ears wouldn't fall off. In Vanscoy, 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.

1

Chinese New Year

New Moon



1947: Southern Saskatchewan was reeling from a series of blizzards that began on 30 January and continued to this day. For 10 days, all highways into Regina were blocked. Railway officials declared conditions the worst in Canadian rail history. One train was buried in a snow-drift 1 km long and 8 m deep.

8

1995: Victoria and Vancouver, BC, were still buried under 30 cm of snow that fell on the 13th and 14th. In Victoria, the storm caused 4 deaths and a record number of broken bones. In Vancouver, traffic was snarled for hours, and Valentine's Day plans were ruined for many commuters. Part of the problem was that city trucks could not be converted from salting to ploughing quickly enough.

15

Valentine's Day

First Quarter



1959: Newfoundlanders were digging out from 7-m snowdrifts left behind by a wicked blizzard. About 70,000 people were without power most of the day, and highways, streets, and railroads were blocked. Scores of motorists spent the night at homes along the highways after drifts buried their stalled cars. A snow slide at Chain Rock near St. John's harbour trapped occupants for 12 hours and killed 5 people.

16

Full Moon ○

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

Heritage Day

Weather Quiz
Which province leads the country in the number of school days lost to storms?

- 1) Nova Scotia
- 2) Saskatchewan
- 3) Quebec
- 4) Newfoundland
- 5) New Brunswick

18

1986: Fog lingered for several days in southern Ontario, stranding air passengers at Toronto and resulting in a 19-vehicle pileup on the Queen Elizabeth Way near Niagara Falls.

19

1999: Weeks of see-sawing temperatures and unusually high rainfall challenged organizers of Canada's Winter Games in Corner Brook, NF, to make or find snow and ice for the 5 outdoor sports. The local fish plant could provide up to 30 tonnes of snow a day if necessary. Also, more than 100 army reservists were on hand to move snow from nearby wooded areas.

20

1879: A severe snowstorm struck the Maritimes. Gale force winds caused massive drifting, and 2 trains were embedded in snowdrifts for more than a day. Charlottetown, PEI, received 43 cm of snow, and 2 churches on the island were blown down.

21

1982: A series of severe winter storms crippled Prince Edward Island and the Madeleine Islands, PQ, from the 22nd to the 26th. Winds reaching 80 km/h whipped the 60 cm of snow into 7-m drifts, leaving residents marooned and transportation links with the mainland severed.

22

1994: A 2 year old "froze to death" outside her parents' home in Rouleau, SK, during a vicious blizzard accompanied by brutal wind chills. The little girl wandered outside at 2 a.m. Her mother found her lifeless body about 6 hours later. The child made the *Guinness Book of Records* with the dubious distinction of surviving with the lowest recorded body temperature. Doctors estimate her core body temperature fell to 14°C, some 23 degrees below normal.

23

Last Quarter ●

1918: Soon after the *Florizel* left St. John's, NF, the weather worsened. After 9 hours of steaming southward, the captain felt sure they had cleared Cape Race, so he steered westward and crashed upon the rocks near Cappahayden, about 70 km south of St. John's. The ship ripped apart, and 94 people died. The chief engineer, unknown to the captain, had reduced the engine speed despite the captain's order for full speed. He was trying to delay their arrival at Halifax, NS, so they could spend the night there.

24

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

25

1946: A storm centred around London brought snowfall of 20 to 30 cm from the 25th to the 27th, isolating southwestern Ontario for days. The snow clogged highways and rail tracks and weighted down telephone wires. Aircraft dropped supplies of food and yeast for bread-making into nearby fields to be recovered by skiers and snowshoers.

26

1988: During the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary, AB, the American ABC Television Network joked that Miami had decided to bid against Anchorage, Alaska, for the 1994 winter games. The network displayed a graphic comparing the high temperature of 18.1°C in Calgary with the 19.4°C maximum reading in Florida.

27

1959: Eight people died in Listowel, ON, when the roof of an arena, heavily laden with snow, caved in while a hockey game was in progress. By the end of February more than 160 cm of snow had fallen in the Lake Huron community.

28

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March 2003

APRIL							
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<div>1958: A 46-hour ice storm, the worst in 30 years, crippled St. John's, NF. The storm coated tree branches and hydro lines with ice up to 60 mm in diameter. The ice and strong gusty winds snapped trees and downed communication and hydro lines throughout the city.</div> <div>1</div>
<div>1965: Lucien Rivard, convicted drug smuggler, escaped from a Montreal, PQ, jail after obtaining a garden hose, supposedly to flood the penitentiary skating rink. The weather was cloudy, with light winds from the southwest, and temperatures 5°C above freezing. It seems Rivard used the hose to scale the wall.</div> <div>2</div> <div>New Moon ●</div>	<div>1947: A huge snowstorm dropped 73 cm over 2 days in the Ottawa, ON, area, bringing the city to a standstill. Expectant mothers were brought to the hospital on toboggans. By noon, horses making deliveries and drawing ploughs dropped in the streets from exhaustion. In one incident, a car overheated and caught fire. Since the fire department couldn't get there, spectators doused the flames with handfuls of snow.</div> <div>3</div>	<div>1971: One of the worst storms in Montreal, PQ's, history dumped 47 cm of snow, which was whipped by gusty winds of 110 km/h into huge drifts, paralyzing the city for 2 days.</div> <div>4</div>	<div>1910: An avalanche in Rogers Pass, BC, killed 62 railway workers who had been using picks and shovels to clear snow from an earlier slide across the CPR main line. As a result, the CPR authorized the drilling of the 8-km Connaught Tunnel straight through the granite core of the mountain to avoid the pass altogether.</div> <div>5</div> <div>Ash Wednesday</div>	<div>1987: For the second day in a row, training runs for the women's World Cup downhill event were called off at Mt. Allan, AB. A Chinook bringing 12°C temperatures and high winds melted much of the snow base, leaving slush and water in the finish area. Though conditions improved for the race on the 8th, journalists dubbed the course "Mt. Mushmore."</div> <div>6</div>	<div>1966: At Ucluelet, BC, what was believed to be a tornado drove a metal spike through a window of the school, lodging the spike into the blackboard. Class was in session but no one was injured, though some students were showered with glass.</div> <div>7</div>	<div>1879: Across southern Manitoba, temperatures dropped rapidly resulting in a thick crust of ice forming over the snow. When the wind started up, "great plates of ice 10 to 20 feet square were lifted and broken into smaller pieces, which in turn were raised on edge and blown along like icy cart-wheels. The prairie was alive—demons on a rampage." [<i>The Canadian Climate</i>, C. E. Koeppel]</div> <div>8</div>
<div>1988: The worst blizzard of the winter deposited record amounts of snow in central Newfoundland. Gander almost doubled its single-day snowfall for 9 March after 38 cm fell on the town. Snow combined with winds gusting up to 87 km/h created monstrous drifts. One man was spotted standing on a ladder trying to shovel out his buried vehicle.</div> <div>9</div>	<div>1996: Chinook temperatures and a residue of snow and ice triggered flash flooding and sewer backups throughout south Calgary. Workers pumped 13 cm of cold water out of the basement of a church after a sump pump failed. "They were all upstairs singing their hearts out while I was pumping away down here," said the church handyman.</div> <div>10</div>	<div>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.</div> <div>11</div> <div>First Quarter ●</div>	<div>1870: The first of 3 major March snowstorms struck southern Ontario with 23 to 63 cm of snow from Hamilton to Markham. A second storm on the 16th dumped 45 to 63 cm, and a third on the 27th, up to 90 cm. The heavy snow made going to church difficult but had surprisingly little impact. One positive result was an improvement in sleighing for the lumber industry.</div> <div>12</div>	<div>1757: From the Hudson's Bay Company Archives for York Factory: "Mittens on in bed because of cold."</div> <div>13</div>	<div>1998: Tourists were flocking to a motel in Letellier, MB, to experience last year's Flood of the Century from the comfort of a warm, dry bed. For \$47 a night, patrons of the Prairie's Edge Motel could stay in a theme room with sandbags on the floor, rubber boots by the bed, and evacuation instructions on the wall. Customers from as far away as Switzerland took advantage of the offer.</div> <div>14</div>	<div>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.</div> <div>15</div>

1999: A storm described as a "white hurricane" ripped through the Upper Saint John River Valley, NB, 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, NB, was a virtual ghost town.

16

1998: It was St. Patrick's Day, but nothing was green in Calgary, AB, after its worst mid-March storm in 113 years. The record snowfall produced slick roads and power failures. Flights were cancelled and businesses and schools closed. Downtown Calgary was a ghost town. Motorists couldn't dig out of their driveways, and the bus system ground to a halt. Ranchers had to feed their stock from horseback.

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

Full Moon ○

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

19

1890: Spring was in the air at Fort Qu'Appelle, SK. The snow was disappearing fast, and maximum temperatures were near or above freezing: 2.9°C on the 19th and -0.5°C on the 20th. The Qu'Appelle Cricket Club (membership \$1.00) met to make plans for the coming season.

20

Spring Equinox 20:00 EST

1993: A storm over Frobisher Bay trapped 7 students and a teacher from Iqaluit, NT, over the weekend. Erratic winds hampered rescue planes and blew snowmobiles and sleds around. Teacher and students were found unharmed.

21

2001: Canada's "wet coast" winter was the driest on record with precipitation only half the historical average. Total rain and snow at Victoria, BC's, water reservoir was the city's lowest in 101 winters. Beginning in April, officials imposed the strictest watering ban ever: no watering of lawns and gardens, filling swimming pools and hot tubs, or hosing down driveways and exterior buildings. Even car dealerships were not allowed to wash vehicles.

22

1997: Edmonton, AB, lost its chance to host a TV pilot based on the movie *Fargo*. A warming spell left it without the necessary snow-swept vistas.

23

World Meteorology Day

1876: The Hamilton, ON, *Spectator* reported: "One of the most unpleasant storms of the season commenced this morning ... and any amount of kicking would not induce our reporter to go outside."

24

Last Quarter ●

2001: Blinding snow squalls, slippery roads, and driver error led to a massive 50-vehicle pileup on Highway 401 near Ingersoll, ON, that sent 23 people to hospital. About 5 cm of snow, combined with high vehicle speed, turned 7 km of highway into a demolition derby. A string of chain-reaction collisions closed the 6-lane highway for 8 hours while crews removed the wreckage.

25

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

26

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

27

1964: Following the strongest North American earthquake this century, a 67-m tsunami—the largest ever observed in North America—was recorded off Valdez, Alaska. It swept down Canada's west coast at speeds up to 720 km/h. It killed more than 100 in Alaska, devastated the Vancouver Island community of Port Alberni, then went on to kill 11 more in California.

28

Weather Quiz
Tonitrophobia is extreme fear of:

29

- 1) lightning
- 2) thunder
- 3) hail
- 4) weather forecasts
- 5) wind

1848: A wind-driven ice jam near Buffalo, NY, left Niagara Falls dry. The eerie silence woke hundreds and filled churches. By 1 April, all had returned to normal.

30

1949: Newfoundland joined Confederation. At midday, St. John's was 1°C and cloudy. When snow fell that July, some "no" voters saw the weird weather as a sign of what was ahead.

31

MARCH

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April 2003

MAY

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Sunday

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Friday

Saturday

		<p>1914: Seventy-seven sealers froze to death during a violent storm on the ice off the southeastern coast of Labrador. At the height of the storm, from 31 March to 2 April, the temperature was -23°C and winds were from the northwest at 64 km/h in snow.</p> <p>1</p>	<p>1987: Flood waters and ice took out railway bridges on Ste-Anne River, east of Trois-Rivieres, on the 1st and at Perth-Andover, NB, on the 2nd. In 1986, the covered bridge at Anse-St. Jean on the Saguenay (the one on the \$1000 bill) met a similar fate. Not a good time of year for bridges.</p> <p>2</p>	<p>2001: Yet another storm blasted St. John's, NF, during the "winter from hell." The storm established new snowfall records in the city and, as luck would have it, it hit the same day that a massive public-service strike started, involving 19,000 public-sector workers—including most snowplough drivers. Wind gusts reached 130 km/h. The weather was so bad that the 2 striking unions cancelled picket duty for many members.</p> <p>3</p>	<p>1997: Strong winds packed sea ice along the Cape Breton, NS, coastline for 2 days, trapping 2 ferries, a small Canadian Coast Guard icebreaker, and a coastal oil tanker. Among the 5,000 passengers were roadies for rock legend Bob Dylan, along with the band's equipment. Because of the ice, 2 sold-out concerts in Halifax, NS, had to be cancelled.</p> <p>4</p>	<p>2001: Electricity in Quebec City, PQ's, Ice Hotel was turned off, and the structure was bulldozed and pushed into the St. Lawrence River. The \$500,000 hotel had attracted 40,000 visitors from around the globe—3 times the number projected for the \$100-per-person hotel. Some guests found sleeping in a sleeping bag atop animal fur on an ice bed difficult. However, only 1% didn't stay the night, due to claustrophobia not the cold.</p> <p>5</p>
		New Moon ●				
<p>1997: A nasty storm, one of the worst in the city's history, dumped up to 65 cm of snow and shut down Winnipeg, MB, for 48 hours. Canada Post cancelled mail delivery, and the <i>Winnipeg Free Press</i> couldn't make home deliveries. Manitobans suspended sandbagging for snow shovelling. The storm intensified the threat of major flooding in the Red River Valley.</p> <p>6</p>	<p>1977: The Toronto Blue Jays played their first home game at Exhibition Stadium before 44,649 fans. The weather at the start: light continuous snow, winds southeast at 22 km/h, and a -10° windchill. The final score: Blue Jays 9, White Sox 5.</p> <p>7</p>	<p>1998: Many people welcomed the rain today in Kitchener-Waterloo, ON. Rainfall of 25 mm or more meant that customers who had purchased windows from a door-and-window store in March would receive a full refund. The manager had learned from Environment Canada that only once in 27 years on this date had rainfall equalled or exceeded 25 mm. Did they get a refund? No, only 3.8 mm of rain fell.</p> <p>8</p>	<p>1917: At 5:30 a.m. 1,000 guns opened fire, and Canadian troops advanced towards Vimy Ridge. It was bitterly cold, and a freezing rain and snowstorm—urged on by westerly winds—began as the attack went on. Victory was clinched on the 12th. Again the weather featured driving freezing rain and snow.</p> <p>9</p>	<p>1996: Wiarton Willie was under protective custody after receiving several death threats. It seems some winter-weary folk were angry that the early spring Willie promised had not arrived. Willie's handler said that he was getting as many as 20 phone calls a day about the weather and the incorrect prediction. Several callers screamed in the phone before hanging up, "That damn groundhog should be shot."</p> <p>10</p>	<p>1988: An early season tornado struck Watson, SK. The twister drove a stick 5 cm in diameter completely through a solid, 1/2-m thick door. The tornado picked up a car shed and carried it 20 m before dashing it to the ground, yet it ignored a pile of lumber at the side of the shed. Five years ago a tornado had destroyed a car shed in the same yard.</p> <p>11</p>	<p>2001: Wind gusts of nearly 100 km/h struck southern Ontario, uprooting trees, twisting traffic signals, and leaving 20,000 homes and businesses without power. A huge tree fell through a roof in Kitchener-Waterloo. Emergency crews, worried about the 93-year-old homeowner's safety, asked her to leave her home of 40 or 50 years. She thought she had caused the damage and feared someone would take her to an old folks home.</p> <p>12</p>
Daylight Saving Time Begins			First Quarter ●			
<p>2001: Oust clouds rolled across British Columbia's lower Mainland and interior. The fine particles were sand from the Gobi Desert! Jet stream winds had carried the dust cloud 15,000 km after it was whipped up by a storm in Mongolia and western China in early April. The cloud moved to the Gulf of Alaska and down Canada's west coast before traveling eastward across the continent.</p> <p>13</p>	<p>1863: The Prince Edward Island <i>Islander</i> newspaper prints a pedestrian's recommendation for sidewalks: "It was ludicrous as well as painful to see on last Sabbath, ladies of all ages ... floundering about in the mud like swine in a hog sty."</p> <p>14</p>	<p>1912: On the night of the 14th to 15th, the <i>Titanic</i> collided with an iceberg 700 km southeast of Newfoundland. At least 1,500 of the 2,200 aboard drowned in the worst accident caused by an iceberg. St. John's had clear skies with light winds.</p> <p>15</p>	<p>1958: The most destructive tornado ever to hit Watrous, SK, took out a large barn, trapping more than 100 pigs. Some pigs were buried in the wreckage; others were given a whirlwind start off to the northeast. Within an hour, 5 of the animals were discovered more than 2 km away. Some of the smaller pigs had been hoisted and scattered about a nearby stubble field.</p> <p>16</p>	<p>1987: Very strong winds swept across the southern Prairies. Gusts in excess of 100 km/h raised blowing dust and blew over several tractor trailers west of Lethbridge, AB. North of Calgary, AB, the mild winter and unharvested grain fields produced the worst infestation of field mice in 40 years.</p> <p>17</p>	<p>2001: In Charlottetown, PEI, Christmas lawn decorations began popping out from the snow that had covered them since early January. Discarded Christmas trees were also sprouting by people's curbs. The city's public works manager joked: "If we can hold on to them for another 6 months, we are thinking about reselling them." Usually the city's tree pickup occurs in early January, but it was postponed after 50 cm of snow fell on the weekend of 7 January.</p> <p>18</p>	<p>Weather Quiz When it starts to rain, will you stay drier by: 1) running 2) walking 3) jogging 4) zigzagging 5) no difference</p> <p>19</p>
Palm Sunday			Full Moon ○	Passover Begins	Good Friday	

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

20

Easter Sunday

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

21

2001: A Cessna aircraft rammed into the fog-shrouded transmission tower in Notre-Dame-du-Mont-Carmel, PQ, about 130 km northeast of Montreal, killing the pilot. The plane hit the tower at about 9:15 a.m., and parts rained down. But it was not until 11 a.m., when the fog lifted, that rescuers on the ground finally saw the aircraft stuck in the tower. The tower had to be dismantled, and climbers and helicopters were not able to recover the body for at least 2 days.

22

Earth Day

1980: A 2-day deluge of 108.9 and 144.2 mm of rain occurred at Gaspé, PQ, on the 23rd and the 24th; the 253.1 mm total broke the previous record for April. The resulting floods washed out bridges and forced several families to flee their homes. For the month, Gaspé recorded 350.7 mm.

23

Last Quarter 

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

1954: Near Nanaimo, BC, a freak whirlwind lifted a 2-car garage over 2 m, broke it apart, and sent shingles up to 70 m away. The explosive wind left untouched an old model "Nash" car within the garage. Children of one family were so frightened by the terrific noise the storm made as it fluttered their clothes that they ran and hid in their house.

25

1989: Members of Operation Polar Bear Bridge, the Soviet-Canadian transpolar ski expedition, reached the North Pole, where they were greeted by Soviet and Canadian dignitaries. It was a beautiful day at the pole, with clear skies, a temperature of -24°C, and 3 to 5 km/h winds (from the south, of course).

26

1993: Snow, freezing rain, ice pellets, and rain struck the southern Maritimes, leaving Greenwood, NS, with 18 cm of snow. Three people died when a car skidded off the highway near New Glasgow. A transport truck carrying hazardous chemicals overturned near Shubenacadie, forcing the evacuation of 75 residents and the closure of the main highway from Halifax to Truro for 12 hours.

27

1757: From Hudson's Bay Company Archives for York Factory: "Severity of weather froze beer in cellar."

28

1967: A 3-day snowstorm, beginning on the 27th, gave Lethbridge a 24-hour snowfall record for any month of 53 cm. For the first time in history southern Alberta was declared a disaster area as thousands of cattle starved on the open range, unable to forage for food in the deep snow. Good news, though, for storm-stayed residents: the minister of revenue granted them a 2-week extension for filing income tax.

29

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

30



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May 2003

JUNE													
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<div>1984: A raging windstorm forced postponement of the ball game between the Toronto Blue Jays and the Texas Rangers after 5 pitches and 2 outs. Winds of 100 km/h blew players out of their positions and swirled dirt around like BB's. The wind was especially tough on players wearing contact lenses, on vendors selling popcorn, and on umpires—from batters spitting into the air.</div> <div>New Moon ●</div>	<div>1997: The 1997 Red River flood was the highest recorded in the 20th century and the third highest in two centuries. The river rose 12 m above winter levels, flooding almost 2,000 km² of land. More than 28,000 Manitoba residents fled their homes. Unofficial damage estimates, including replacing infrastructure and flood proofing, exceeded \$450 million. Sand-bagging, flood control works, and emergency dyking prevented an estimated \$6 billion in damages.</div>	<div>1989: Snowmelt and ice jams on the Liard River, NT, caused the worst flooding here in a decade. Nine hundred residents were evacuated from Fort Simpson, at the junction of the Liard and Mackenzie. The local airport looked like a miniature lake with huge ice slabs floating around the tops of hangars. Ice floes nearly 2 m thick blocked streets when the waters receded.</div>
<div>1971: Heavy rains led to an earth cave-in at St-Jean-Vianney, 200 km north of Quebec City, PQ. A bus, several cars, and 35 homes were dumped into a crater 600 m wide and 30 m deep, killing 31 people.</div>	<div>1986: A small tornado hit Lampman, SK, in the early hours of the morning. The twister lifted a large construction-office trailer off the ground, threw it over 3 trucks, and deposited it on a fence 30 m away. The trailer was then picked up again and tossed near its original location, crushing the back of a truck when it landed.</div>	<div>1915: "The ice first broke in front of Ruby (Alaska) ... yesterday it entered upon its final departure ... It was the tamest breakup Ruby has ever had. Last year the breakup was quiet, but this year it was pointless. Last year ... Fred Kline got his peg leg stuck in the mud and was almost crushed by a rush of ice." <i>Ruby Record Citizen</i>, 15 May 1915</div>	<div>1986: At about 4 p.m. a severe earthquake registering 7.7 on the Richter Scale occurred in the Aleutian Islands. The Tsunami Warning Center in Alaska issued a tidal wave warning for the British Columbia coast valid from 7 to 9 p.m. Residents living in areas under 15 m above sea level were ordered to evacuate. Fortunately the forecast 5 to 15 m waves did not occur—the largest wave was 1.5 m.</div>	<div>1985: A slight rain shower in Winnipeg, MB, on a warm afternoon with temperatures around 26°C included huge black ants the size of wasps. Described as similar to the African ant, the winged insects covered sidewalks, roads, and roofs, and entered homes.</div>	<div>1991: Warm temperatures as high as 20°C prevailed for 2 months over the Canadian Northwest. The ice-jammed Porcupine River, flowing west through northern Yukon, rose almost 10 m above its normal level at Old Crow, inundating the village and airport and cutting off power and communications. In the Mackenzie Valley, a thunderstorm with hail passed over Fort Simpson.</div> <div>First Quarter ◐</div>	<div>1989: A "dirt blizzard" blew across much of southern Saskatchewan. Winds gusting over 90 km/h whipped newly seeded fields into endless grey clouds of dust, reducing visibility to zero on many highways. The swirling winds toppled trees, damaged buildings, and grounded light planes. One RCMP officer recalled, "When tumbleweeds started coming in the twenties and thirties, they looked like a herd of bouncing antelope."</div>
<div>1996: Canada shut out Jamaica 3–0 in the opening game of the Summer Olympics soccer qualifying tournament in Edmonton, AB. A day before the competition opened the temperature dipped to -0.2°C with a dusting of snow. Two days before the tournament got underway, the temperature was -5.5°C, and the city received 9 cm of snow.</div>	<div>2000: 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>.</div>	<div>1986: Ory Windjack of Edmonton, AB, is luckier than most: he was struck by lightning and lived to tell about it. Ory was pulling his golf cart and holding an umbrella when lightning suddenly hit the ground, travelled up his feet, and exited through the umbrella. It burned all his nerve tissue and other delicate body tissues. It took him 3 years to recover.</div>	<div>2001: A storm that stalled south of Nova Scotia brought prolonged rains to the Maritimes. A sodden Halifax received 98.7 mm—the highest daily May rainfall since records began in 1871. Moncton, NB, got 98.2 mm, also a record and enough to erode entire riverbanks, damage soft shoulders, weaken roadbeds, and collapse culverts and bridges. In Prince Edward Island, a flooded gravesite forced the postponement of a funeral.</div>	<div>1917: A storm accompanied by rain, hail, and wind near Viking, AB, was one of the earliest and fiercest to ever occur in Alberta's hailstorm alley. One prize bull was knocked down 15 times before reaching shelter.</div> <div>Full Moon ○</div>	<div>1879: Legend has it that a whirlwind picked up a Native child and carried her into Saddle Lake (AB). A century later, stories persist that a hairy serpentine monster lured the child to her death. Band councillor Willie Brerlton estimates the monster has been sighted about 100 times. Although specialists have not been able to find the creature, residents are sure it exists.</div>	<div>1939: King George VI and Queen Elizabeth's trip to Canada was delayed as sea fog and ice floes about 500 km east of Cape Race prevented the <i>Empress of Australia</i> from sailing any closer.</div>
Mother's Day						

1950: Described as the greatest flood disaster in Canadian history, the Red River crested at 9.2 m above normal near Winnipeg, MB. In all, 100,000 people were evacuated. Losses were enormous: 5,000 homes and buildings damaged and \$550 million in property losses. Flood waters submerged more than 1,600 km² of rich Manitoba farmland and nearly a quarter of Winnipeg.

18

2001: Drivers between Red Deer and Calgary, AB, faced an unusual blackout as 85 km/h winds from nowhere whipped topsoil off farmers' fields. The blinding wall of soil contributed to a 15-car pileup near Carstairs, about 70 km north of Calgary. Two hours later, conditions went from blackout to whiteout as a freak snowstorm pounded Calgary. The winds snapped lampposts, uprooted trees, and ripped out fences.

19

Victoria Day

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

20

Weather Quiz
What smell are tornadoes most associated with?

21

- 1) gasoline
- 2) strong earthy smells
- 3) burnt matches
- 4) rotting vegetables
- 5) baked bread

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

22

Last Quarter 

1997: Light winds and no pack ice or icebergs made it easier to begin towing the huge Hibernia oil platform into place off the Grand Banks. The 600,000-tonne platform is 224 m tall, half the height of the Empire State Building.

23

1881: The crowded excursion steamer *Victoria* sank in the Thames River near London, ON, on Victoria Day with the loss of 200 persons. Weather was not a factor since winds were light from the north and the temperature was 26.9°C under sunny skies.

24

1896: The Bulls of Windsor, ON, were sitting in the front room of their home when a tornado carried away one side of the house's upper storey, leaving the family in the open air. They later discovered one of their bedsteads in a tree a couple of hundred metres away. A horse was rolled and pushed 250 m through 2 fences and over a large ditch but survived uninjured. The tornado left a 2-km path of destruction in its wake.

25

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

26

2001: Around Chisholm, AB, an inferno scorched an estimated 140,000 ha of tinder-dry forest and brush and destroyed several homes. Explosive conditions fanned the flames: high temperatures, strong wind gusts, and low relative humidity with very dry fuel conditions. The fire advanced quickly as strong winds drove the flames up to 40 m per minute. Fires even created their own winds. Hundreds of gas wells in the area were shut down as a precaution.

27

1989: A 40-cm fall of wet snow stranded 8 Saskatchewan teenagers on an outdoor-education class in Cypress Hills Provincial Park, forcing them to spend over 24 hours in 1 pup tent. Rescuers brought them home the next day. One teenager described the ordeal as "cold, wet, clammy, and gross."

28

1914: The CP liner *Empress of Ireland* collided with a Norwegian collier in the St. Lawrence River, 300 km seaward from Quebec City, PQ, and sank in 25 minutes with the loss of 1,024 passengers. There were reports of shallow river fog. The weather at Anticosti and Quebec, however, was clear with light northeast winds.

29

1961: The most intense rainstorm ever in Canada, 250 mm in under 1 hour, occurred at Buffalo Gap, SK. Accompanied by heavy hail and strong winds, the torrents of water washed out roads, eroded fields, and even peeled bark from several large trees. The land was stripped clean of soil and vegetation. Strong winds moved an empty boxcar upgrade for 55 m.

30

1985: Three confirmed tornadoes struck the Ontario communities of Barrie, Grand Valley, Orangeville, and Tottenham. There were 12 deaths, hundreds injured, and 1,000 buildings destroyed or damaged. The tornado was the 4th most damaging—and had the longest track (200 km)—in Canadian history.

31

New Moon 

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June 2003

JULY											
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1986: A wild electrical storm, accompanied by high winds and hail, swept through Saskatoon, SK. One resident knew something was wrong when the family collie burst through the back door screen and cowered on the kitchen floor, refusing to return outside. Moments later, the roof of a 2-storey house flew across the street—along with the doghouse—and crashed into a neighbour's home.</p> <p>1</p>	<p>1829: A tornado raced through Guelph, ON, levelling trees in every direction, downing fences, ripping off roofs, and demolishing buildings. The town was inactive for 3 years after the disaster.</p> <p>2</p> <p>World Environment Day</p>	<p>1989: It was opening night at the new SkyDome in Toronto. Ontario Premier David Peterson pointed a laser beam skyward and opened the stadium's retractable roof—letting in a deluge of water from a rainstorm outside. Performers were drenched, and many of the 50,000 spectators abandoned their seats for shelter.</p> <p>3</p>	<p>Weather Quiz</p> <p>What is the prime target of lightning?</p> <p>1) lumberyard 2) airport 3) church 4) school 5) golf course clubhouse</p> <p>4</p>	<p>2001: Four days of heavy rains south of Watson Lake, YK, led to the collapse of a culvert on the Alaska Highway. When built in 1998, the Iron Creek culvert—23.3 m wide, 8.2 m high, and 25 m long—was touted as the largest of its type in the world. The usual parade of RV's and vehicles with out-of-territory/country plates on the highway between Whitehorse and Watson Lake was noticeably absent.</p> <p>5</p>	<p>1968: It was a meteorologist's dream. Thirty-five weathermen from across Canada toured the Alberta Hail Studies Centre in Penhold. To everyone's delight, storms pelted the base, and were, as one expert said, "very fluid." Hail fell on farms west of the air base, leaving fields looking like winter. In the south, a small tornado formed. It was a perfect terrible day for a meteorological demonstration.</p> <p>6</p>	<p>1933: A powerful wind and driving rainstorm played queer pranks in western Ontario. In Woodstock, a farmer was closing the barn's double-doors when the wind slammed them shut, cutting off his ear. Another resident found the linoleum from his kitchen in the next lot despite it having been beneath a heavy stove. The wind carried a veranda from a house to the front lawn of another house.</p> <p>7</p> <p>First Quarter ☾</p>
<p>1933: Scorching 35°C temperatures caused the death of a worker delivering milk to a London, ON, cheese factory. The heat also started a fire in a New Hamburg drugstore when a bottle of phosphorous ignited. Ordinarily, phosphorous is kept under water or in a cool place since it ignites at 26°C. The store proprietor did not know he had phosphorous as it was among a bankrupt drug stock that he had purchased recently.</p> <p>8</p>	<p>1816: At Quebec City, PQ, temperatures fell below freezing every night from the 6th to the 10th, and snow fell frequently: "the whole of the surrounding country ... having, within twelve days of the summer solstice, the appearance of the middle of December." <i>Quebec Gazette</i></p> <p>9</p>	<p>1990: The remnants of tropical storm <i>Boris</i> brought 3 days of heavy rain (54 mm) to central British Columbia. Twice that amount fell in the Peace River area of British Columbia and Alberta. Nine people drowned in the resulting floods, including 4 young treeplanters who drove off the washed-out end of a bridge southeast of Prince George, BC. Total flood damage was estimated at \$10 million.</p> <p>10</p>	<p>1939: The Royal train, bearing King George and Queen Elizabeth, was to stop briefly at St. John in Quebec's Eastern Townships on 12 June. But on the 11th, a tornado tore through town, blowing roofs off houses and toppling trees. The town suddenly took on a sodden appearance with most of the city's decorations shredded. Workers moved feverishly to replace the decorations and clear debris.</p> <p>11</p>	<p>1986: In the days before the SkyDome's retractable roof, fog and rain persisted for most of the baseball game between the Detroit Tigers and the Toronto Blue Jays. After a pop fly to centre field disappeared in the fog for an inside-the-park home run, the umpire mercifully called the game, with the Jays ahead 9–0.</p> <p>12</p>	<p>1930: A mixture of blowing dust and heavy rain produced a rain of mud at Provost, AB. Buildings became caked with grime and took on an eerie appearance.</p> <p>13</p>	<p>1994: Shortly before sunset, a cyclist from St.-Robert, PQ, heard a whooshing noise overhead. Seconds later he noticed the cows from his father's farm huddled over a hole. At the bottom of the hole was a half-buried, 2-kg meteorite with a freshly scorched surface.</p> <p>14</p> <p>Full Moon ☾</p>
<p>1860: Lightning struck and shattered a willow tree near Galt, ON. Hundreds of dead fish covered the surface of a nearby stream where the lightning charge had been conducted by the tree roots.</p> <p>15</p> <p>Father's Day</p>	<p>2001: Lightning struck and killed a teenage girl at a hostel south of Wakefield, PQ. The erratic lightning bolt struck her moments after rain had ended and the sun was shining—literally a bolt out of the blue. Her companions were also knocked to the ground but not seriously injured. The young friends had been seeking relief from the hot weather when they ventured out barefoot onto a flooded field.</p> <p>16</p>	<p>2001: A thunderstorm woke many residents in southern Saskatchewan, bringing much-needed rain but dreaded hail as well. Lightning ripped a hole through the roof of an apartment building, just feet away from a resident's bedroom. The loud bolt jolted tenants in the 20-unit apartment out of bed. A cab driver rushed between apartments alerting tenants that a unit in their building was on fire.</p> <p>17</p>	<p>1927: While a family at Elfros, SK, ate supper, a tornado picked up their home and carried it nearly 20 m, killing 1 family member. Their buggy was found in a tree 2 km away. The tornado cut a swath 11 km long and 60 m wide through bush country, clearing out thousands of trees and piling them in heaps up to 15 m high on either side of its path.</p> <p>18</p>	<p>1978: A tornado struck Aubigny, MB. One town resident lost her freezer. It ended up in the basement of another house—without the meat. Another resident reported: "The last time I saw our bathroom (outhouse) it was going down the front street as fast as you please."</p> <p>19</p>	<p>1874: An 8-hour storm, described as the greatest thunderstorm that Manitoba had ever seen, brought torrential rain and terrific lightning. Lightning killed 7 people, and 250 Mounted Police horses stampeded.</p> <p>20</p>	<p>1885: Upon returning home after a storm struck Hope Bay, ON, a farmer found that the roof of his dwelling had been blown off. Two of his children who had been sleeping upstairs were still in bed, but were now in the garden. He discovered his wife and other children in the milk house, where they had fled for protection.</p> <p>21</p> <p>Summer Solstice 15:10 EDT</p> <p>Last Quarter ☾</p>

1988: During a violent thunderstorm, winds blew down a house at Coteau Station, PQ, while torrential rains triggered a landslide that derailed a train at nearby Coteau Landing, PQ.

22

1988: Rain from a thunderstorm helped bring a forest fire under control in New Brunswick, but thunderstorms associated with the same system caused power disruptions in Nova Scotia. One powerful flash of lightning blasted a hole in the runway at Yarmouth airport.

23

2001: Sauna-like conditions, with humidex values in the dangerous range—a record 46°C—kept Winnipeg, MB, paramedics busy as dozens of residents suffered heat stress and nausea. Some even fainted in the streets. The heat and humidity were especially tough for kids and seniors. One man found in a ditch was taken to hospital suffering from heat exhaustion.

24

1971: An intense storm with cyclonic winds and heavy rain struck the Grand Coulee and Pense districts of Saskatchewan. One family waiting out the storm in their car beside the road saw their new camper-trailer tip over with the first gusts of wind. About 5 minutes later, as they pondered how they were going to upright the trailer, the wind switched direction, and, much to their surprise, turned the trailer upright again.

25

1930: A storm burst upon Lumsden and Bonavista, NF. When the telephone rang at the O'Neil residence, Mrs. O'Neil took the receiver but fell to the floor after getting a shock. Her husband and his brother-in-law, James Clarke, revived her. When the phone rang again, Mrs. O'Neil told Clarke it was for him. It was his wife, so he warned her to hang up. Just then, lightning struck and Clarke dropped dead on the floor. (*The Evening Telegram*, St. John's)

26

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

27

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

28

1963: A remarkable 1-day snowfall of 111.8 cm occurred at Livingston Ranger Station, AB. For several years this stood as the greatest all-time 1-day snowfall ever recorded in Canada. The record was broken on 17 January 1974 at Lakelse, BC, and again on 11 February 1999, at Tahtsa Lake West, BC.

29

2001: A brief but nasty thunderstorm struck Fredericton, NB, snapping tree trunks, downing power lines, and cutting electricity. Rain and strong winds reduced visibility to 1 m in some areas. Participants in a bass-fishing tournament on the Saint John River headed in just minutes before the storm hit. Environment Canada had issued weather warnings, but some local radio stations didn't carry the message because they broadcast network pre-programming on weekends.

30

JUNE

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AUGUST

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31

July 2003

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

2001: Summer holidays began on a cold, snowy note in parts of Ontario and Quebec, forcing the cancellation of many Canada Day fireworks celebrations (including Parliament Hill's). At Kapuskasing, ON, 3 cm of snow fell. In Timmins, the Shania Twain Museum opened without Shania, and it snowed for 3 hours. At the University of Waterloo Canada Day bash, the popular water slide and dunk tank had to close early.

Canada Day

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

First Quarter 

1816: *The Old Farmer's Almanac* called for rain, snow, and hail on 13 July, and that is just what it did in eastern North America. The typesetter had inserted the forecast as a joke. The editor missed it, and it appeared in the first copies printed. Later printings predicted a dull 13 July, but those who received the earlier copies swore by the *Almanac* for the rest of their lives.

Full Moon 

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

2001: One year ago today, 4-month-old Ashley and her father waited in the car while Ashley's mother registered in the Pine Lake, AB, camp office. Tornadoic winds blew the windows out of the car, flipped it a dozen times, and sucked out Ashley and her father. He found her a few hundred metres away, stripped and shaken. Today, her parents report that Ashley is happy and full of life. They haven't camped since. [*The Edmonton Journal*]

1989: Smoking may have saved the life of a farmer from Glenavon, near Regina, SK. When he ran out of cigarettes, he loaded his 2-year-old twins into the car and drove to town for a fresh pack. When he returned, his house-trailer and entire farm lay in ruins. The tornado also killed 200 chickens and injured a horse and steer so badly they had to be shot.

1928: Near Constance, SK, hailstones the size of teacups lashed a ranch, killing more than 750 animals by crushing their skulls and bodies. The hail also killed 3 horses, and a shepherd was forced to cover his head with a saddle to save his life.

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

1846: A man from Cornwall, ON, dug a hole in his garden intending to plant an apple tree. Before he got around to finishing the task, a tornado carried an apple tree from Massena, NY, and dropped it into the hole. Further, the considerable wind blew all the earth, previously piled up, into the hole, thereby firmly planting the tree!

2001: A once-in-25-year storm in southern Manitoba washed out roads, damaged crops, and caused flash floods. Two communities issued a state of emergency when between 125 and 190 mm of rain fell in 3 hours. In Winnipeg, the deluge strained sewer systems and flooded streets and basements. The force of the flow blew off sewer covers.

1987: A torrential downpour at Glen Abbey Golf Course near Oakville, ON, forced officials to suspend play 3 1/2 hours through the 2nd round of the Canadian Open—the first time a round could not be completed in the Open's 78-year history. Less rain fell north of Toronto at the site of the Weatherman's Golf Tournament.

1936: Large portions of Ontario and Manitoba continued to swelter through a 10-day killer heat wave. Temperatures reached 40.6°C at Toronto on the 9th. Maximum temperatures occurred on the 11th: 42.2°C at Alkakan, ON, and 44.4°C at St. Albans, MB.

Weather Quiz
How far do most clouds travel?

- 1) less than 30 km
- 2) 4,000 km
- 3) halfway around the world
- 4) between 500 and 1000 km
- 5) the distance across Canada

1997: A dust devil picked a British teenager's pocket in Winnipeg, MB. He was playing tennis when the whirlwind picked up his wallet, carrying away \$1,200 in holiday cash. "It just jumped into the air," said the teen. "Nothing like that ever happens in England; it just rains a lot." The teen had a difficult time convincing his sceptical parents.

Aphelion: 02:00 EDT

1932: A freak lightning bolt struck a gold mine near Rouyn, PQ, detonating dynamite 60 m underground and killing 2 miners instantly. Either the lightning struck near 2 locked safety switches on the surface, jumped across and detonated the dynamite, or it struck just inside the mineshaft below the safety switch. The men on the surface were not injured.

1996: Torrential rains (up to 270 mm) led to flooding and mudslides in the Saguenay, PQ, region from the 18th to the 21st, resulting in Canada's first billion-dollar natural disaster and the largest-ever overland deluge in Canada in the 20th century—equivalent to a 2-month flow over the Niagara Falls. The surge of water, rocks, trees, and mud killed 10 people and forced 12,000 residents from their homes.

1937: The temperature hit 45°C at Midale and Yellow Grass, SK—the highest ever recorded in Canada. One area farmer spent the day in his Fordson tractor, ploughing a field. The tractor lacked fenders or a platform, so the farmer's feet, and his brand-new \$2 boots, rested on the transmission housing. When he climbed down, "the soles were fried right off." [Will Chabun, *The Leader-Post*, Regina]

1969: Two severe lightning, wind-, and rainstorms battered Athol Township, ON. Lightning struck at least 2 houses, and wind tore limbs off trees. Said one resident: "Lightning came in from almost every corner ... on the TV, hydro line, clothes line, and telephone. And, amazingly enough, no one was hurt, and damage was less than one would expect." Another resident's hearing was affected for a time but returned.

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

1958: When rainfall over 60 mm near Mount Pearl, NF, eroded some roadbed, 2 girls waved a pair of red pyjamas to flag down the incoming train. Earlier, the girls (the train engineer's daughter and the niece of a passenger) had phoned the chief dispatcher in St. John's, warning of potential washouts. He told them to flag down the train. The rail company dispatched a repair crew.

20

1819: Arctic explorer Sir William Edward Parry sailed from England in May of 1819 in search of the Northwest Passage. On 21 July, looking westward toward Lancaster Sound from Baffin Bay, he saw 130 km of heavy ice and treacherous "middle pack," and around him he counted 88 towering icebergs, all of which he forced his way through successfully.

21

1920: A tornado caused extensive property damage near Alameda, SK. At one farm, a buggy went over the top of the house. The wind also hoisted the hired man and dropped him dazed but unharmed in a field. At another place, winds completely stripped the hair from 16 horses and airlifted a 900-kg stallion for 1 km. It was found uninjured with a piece of manger still attached to the halter.

22

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

23

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

24

1921: A torrential rain- and windstorm struck Saskatoon, SK. "Women, bravely during the flood, with their dresses pulled up, daringly exposed trim ankles and 'rolldowns' as they made their way across street corners where the water congestion was greatest. Immediately prior to the cloudburst, when the wind was at its height, several staid and portly gentlemen of dignified mien, were employed in futile attempts at hat recovery." (Saskatoon *Star Phoenix*)

25

1578: From the journal of Arctic explorer Martin Frobisher: "In this storm, there fell much snow with such bitter cold air that we could scarce see one another ... Every man persuaded himself that the winter must be extreme where there be found so unseasonable a summer."

26

Last Quarter 

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

27

1975: Hurricane *Blanche* moved across the Atlantic region after a prolonged dry spell, bringing rainfall totals to near normal. In a 6-hour period almost half of this month's total rainfall (158 mm) fell at Chatham, NB. In Nova Scotia, winds up to 115 km/h downed a number of power lines and trees.

28

1946: The most destructive hailstorm in the Okanagan Valley's history pelted Penticton, BC, with hailstones as large as hens' eggs and weighing 85 grams. In 15 minutes, the storm did \$2 million in damage, wiping out 15% of the bumper crop of apples, peaches, apricots, and plums.

29

2001: Skies blackened over northwestern Ontario as a furious storm approached. Winds of 100 km/h tore the roof off a community centre in Oshawa, near Fort Frances. One farmer found rafter of the barn tossed through tractor windows. The winds, which may have generated a tornado or straight-line wind, ripped out hundreds of trees—some 40 mm in diameter—downed power lines, flipped yachts, and beached houseboats.

30

1987: A week-old baby hurtled 50 m by the Edmonton, AB, tornado survived with only a few scratches. Even more remarkable, a neighbour found her bundled in a blanket on a road during the storm. No one knew who the infant was, and she lay in intensive care as Miss X until late that night when her grandfather ended a frantic family search by identifying the child.



31

New Moon 

JULY						
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August 2003

SEPTEMBER						
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<div>1979: When a violent thunderstorm hit Winnipeg, MB, the thumping hail may have brought on the premature birth of 2 St. Bernard litters. Heidi delivered a Canadian-record-breaking 22 puppies. (The Guinness world's record is 23). But the storm likely caused the death of 6 puppies. In her zeal to protect them, Heidi dug a hole in the mud, pushed the pups in, and lay on top. Six suffocated.</div> <div>1</div>	<div>2001: Clouds of aphids billowed through downtown Toronto, ON. Pedestrians sheltered their heads under coats or umbrellas as bugs buzzed in their faces. Officials closed several swimming pools, much to the chagrin of the heat-stressed public. Bugs covered the stainless steel surfaces of hot dog vending machines. An entomologist explained that the recent lack of rain meant the bugs had been sitting there waiting for a sudden change of pressure before taking flight.</div> <div>2</div>
<div>1985: After more than 380 mm of rain fell on Parkman, SK, 2 brothers made the best of a bad thing and went water-skiing on their wheatfield.</div> <div>3</div>	<div>1921: It rained frogs in Calgary, AB. Along 11th Avenue, the frogs were strewn thickly on the pavement. Residents were puzzled as to the source of the amphibians. A few believed they had come out of their hidden retreats to bathe in the shower, but there were no eyewitnesses. The first to discover their presence were cats, who found them as edible as fresh fish.</div> <div>4</div> <div>Civic Holiday</div>	<div>1689: Following a violent hailstorm near Lachine, PQ, Indian warriors attacked a group of frightened settlers in the largest massacre in Canadian history.</div> <div>5</div> <div>First Quarter </div>	<div>2000: 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 campground.</div> <div>6</div>	<div>1971: A vicious hailstorm did incredible damage to the town of Whitecourt, AB. Baseball-sized hail fell for 15 minutes and was driven by 80 km/h winds at a 45° angle. Every roof required repairs, and every window needed replacement. Hailstones penetrated aluminum roofs and sidings, 6 airplanes were write-offs, and all neon signs were shattered. The hail lay in 20-cm drifts for 2 days.</div> <div>7</div>	<div>1949: Nine hundred turkeys on a farm near Yorkton, SK, took to the bush when let out a few minutes before a severe thunderstorm struck. The storm demolished the turkey houses. A bull in a barn also took to the bush but not of his own accord. When the barn blew away, the bull went with it and was never seen again.</div> <div>8</div>	<div>1882: Lightning struck and damaged a home in Riverdale, NS. The force threw a mother and her baby into the cellar, seriously injuring them. The lightning bolt then passed from the house to the barn, where the father was milking a cow. It knocked over the pail and killed the cow.</div> <div>9</div>
<div>1973: The most northerly funnel cloud sighting in Canada was made on Upper Garry Lake, NT—just south of the Arctic Circle.</div> <div>10</div>	<div>1913: <i>The Fife Lake</i> [SK] <i>History Book</i> gave this account of a tornado: "One day after William had gone off to work for the day, a cyclone came through the farm yard, lifting the house off the ground and turning it around. When William came home late that night he couldn't get in. The door wasn't where it was supposed to be. He finally found it facing the opposite direction."</div> <div>11</div>	<div>1997: Sightings of whales of all shapes and sizes were up dramatically along Nova Scotia's Atlantic coast. Experts credited the unusually sunny, dry weather for shifting the marine food chain and drawing the whales closer to shore in search of fish. Members of a charter operation near Halifax said they could see the whales from their kitchen table.</div> <div>12</div> <div>Full Moon </div>	<div>1995: Newfoundland wildlife officials in St. John's reported a missing moose. They were about to capture it when it wandered through some residential areas. When lightning knocked out lights, the moose escaped. Drizzle and fog patches hindered the search. In the morning, police asked residents to help. At last sighting, the moose was wearing a brown fur coat and antlers, and had a tranquilizer dart sticking in its rump.</div> <div>13</div>	<div>1989: Tornadoes are extremely rare in the Maritimes, so it was a surprise when 3 funnels touched down in New Brunswick. In Carlisle, 20 km east of Hartland, a tornado uprooted trees and ripped apart a barn, but cracked only 2 of 24 glass storm windows that were stored in the building. The tornado dug a groove in the ground 5 to 10 cm deep and about 4 to 5 m long.</div> <div>14</div>	<div>1971: 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.</div> <div>15</div>	<div>2001: In mid growing season, some of southern Ontario's best farmland endured its driest 8 weeks on record. The dryness and heat desiccated virtually every crop except grapes. Hamilton area clergy asked their followers to pray for rain. It came—some 6 to 12 mm. In the Maritimes, at Panmure Island, PEI, First Nations people began a spiritual dance at a tribal powwow and within hours the first good rainfall in more than 6 weeks fell.</div> <div>16</div>

1958: A fiery baby tornado, called a dust devil, roared out of a forest fire in British Columbia's Douglas Lake district. The inferno enveloped 2 firefighters in flames, then hurled them into the air like flaming torches. The men later died from their burns.

17

1999: A tornado touched down in Pugwash, NS, ripping the dining room from a restaurant and sending it 12 m across a parking lot. The cook and manager went flying through the air. A worker at the Pugwash Visitors Centre noticed an increase in traffic after the storm. "People want to see the damage for themselves. Lots of people stop outside what's left of the Caboose Café, take a picture, and then jump back in their car."

Discovery Day (Yukon)

18

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

Last Quarter 

19

1999: Three teachers hiking in northern British Columbia came across the frozen remains of an aboriginal hunter who died perhaps 10,000 years ago after falling into a glacier crevasse. Archaeologists dug the body out of the ice with ice picks and shovels and had it flown by helicopter to Whitehorse, YK, for temporary storage and examination. The man's skull was missing. Ice movement over the centuries had likely separated it from the body.

20

2001: A costly hailstorm hit parts of Winnipeg and southern Manitoba, dropping nickel- to hardball-sized hailstones. Manitoba Public Insurance estimated that the storm triggered 11,000 claims costing over \$20 million for damaged vehicles alone. One woman told Environment Canada that, about 100 km south of Brandon, canola rained from the sky, in a likely tornado. Of some concern, the canola was genetically modified.

21

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

22

1936: A lightning bolt played an unkind prank on a collie dog owned by a resident near Burnt River, ON. The lightning hit the house chimney, ripped apart the rafters, bulged a metal ceiling, tore off plaster, then followed a telephone wire to the woodshed, where the owner was splitting wood—his dog at his side. The bolt then circled near the dog and flipped him on his back. The white dog was scorched a dark brown.

23

1873: A hurricane swept Cape Breton Island, NS, destroying 1,200 fishing vessels and damaging 900 buildings and countless bridges, breakwaters, and wharves. The storm took 500 lives.

24

1969: A tornado and fierce hailstorm left the hamlet of Lewvan, SK, in shambles. At one farmhouse, swirling winds sucked fine dishes from the china cabinet and stacked them in neat piles on the floor. The bodies of dead chickens lay strewn across the yard while others, injured or stunned, floundered about. The ground around a plantation of small evergreens was a mass of needles, stripped from the trees.

25

1891: Weather forecasts were first published for Manitoba and parts of the Northwest Territories (present-day Saskatchewan and Alberta). Seven years later a forecast office was opened in Victoria, BC, and forecasts were issued for parts of southern British Columbia.

26

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

27

Weather Quiz
What hour of the day has the fewest number of thunderstorms around the world?

28

- 1) noon
- 2) 6 p.m.
- 3) 4 a.m.
- 4) midnight
- 5) 3 p.m.

2001: Lethbridge and Medicine Hat, AB, had virtually no rain in August. The worst fire hazard in Alberta's recorded history forced the evacuation and closure of Kananaskis Country south to Waterton Lakes National Park on the eve of the busiest camping weekend. Campers were outraged, and business operators frustrated. Fire officials said even dropping a stainless steel knife on the road could ignite a spark big enough to start a grass and forest fire under current conditions.

29

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

30

1967: At Yarmouth, NS, fog occurred on 85 of the 92 days of June, July, and August—surely one of the most depressing spells of weather in Canadian history.

31

New Moon 

<p>1818: Arctic explorer John Ross collected samples of red snow around Baffin Bay. He took these back to England, but astonished biologists couldn't agree on what might have caused the odd colouring. A few decades later their successors determined that blooms of microscopic algae were the reason. Today more than 100 species of algae have been identified in snow.</p>	<p>1999: On the 22nd and 23rd, 150 mm of rain fell in the Moncton, NB, area from tropical storm <i>Harvey</i>—a record rainfall with a probability of once in more than 100 years. Many residents of Dieppe, NB, who lived in basement apartments saw water rise to the ceiling and refrigerators float down hallways. In Sackville, NS, employees of Beaver Lumber chased pieces of lumber floating around the yard.</p>	<p>1934: Snow shovels were out in Edmonton, AB, the day after the city's greatest September snowfall—22.1 cm.</p> <p>Autumnal Equinox 06:47 EDT</p>	<p>1950: The Great Smoke Pall, fed by muskeg and forest fires in northern Alberta, spread across North America, darkening skies in eastern Canada and in Europe 2 days later. The eerie skies brightened millions. Before explanations were aired on radio, listeners guessed the noon-hour darkness was the result of an eclipse, a Russian smoke screen, a terrific storm brewing, or the end of the world. Sun colour varied from pink to purple, blue, lavender or yellow to grey-tan.</p>	<p>Weather Quiz</p> <p>The Afghanistan weather service is part of what department?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Environment Afghanistan 2) The Department of Commerce 3) Ministry of Roads and Transportation 4) Department of Education and Science 5) Ministry of Tourism <p>New Moon ●</p>	<p>1898: A schoolteacher saved 40 children from death in Merriton, ON, when she spotted an approaching tornado and led her students to a safe corner when the tornado struck. Unfortunately, falling debris killed one of the children and injured several others.</p>	<p>1990: An intense storm, with winds of 100 km/h, moved rapidly up the British Columbia coast. Two fishing boats were unable to reach safely in time and floundered off Vancouver Island. Several lives were lost, and one person was rescued. A freighter was forced to dump its cargo of logs after developing a severe list.</p> <p>Rosh Hashanah Begins</p>
<p>1972: While most people do not easily remember the weather on a specific day last week or last month, they do have excellent weather recall on important anniversaries (graduation, weddings, birthdays) and on memorable historical events. On this date, Paul Henderson scored the winning goal in the first Canada–Soviet Union hockey series. Where were you and what were you doing on this day? What was the weather?</p>	<p>1983: Heavy log on the Trans-Canada Highway east of Montreal, PQ, resulted in a fiery accident that claimed 5 lives.</p>	<p>2001: Yellowknife, NT, went through September without a frost or snow. Local gardens benefited from the unseasonably warm temperatures. Tomatoes, cucumbers, and cantaloupe finally came through, and the flowers were still looking good. The city had a mean temperature of 10.4°C—the warmest in 60 years of records. Both the 26th and 27th posted new maximum records.</p>				




SEPTEMBER

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October 2003

NOVEMBER

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<p>1922: Drenching rains caused a large landslide at Eicho Harbour near Ocean Falls, BC. The heavy mound of earth buried several houses, including a bunkhouse where 5 men died. It also pushed one residence into Dean Channel. The house was found floating, its occupants alive inside.</p> <p>1</p>	<p>1987: The 2nd of October was long known as the day nothing happened in the weather. But in 1987, a windstorm, with gusts over 100 km/h, caused considerable damage as it moved across Newfoundland. Western areas were especially hard hit, as winds uprooted trees, downed power lines, damaged buildings, flipped a plane over, swamped boats, and left 2 longliners in distress.</p> <p>2</p> <p>First Quarter </p>	<p>1909: The crew of the little Newfoundland coasting schooner <i>Cedella</i> sighted 4 great moving columns of water in the atmosphere, rotating violently and sending up dense clouds of spray. One waterspout—let alone 4—is a rare occurrence in northern waters. At one point, the largest waterspout came within a kilometre of the vessel, scaring the crew.</p> <p>3</p>	<p>1851: A storm known as the <i>Yankee Gale</i> lashed Prince Edward Island, leaving behind ruined fishing vessels and the bodies of hundreds of men—mostly college students from New England—along the shore. Bodies were found lashed to the rigging, fastened to stumps of masts, or half-buried in sand. The Islanders opened their homes to survivors, fed and clothed them, built coffins, and buried the dead.</p> <p>4</p>
<p>1868: Lt. Saxby of the Royal Navy predicted that exactly 1 year from today a storm of marked severity and exceptionally high tides would occur. One year less a day later, the famous <i>Saxby Gale</i> struck western New Brunswick. The storm tore vessels from moorings, drove boats ashore, and badly damaged others. At Moncton, tides were 2 m above any previous record set there.</p> <p>5</p>	<p>1858: A violent storm whipped across southern Ontario. The newspaper reported: "Ladies experienced considerable difficulty in walking the streets from the force of the wind, and the super-abundance of skirt indulged in now-a-days. But what they lost in comfort they gained in appearance, for the cheeks looked rosy and healthy, and the face animated and handsome."</p> <p>6</p> <p>Yom Kippur</p>	<p>1993: Australia's rugby union overcame frost and low wind chill to defeat the Canada B team, 40 to 3 in Calgary. Only 4 days after having to cope with 37°C heat in Los Angeles, the Australian Wallabies experienced temperatures around -2°C and light snow in Alberta. Locals were calling the visitors "all-weather wallabies." Large icicles hung from the metal benches where 400 spectators sat.</p> <p>7</p>	<p>1977: A tornado struck Chatham Township in southwestern Ontario, tearing the roof from a house and pushing the building 2 m off its foundation. A 4-year-old boy was asleep at the time. A piece of timber fell near his bed, and a large chunk of cement crashed a few centimetres from his head. The front steps of the house went missing, but, somehow, the family of 5 escaped safely.</p> <p>8</p>	<p>1867: The <i>Great Labrador Gale</i> was one of the worst storms recorded on the Labrador coast. Thirty-seven lives and 27 vessels were lost. The famous Captain William Jackman rescued 27 people, mostly women, from certain death aboard the <i>Sea Clipper</i>. Twenty-seven times he waded into the icy gulf waters and carried each and every one of them to safety on his back.</p> <p>9</p>	<p>1989: Temperatures plunged from 18° to 4°C in just 10 minutes as a vicious windstorm swept through central Alberta flipping trailers and airplanes, and felling trees and power lines. A woman was thrown into the sink with her head jammed inside a cupboard. Her 10 dogs flew upside-down through the air as the wind toppled her mobile home. Near Bassano, zero visibility from wind-blown dust caused a 14-vehicle pileup.</p> <p>10</p> <p>Full Moon </p>	<p>1962: Typhoon <i>Freda</i> struck the Pacific Northwest, causing 7 deaths and damages in excess of \$10 million. Howling winds reached a maximum sustained wind speed of 88 km/h with gusts of 140 km/h. In Victoria, BC, the wind tore off the side of a house, lifted a fibreglass boat suspended from the ceiling, and smashed it into the house next door!</p> <p>11</p>
<p>1934: The temperature in Regina, SK, soared to 31.1°C, an October record until it was broken on 1 October 1992 (32.0°C). The fine weather drew many people from their offices. With little else but fine weather on people's minds, the YMCA decided to postpone its \$7,500-fund-raising drive to the 22nd, when they hoped for "heavier" weather.</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>Thanksgiving Day</p>	<p>1954: A farmer in the path of Hurricane <i>Hazel</i> 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 was fermented rapidly, which made the cows drunk.</p> <p>14</p>	<p>2001: A weakened Hurricane <i>Karen</i> moved slowly toward Nova Scotia. As it turned out, the storm ran out of punch as it churned through the cold waters of the North Atlantic. Wind speeds barely reached 80 km/h. In New Brunswick, the showers were a welcome sight for many homeowners with wells, as a long run of unusually dry weather had left water levels in some parts of the province dangerously low.</p> <p>15</p>	<p>1785: Black rain fell over much of eastern Canada; intense darkness and yellowish clouds were thought to be a result of forest fires over western and central Ontario.</p> <p>16</p>	<p>1996: A marine "weather bomb"—a rapidly intensifying storm—struck Vancouver Island, causing massive power outages and setting adrift more than 50 pleasure boats. Some vessels tossed onto the rocks were worth more than \$1/2 million. Waves rose to 30 m as winds buffeted the waters at 200 km/h. The storm began life as a gentle breeze near Japan on 12 October.</p> <p>17</p>	<p>2001: Owing to milder weather, the Asian lady beetle appeared in record numbers across Ontario at homes and cottages. The Asian ladybugs were introduced in the U.S. decades ago to control aphids. The insects are more aggressive than the native ladybugs. There are no known predators or parasites. During the fall they are more likely to invade homes in search of a warm place to spend the winter.</p> <p>18</p> <p>Last Quarter </p>

1844: Southwesterly hurricane-force winds drove waters from Lake Erie and Lake Ontario into the streets of Buffalo, NY, and Toronto, ON. Two hundred people were reported drowned.

19

1920: Appropriately, it was wet almost everywhere in British Columbia as voters in a provincial plebiscite rejected prohibition. It even rained in Kamloops, one of the driest localities (weatherwise) in the province.

20

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

21

1988: An east coast storm dropped 21 cm of snow during a Saturday afternoon CFL game in Ottawa, ON. The amount of snow easily surpassed the previous October record of 16 cm set in 1962. Montreal, PQ's, Dorval and Mirabel airports also reported October records with 28 and 21 cm, respectively.

22

1943: The Germans set up a secret automatic weather station at the northern tip of Labrador to radio pressure, temperature, and wind data to U-boats prowling Atlantic shipping lanes.

23

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

24

1918: The *Princess Sophia* sank after grounding on Vanderbilt Reef off the British Columbia coast on the 23rd. High seas, low visibility, and 90 km/h winds prevented rescuers from reaching the ship. All 343 on board perished. The only survivor was an English Setter who swam ashore.

25

New Moon



2001: The season's first major storm, packing sustained southwesterly winds of 75 to 90 km/h, depressed already low water levels on the St. Clair and Detroit Rivers and the western end of Lake Erie; over 50 ships dropped anchor or remained tied up at docks. Water levels dropped 1.5 m, making it unsafe for loaded ships to sail and draining local marinas. Upbound traffic on the Welland Canal was halted due to high winds.

26

Weather Quiz
Who said: "Canada. What a beautiful country. The air and the sky seem to have been freshly washed and polished"?

- 1) John Kennedy
- 2) Marlene Dietrich
- 3) The Queen Mother
- 4) Madonna
- 5) Nelson Mandela

27

1879: Rain and increasing easterly winds reached the southern Maritimes, foreshadowing the arrival of a massive fall storm. During the next 2 days, the storm inflicted heavy damage, destroying buildings, sweeping away bridges and wharves, and wrecking or damaging more than 100 vessels. Several lives were lost.

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

1991: The Canadian Forces C-130 Hercules, with 18 aboard, crashed on its final approach to the runway near Alert, NT. Forty-eight hours later, 12 paramedics parachuted into the crash site to rescue the 13 survivors. The paramedics battled Arctic darkness, constant cloud cover, and blinding snow. They also braved temperatures of -23°C, 46 km/h winds, and a wind chill of -60°.

30

1981: Disastrous flooding occurred in the towns of Squamish and Pemberton, BC, north of Vancouver. At Seymour Falls, 206 mm of rain fell on the 30th and 200 mm on the 31st. Property damage was estimated at \$2.6 million. Residents were evacuated by air.

31

Daylight Saving Time Ends

Halloween

First Quarter



OCTOBER										
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11				
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November 2003

DECEMBER												
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<p>2001: Someone broke into Environment Canada's radar dome near Duncan, BC, and stole \$300 worth of tools. The burglar had to drive a winding gravel road, jump 3 barbed wire fences, cut through a chain link fence, perform a Spiderman manoeuvre around a gate, climb a 24-m ladder, and drop through a trap door. The dome emits less radiation than an X-ray but enough to heat up soft tissue and make eyes, ears, and testicles itchy.</p> <p>1</p>
<p>1988: A windstorm with gusts to 100 km/h hit the Quebec City, PQ, region, breaking tree limbs and damaging roofs. Meanwhile, a 75-cm snowfall in the Laurentians, north of Trois Rivières, stranded 35 hunters, some of whom had to be evacuated by helicopter.</p> <p>2</p>	<p>1877: The <i>Rondeau News</i> reported the following account of a fish shower near Harwich, ON: "I filled the pail (with fresh fish) ... and having deposited my burden returned to collect the remainder ... As to whether these now famous fishes fell 6 feet or 6,000, I know not. One thing I know, that they were scattered for about three-quarters of a mile." In the previous 2 days, rainfall totalled more than 15 mm.</p> <p>3</p>	<p>1996: Consecutive severe winters have killed off thousands of caribou on Bathurst Island in the High Arctic. In 1996 there were fewer than 2,000 left, compared to 25,000 in 1961. Biologists fear they will die out. Another harsh Arctic winter could be devastating, especially if freezing rain occurs in the fall, forming the ice layers that make it difficult to forage.</p> <p>4</p>	<p>2001: The temperature soared to 17.1°C in Winnipeg, MB. Many residents spent the day roller-blading and playing Frisbee. One firefighter decked in shorts, sunglasses, and ball-cap said he was staying outside until the mosquitoes came back. There were 1-hour lineups at golf courses.</p> <p>5</p>	<p>2001: Remnants of Hurricanes <i>Michelle</i> and <i>Nael</i> and a non-tropical storm from New England converged, then intensified over the Gulf of St. Lawrence into the "Perfect Storm." The "weather bomb" blew out car windows, caused blackouts, and swamped wharves and fragile sand dunes. Rocks up to 14 kg were thrown hundreds of metres inland. Confederation Bridge closed for the first time ever when winds gusted to 155 km/h—the strongest ever measured.</p> <p>6</p>	<p>1994: New Brunswick's worst windstorm in 25 years, with gusts up to 100 km/h, tore through forests, leaving downed trees in a tangled mess. Foresters estimated the winds felled 1 million cords of wood worth about \$10 million, enough wood to keep a large pulp mill going for a year. At Woodbine in Toronto, ON, races were cancelled because winds were blowing horses sideways.</p> <p>7</p>	<p>1819: Around noon in Montreal, PQ, the sky turned from a greenish tint to inky black, then sooty, soapy-suds rain fell. Later, a tremour shook the Island of Montreal. Frightened citizens made their way to the church. Suddenly, a lightning bolt struck the church spire, and it crashed to the ground. The next morning dawned bright and clear as if nothing had happened.</p> <p>8</p> <p>Full Moon ○</p>
<p>1913: A Great Lakes storm sank or wrecked 34 ships, drowning more than 270 seamen. A sailor from Hamilton, ON, read in a newspaper that his body had drifted ashore. He hurried home only to find a coffin in his father's house and preparations being made for his funeral. Earlier, his father had claimed a body that bore every resemblance to his son, even to the tattooed initials and a remembered scar. Luckily, the young man had left the ship before the storm.</p> <p>9</p>	<p>1986: Winnipeg, MB, dug out from 35.8 cm of snow left by a monster 32-hour storm that dumped 30 to 50 cm of the white stuff and created 2-m drifts in southern Manitoba and northwestern Ontario. In Winnipeg, officials pulled buses and ploughs off the roads and closed the airport. Clean-up costs were \$2.5 million—a quarter of the city's annual snow-removal budget.</p> <p>10</p>	<p>1940: An Armistice Day storm on the Great Lakes caused the wreck of 3 large ships and several small crafts with the loss of 69 lives. The sustained winds reached 130 km/h. On the same day, a fierce blizzard hit the Canadian Great Plains. Several hunters froze to death in duck blinds.</p> <p>11</p> <p>Remembrance Day</p>	<p>1912: The paddlewheel steamer <i>Mayflower</i> sank in Lake Kamaniskeg, ON, during a blinding snowstorm while transporting the body of a dead man to Combermere, ON. Three survivors clung to the coffin in the icy waters and floated ashore. Nine others aboard the <i>Mayflower</i> died.</p> <p>12</p>	<p>2001: Alberta biologists said grizzly bears began hibernating nearly a month early this year, with 19 of 21 bears being monitored already asleep. They believe bears begin hibernating earlier than normal when they haven't been able to build up enough fat. But the bears this year looked in pretty good shape. Folklore suggests this means a long, snowy winter. But the winter turned out to be mild and relatively snow-free.</p> <p>13</p>	<p>1986: An intense blizzard with winds up to 140 km/h swept Newfoundland. There were numerous power outages and automobile accidents, and the roofs and sidings from several buildings were damaged. The high winds caused 3 tractor-trailer units to overturn aboard the CN Marine ferry <i>Caribou</i>, outside Port-aux-Basques. The normal 6-hour crossing from North Sydney, NS, took 24 hours.</p> <p>14</p>	<p>1997: Canada's "wet coast" city enjoyed 9 straight rainless days. But no one complained, especially considering the record 167 mm of rain that fell in October, and that the city had twice the usual amount of precipitation over the past 12 months. Vancouver has had more than 8 straight days of sunshine in November only 6 times in the past 59 years.</p> <p>15</p>

1885: On this day, the morning of Louis Riel's execution at Regina, SK, the sun shone brilliantly and the prairie was covered with hoar frost. The day had a maximum temperature of 1°C, a minimum of -8°C, and there was no precipitation.

16

Last Quarter ●

1987: In sub-zero temperatures and with winds gusting to 50 km/h, former Olympians Barbara Ann Scott-King and Ferd Hayward started the Olympic torch on its 87-day, 18,000-km journey from St. John's, NF, to Calgary, AB, for the 1988 winter Olympics. Some 6,820 Canadians eventually participated in the torch relay.

17

1929: A 4.6-m tidal wave, caused by an earthquake in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, struck the Burin Peninsula of Newfoundland. Tonnes of rock and gravel were ripped off the sea floor. The wave killed 27 people, destroyed 500 homes, and smashed 100 fishing boats. Damage was estimated at \$1 million. Nobody heard about the catastrophe for 4 days because of downed telegraph lines.

18

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

19

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

20

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

21

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

22

1975: A scantily clad streaker danced during "O Canada!" at the Grey Cup game in Calgary, AB. At -10°C, with winds of 27 km/h, the wind chill was -35°.

23

New Moon ●

1917: At Swanson Bay, BC, precipitation for November was 2235.5 mm. Seven days had more than 100 mm of rain. The wettest day was the 7th, with 269.2 mm of rain.

30

First Quarter ●

1890: It was the coldest day of the month at Charlottetown, PEI, with a low of -8.3°C, a high of -2.2°C, and a trace of snow. Earlier that day, a consulting engineer had reported favourably on the proposed tunnel to the mainland. He was confident it could be built "at moderate cost."

24

2001: It was so mild in Montreal, PQ, that they could have played the Grey Cup game without the roof on Olympic Stadium. The high was 17.3°C. This set a record for the date, shattering the previous mark of 12.2°C set in 1966 and far above the normal high of 2°C. The weather was also great for strolling through parks in shirt-sleeves and hanging Christmas lights. In the meantime, it was only 5°C in Vancouver and Victoria, BC.

25

1854: The 750-tonne ship *Arcadia* was headed for New York with a cargo of glass, lead, iron, and silks when it struck the north-east bar of Sable Island, NS, during a thick fog. All 147 passengers and 21 crew were rescued.

26

1995: The Hawaiian westerlies, dubbed the Pineapple Express, brought mild temperatures (nearly 14°C) and heavy rains (50 mm) to the Lower British Columbia Mainland. About 150 people had to be evacuated from communities east of Vancouver. Swollen rivers decimated recently spawned salmon eggs by covering them with debris and silt. In Abbotsford, farmers, fearing floods, shepherded turkeys to the upper lofts of barns.

27

Weather Quiz
Which city in Canada has the least amount of fog in a year?

28

- 1) London, ON
- 2) Brandon, MB
- 3) Whitehorse, YT
- 4) Penticton, BC
- 5) Quebec City, PQ

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

29

NOVEMBER

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23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
30							

December 2003

JANUARY

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18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

1962: The Grey Cup (Fog Bowl) took 2 days to play in Toronto, ON, because of dense fog and smoke. The fog was so thick by the middle of the first quarter that spectators in the upper stands could not see the opposite side of the field. It was one of the greyest Grey Cups ever but one of the finest ever played, and for the first time it was broadcast in the U.S.

1

1995: While on an outing, 2 young offenders escaped from a Barrie, ON, facility. However, the duo turned themselves in within a couple of hours. Apparently, life on the lam was too cold (-13°C) and snows too deep for them. Authorities commented that had it been June or July the culprits probably would have been out for good.

2

1982: Temperatures soared to 22.5°C at Hamilton, the warmest temperature ever recorded in Ontario in December. There were plenty of golfers out enjoying the fine weather. A man in nearby St. Catharines mowed his lawn.

3

Weather Quiz

If ideal Christmas-morning weather is snow on the ground and snow in the air, which Canadian city has the best chance for perfect Christmas weather?

- 1) Edmonton, AB
- 2) Fredericton, NB
- 3) Ottawa, ON
- 4) Montreal, PQ
- 5) Timmins, ON

4

1997: Former *X-Files* co-star David Duchovny complained on the "Late Night with Conan O'Brien" show from New York that he was fed up with Vancouver because it had "400 inches of rain a day." Duchovny's remark, intended as a joke, outraged British Columbia's tourist association and drew furious reaction from residents. He later apologized. (1997 was Vancouver's wettest year ever.)

5

1917: A ship collision set off the Halifax Explosion, felt and heard in Nova Scotia as far as 100 km away. The disaster killed 1,630 people, injured 9,000, and left 6,000 homeless. The next day a cruel blizzard struck, with 40.6 cm of snow and winds of 55 km/h.

6

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

7

1984: An iceberg threatened several drilling platforms near the Grand Banks. Ocean tugs harnessed the berg and towed it out of the way.

8

1995: Frigid -26°C weather did not faze 60 soccer players at the Winnipeg Complex Soccer Pitch. They joined the 24-hour soccer marathon called "The Day the World Played Football." It included events in 191 countries around the world in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the United Nations.

9

1986: Mild Pacific air produced unusually balmy weather across Yukon, the Mackenzie District, and northern British Columbia. Several daily records were set when temperatures rose to between 10° and 13°C. At Fort Nelson, BC, the heat affected huskies during the annual dogsled races, and to the north logging was suspended because of soft snow and weakened ice bridges.

10

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

11

1985: In the worst air crash in Canada, an Arrow Airlines DC-8, after refuelling in Gander, NF, enroute to Kentucky, crashed seconds after takeoff, killing 248 members of the U.S. 101st Airborne Division and 8 crew. Just before the crash, weather observers reported light freezing drizzle and snow grains and fog. It was -4.2°C, and winds were light from the west.

12

1969: For many years Holberg was a weather and radar station on the northern coast of Vancouver Island. It was notorious for strong winds. In one remarkable blow, instruments clocked winds from the south at 130 km/h, gusting more than 160 km/h. In the remarks column, the weather observer had written: "and blowing rocks."

13

Full Moon ○

2001: In mid-December, powerful storms, lasting a week, slammed into British Columbia's southern coast. Torrential rain soaked the ground, leaving trees vulnerable to the near-record winds and toppling century-old monarchs in Vancouver's Stanley Park. A power failure affected 175,000 customers. Students were jubilant when schools closed in Surrey and final examinations were cancelled at UBC.

14

1997: Record-high temperatures in the West had Saskatonians playing golf and picking up Christmas trees on their way home. Meanwhile, freak snowstorms and bitter cold struck northern Mexico, leaving at least 12 dead and paralyzing highways and ports. It snowed in Guadalajara (as much as 40 cm) for the first time since 1881. Temperatures were -15°C in Chihuahua state.

15

1997: It was dark, and the airport was shrouded in fog when an Air Canada flight from Toronto, ON, to Fredericton, NB, approached the slippery runway. It skidded, bounced across a field, then slid up a snowy embankment and slammed into trees and bush about 1 km from the airport. It took rescuers 30 minutes to find it. The deep snowpack likely saved the lives of the passengers and crew.

16

1977: A freezing rain- and snowstorm hit southern Manitoba causing \$1 million damage. Rural areas were without electricity for 3 days until thousands of downed utility poles could be righted.

17

1795: From explorer David Thompson's diary during his expedition in northern Saskatchewan and Manitoba: "On the 18th December at 8 a.m., the thermometer was 56°[F]; at noon 44°, and at 9 p.m., 48 degrees [all] below zero. It was a day of most intense cold, the ice on the lake was splitting in all directions, the smoke from the chimney fell in lumps to the ground."

18

1983: Vancouver, BC's, high and low temperatures were -5° and -13°C. Vehicles wouldn't start, and customers waited hours for taxi and towing services. Prairie folks chuckled when Vancouverites described this as "cold." It was -41°C at Coronation, AB, the coldest in 99 years. At Moosomin, SK, it was -38°C—so cold that several children got stuck to playground equipment and had to be thawed off.

19

1961: Lethbridge, AB, experienced a sudden temperature drop of 22.7 degrees from 3.3°C at 05 (local time) with southwesterly winds at 56 km/h to -19.4°C at 06 (local time) with northerly winds at 23 km/h.

20

Last Quarter ○

Chanukah Begins

<p>1963: Canada's weather service received cloud pictures from Tiros 8, the first automatic picture transmission from a satellite ever received in Canada.</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>1989: It was so cold in Toronto, ON, that when the doorman at the posh King Edward Hotel used his whistle to hail a cab the metal whistle stuck to his lip. The temperature of -22.2°C that day felt more like -30° with the wind chill.</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>1996: Following yet another snowstorm, residents of Vancouver, BC, abandoned their vehicles, littering streets as snow-removal and sanding crews struggled to clear the mess. The snow posed an unusual problem for a car thief when the car's owner followed the tire tracks of his vehicle to the drive-through lane of a nearby fast-food outlet and collared the stranger behind the wheel as he was waiting to order.</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>2001: Around 10 p.m., a car plunged off a 30-m cliff in Nova Scotia's Bay of Fundy coast, killing a young mother. Her 3-year-old son escaped with only a bump on the head but spent the night alone on a cold beach. An area resident found him on Christmas morning. Police suspected that the car hit black ice or frozen sea spray and slipped off the edge of a sharp turn, metres from the start of a guardrail.</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>1877: Christmas in Winnipeg, MB, was mild, rainy, and snowless—muddy was the best description. A weather observer/druggist included in his weather observations that "2 frogs were said to have been seen in the swamps adjoining the city." Prior to Christmas Day there were 7 consecutive days with rain for a total of more than 23 mm. Temperatures varied between 8°C and -2°C.</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>1917: Fort Smith recorded a temperature of -57.2°C, which remains the lowest temperature ever recorded in the Northwest Territories. The afternoon temperature warmed to a "balmy" -47.8°C.</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>2001: Fort Erie, ON, residents dug out after an intense lake-effect snowsquall that swept off the unusually warm waters of Lake Erie, dumping 30 cm of snow in whiteout conditions. Canada Post had to cancel mail delivery in the area. The heavy snow—to a depth of 152 cm—caused a roof to cave in at a Fort Erie factory. Damage estimates were at \$0.5 million. Across the border, Buffalo, NY, struggled with more than 2 m of snow.</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>Winter Solstice 02:04 EST</p>		<p>New Moon ●</p>		<p>Christmas Day</p>		<p>Boxing Day</p>							
<p>1996: Residents of southwestern British Columbia dug out from their "snowstorm of the century." A record snowfall of 41 cm fell on the Vancouver area; Victoria got 65 cm. Some residents who didn't own a shovel used Frisbees, dustpans, and even a wok to shovel their way out of snowbound houses. Canadian Forces soldiers helped clear roads and search for hundreds of stranded motorists along the Fraser Valley.</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>1942: One of the worst freezing-rain storms to hit eastern Ontario in 100 years was underway. More than 30 mm of ice brought much of the area to a standstill for several days, and disrupted power, telegraph, and telephone services for up to 2 weeks. Outlying areas were reported to be a mass of tangled wires and trees. Telephone wires were covered by ice as thick as a person's wrist.</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>1999: Boy Scouts from around the world assembled in Quebec City, PQ, to try winter camping for the first time. When the temperature sank to -25°C, it proved a big shock to many scouts from tropical regions who were without warm clothing. Some of them had never seen snow. One scout said it was so cold he couldn't see. One of the goals of the jamboree was to teach the youngsters to deal with the cold.</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>2001: A Cessna 172 left Fort Good Hope, NT, in bad weather and slammed into a mountain-side near Yellowknife, killing 4 people including the pilot. Search parties braved treacherous weather and terrain for several days before recovering the frozen bodies. There had been low cloud and fog on the day of the accident with visibility less than 1 km. A ground search and rescue coordinator said he had helped the pilot scrape ice off the plane before it took off.</p>	<p>31</p>						
		<p>First Quarter ●</p>											

WEATHER QUIZ ANSWERS

January	4) 34th
February	5) New Brunswick
March	2) thunder
April	1) running
May	3) burnt matches
June	3) church
July	1) less than 30 km
August	3) 4 A.M.
September	5) Ministry of Tourism
October	2) Marlene Dietrich
November	4) Penticton, BC
December	5) Timmins, ON